



Lesson 18

Title: Christ is Superior to Moses (Part 4)

Scripture: Hebrews 3:13-19-12

INTRODUCTION: In Hebrews Chapter 3 v 1-6 we have seen that Jesus is superior to Moses. Jesus is the Apostle and the High Priest of our confession. The Holy Spirit points us to the truth that Jesus is faithful in all God's house as a Son while Moses was faithful in God's house as a servant. The Holy Spirit tells us that Jesus is the Builder while Moses is compared to the building. As the builder of a house is greater than the building so Jesus is greater than Moses. As a result of the superiority of Jesus over Moses and the fact that Jesus is the Apostle (the sent One of God, the Son of God not a prophet- Heb. 1:1-2) we must listen to Him and obey Him. Remember that in the preceding verses (Hebrews 3:7-12) the Holy Spirit spoke to us by instructing us to obey the voice of God. Obeying God is the only way we can enter His rest.

V.13 - How do we ensure that we do not fall away from the Living God - But EXHORT (give warnings, advice, make urgent appeals, strongly encourage) one another DAILY while it is called 'Today' (Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 11:23, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 2 Timothy 4:2, Gal 4:19, 1 Timothy 5:20)

How should we exhort one another against sin? - Exhort using the Scriptures, not our opinions or good ideas - 2 Timothy 4:2, 2 Timothy 3:16, Ephesians 4:11-15. **An example - Romans 6:10-13, Hebrews 12:1-2, 1 John 2:1.**

Why are we commanded to exhort one another daily? - So that we are not hardened by the 'deceitfulness of SIN.' This is a real danger which we must guard against.

What do we learn about sin from Hebrews 3:13?

- Sin hardens the heart
- Sin is deceitful, we see a clear picture of the deceitfulness of sin in Genesis 3, see Proverbs 14:12.
- Sin appears fair, but is filthy - James 1:13-16
- Sin appears pleasant, but it has a harmful effect, especially in a gradual and subtle way. It promises much, but performs nothing - Hebrews 11:24-25
- One sin allowed prepares for another and every act of sin confirms the habit - John 8:34, 1 John 3:4
- Sinning against conscience is the easy to sear the conscience- 1 Timothy 4:1-2
- The end of sin is death - Romans 6:23, 1 Corinthians 15:56
- Sin separates us from God - Isaiah 59:1-2
- Therefore, it should be the great concern of everyone to exhort himself and others to beware of sin.

V.14 - The evidence that we have come to share in Christ is that we continue in our original confidence in Him. Take note of the condition which begins with 'IF', this is a repetition of Heb 3:6. The repetition is to emphasize the importance and truth of the claim.

Some 'IF' clauses and implied 'IFs' to consider in the Bible: (Colossians 1:22-23; John 15:10; Luke 9:23; 14:26-27; Hebrews 2:1-3; Hebrews 6:11-12; 10:36; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 2:12; Philippians 2:12; 1 Timothy 1:19; Hebrews 5:9; John 10:27-28; Matthew 24:13; 7:21-29; Romans 2:5-8)

- **Are you persisting in your original confidence in CHRIST?**

V.15 - Here is another repetition for emphasis. This must cause us to pay careful attention to what is said. See Hebrews 3:7-8. Do not harden your hearts as you hear His voice today - make a deliberate choice through the GRACE which God supplies, to obey God, to abide in Him, to trust Him, to continue growing in grace and the knowledge of God - see 2 Peter 3:17-18

Vv. 16-18 - The author makes a strong argument for the need to obey God and trust Him by using a series of questions or interrogatives.

First Question (v. 16 - Who were those who heard and rebelled? Those who left Egypt led by Moses. It is important to note that those who rebelled, heard the word of God spoken through Moses. Is it possible to hear the word of God today and still rebel? The example of the Israelites tells us that it is possible, so we must take this warning seriously. Some who heard obeyed, but they were in the minority (Caleb and Joshua - Numbers 14:24, Numbers 14:30). See Matthew 7:13-14.

Second Question (v. 17) - With whom was God angry for forty years? Those who sinned. God is angry with those who make a practice of sinning. The penalty for the sin of the rebellious Israelites was death and destruction in the wilderness. See Psalms 7:11. God is delighted in those who love Him and obey His commandments - Psalms 1, Psalms 112:1, Psalm 128:1, John 13:15-17, James 1:25, Revelation 22:14, Romans 8:28, 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Third Question (v. 18) - To whom did God swear that they will not enter His rest? Those who disobeyed Him. Sin is disobedience and it prevents us from entering the rest of God.

Conclusion - So they could not enter the rest and promise of God because of UNBELIEF. Unbelief manifests itself in rebellion, sin and disobedience as we see in verses 16-18. Unbelief is not just a passive lack of faith or distrust in God but an active act of rebellion against God's commandments. See 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12.

The opposite therefore is true, to BELIEVE God is to actively love Him, obey Him and trust Him - John 14:21, John 14:15, Matthew 7:21-23. Those who truly believe God enter the rest of God and attain the promises of God. See Matthew 25:21-23.

