

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 Sep ..... Hebrews 1:1-14 ..... Who Is Jesus?
- 2) 14 Sep ..... Hebrews 2:1-13 ..... Pay Attention
- 3) 21 Sep ..... Hebrews 2:14-18 ..... Why One of Us?
- 4) **28 Sep ..... Hebrews 3:1-19 ..... Watch Out!**
- 5) 05 Oct ..... Hebrews 4-5 ..... Secured with Confidence
- 6) 12 Oct ..... Hebrews 6:1-20 ..... Don't Walk Away
- 7) 19 Oct ..... Hebrews 7:1-28 ..... Only Jesus Saves
- 8) 26 Oct ..... Hebrews 8:1-13 ..... Only Jesus Transforms
- 9) 02 Nov ..... Hebrews 9:1-28 ..... The Perfect Offering
- 10) 09 Nov ..... Hebrews 10-11 ..... Faith Defined
- 11) 16 Nov ..... Hebrews 12:1-7 ..... The Discipline of Suffering
- 12) 23 Nov ..... Hebrews 12:18-29 ..... A New Kind of Community
- 13) 30 Nov ..... Hebrews 13:1-25 ..... Living Out the Faith

INTRODUCTION

- We are challenged with a 2<sup>nd</sup> warning of falling away from the living God due to a hardened heart
- **Do we need warning signs?** What would life be like if we did not have a Yellow warning indicators in traffic lights, where we just go from Green to Red; or no flashing indicator in the car telling us we are low on gas; or what about that one-eyed look from the wife that says don't go there, bud?

Passage	Comments
Hebrews 3:1-6	<p><b>Consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our Faith</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. The author is addressing a group of <b>"Holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling..."</b> – BUT they may not all be true believers, just as not all Jews are believing Jews, but all Jews are considered God's chosen people</li> <li>• v1. <b>"Therefore,"</b> since Christ fully understands our pain...</li> <li>• vv2-5. ...and Christ is far superior to Moses since He is the builder of God's house, which is comprised of true believers</li> <li>• v6. This then gives us confidence we are included in the House of God – IF WE HOLD FAST UNTIL THE END                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ This does not mean our salvation is dependent on us holding onto it by doing or thinking good stuff</li> <li>♦ The context of this passage conveys our <b>Perseverance</b> in trials demonstrates whether or not we are truly saved</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
What differentiates true believers from other good people in Church?	<p>Other good people in church seem to be Heaven-bound saints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They don't kill, steal, or speak mean things</li> <li>• They have good families and good work ethics</li> <li>• They might have said the sinners prayer and got baptized</li> <li>• They might even routinely read their bible, pray, and are faithful in their attendance, in serving, and in giving</li> <li>• They might be Sunday School teachers, deacons, elders, choir members, or even pastors</li> </ul> <p><b>Remember:</b> Judas duped the other 11 Apostles, Demas duped Paul, &amp; "those who went out from us" in 1John duped the Apostle John, because "they were not of us" (1John 2:19)</p> <p><b>Therefore,</b> the only tangible, earthly evidence we have for undeniably demonstrating we are of the household of God is not our baptismal record, nor our statement of faith, or even our list of good works, but having persevered in severe trials</p>
3:7-11	<p><b>Know Your History</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The author takes the audience back to the OT to consider their ancestry, and not to repeat their mistakes..... Ps 95:7-11</li> <li>• The author, in v7, states that the Holy Spirit is speaking here, giving clear confirmation who originates all Scripture</li> <li>• <b>Truth or Myth:</b> "What God did back then, He can do now"?</li> <li>• <b>Consider this truth:</b> What mighty works God did for a previous generation is for our learning, and may not be repeatable in our day – BUT His principles are timeless                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Example.</b> The supernatural wonders of the Exodus abruptly ceased when the Jews crossed the Jordan, and we are to remember God's "wonders of old" ..... Ps 77:11</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Principle to Live By:</b> God may do different things for different generations, but character-wise, He is still the same immutable God – Yesterday, Today, and Forever</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
3:12-13	<p><b>Encourage each other Daily</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v12. The progression of a backslider begins with a distant heart, then a hard heart, and finally a disobedient heart                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The progression of an unbeliever who chooses not to choose God, after experiencing His goodness, is the same</li> <li>♦ We cannot tell the difference between an unbeliever and a backsliding Christian – Only God can</li> <li>♦ <b>Principle to Live By:</b> We can only judge and make assumptions based on what, if any fruit may be evident in one's life, and act accordingly (warn, encourage, or avoid)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v13. How can we encourage one another on a daily basis since, unlike the 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians, most of us live quite a distance from each other, shop at different stores, work at different locations? Do we do it face-to-face, or by phone calls, emails, cards and letters? Other ways: _____</li> </ul>
3:14-15	<p><b>Let Us Hold Fast to our Faith to be Partakers of Christ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v14. Partakers of what? Persecutions? Blessings? Yes to all.</li> <li>• v15. Again, the author uses the OT to encourage us not to ignore God, BUT willingly make Him the focus of our life</li> </ul>
3:16-19	<p><b>Unbelief Dooms Believers and non-Believers to Despair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv16-18. Who provoked God in the wilderness? Was it the believing Jews or the unbelieving Jews, or possibly both?</li> <li>• v19. Both saved and unsaved Jews suffered the same fate due to the "unbelief" and sinful ways of both parties – They had to wander in the wilderness together</li> <li>• Even the Apostle Paul said that "Not all of Israel are of Israel" (Romans 9:6). The Message translation says it this way, "Not all Israelites of the flesh were Israelites of the spirit."</li> <li>• <b>Principle to Live By.</b> Unbelievers need to consider the claims of Christ, &amp; believers need to heed the claims of Christ to reap blessings now and for all eternity</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / BENEFITS

- When we believers quake in fear rather than grow in faith, we are on the verge of slipping into despair and disobedience (which equates to losing or weakening our faith, not losing our salvation)
- We have a spiritual responsibility as believers to warn, encourage, and help others on a daily basis stay on the narrow road and remain focused on Christ – the author and finisher of our faith
- Galatians 6:9 *"And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*
- It is a tough balancing act between our willingness to persevere in trials and God's power that enables us to persevere – But that's another study

**NEXT WEEK: Hebrews 4-5.** We find that the word of God is living and active and sharper than any 2-edged sword – So how can we wield it effectively?



**"If you had believed the Good News on Earth, I would have some Good News for you here."**