



# THE DANGER OF UNBELIEF

Hebrews 3:7-19

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says,

"TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,

<sup>8</sup> DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS IN THE REBELLION, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,

WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS.

"THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS';

<sup>11</sup> As I swore in My wrath,

'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST."

<sup>12</sup> Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart in falling away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, <sup>15</sup> while it is said,

"TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS IN THE REBELLION." <sup>16</sup> For who rebelled when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses? <sup>17</sup> And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

4 Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.

(Hebrews 3:7- 4:1)

### The Danger of Unbelief

Avoid the unbelief of the people of God in the wilderness who failed to enter His rest – we must hold fast to Christ until the end

How should we as Christians understand and apply these warnings against final apostasy?

### Warnings in Hebrews: Three Views

- 1. Loss of Salvation View (Arminian)
  - true believers may renounce and abandon the salvation they once had
  - the warnings are addressed to Christians; the result is a loss of salvation/eternal life

<sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:29-30, 38-39)

#### Warnings in Hebrews: Three Views

- 2. Evidence of Salvation View (Reformed)
  - true believers will persevere in faith as evidence of their genuine salvation; those who fall away were never truly believers in the first place
  - the warning are addressed to a mix audience and warn those who may not truly be Christians – call for self-examination

## Warnings in Hebrews: Three Views

- 3. Means of Salvation View (Reformed 2.0)
  - warnings are one of the primary means God uses to preserve believers from falling away
  - the warnings are addressed to believers, and believers will heed the warnings and avoid a heart of unbelief

#### A Call to Perseverance

- 1. Heed the warnings! use the means prescribed to avoid a hard-heart of unbelief
- 2. Grow in gospel assurance as you hold fast to Christ in faith, know that God is keeping you
- 3. Beware of false assurance if today you are not holding fast to Christ, repent and trust in Him