Hebrews 3:12-19 - Nov.15, 2026
Beware - Be Faithful - Be Confident

There's not a lot of time for me to recap the letter to this point in time, so hopefully everyone remembers at least that one BIG TAKE….. THAT JESUS IS BETTER….HE IS THE ONE….HE IS GOD…..
SO LISTEN TO HIM AND BELIEVE HIM AND TRUST HIM AND HIS EVERY WORD…BECAUSE THE ALTERNATIVE IS NOT GOOD…..

Today, for your own peace of mind…ask God, and challenge yourself, to grow and live this way that Paul lived……
Paul told the church in Galatia:
Gal 2:20 - "*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*"
That's your assurance of salvation right there…..
If you can honestly say….*the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God*…… then you're good to go, my friend….. you can have confidence in the security of your Salvation…..but if you can't say that ….God might be urging you today….to trust and rely on Him more in your day-to-day life….because He wants you to feel secure and confident… or…..He might be wanting you to fully surrender to Him FOR THE FIRST TIME…..to find forgiveness and life….
So this portion of God's Word that we are looking at today…I am confident, is going to do the work that God wants it to do….. It is going to put some fear into some people, and cause them to come to Christ… or some people are just going to shrug it off…..and it is going to convict some people and cause them to grow in their faith….. and it is going to

comfort some people, and reassure them that they are secure in their Salvation……

So let's standup and read God's Word…..

Heb 3:12 - "*Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;*"

Heb 3:13 - "*but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*"

Heb 3:14 - "*For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,*"

Heb 3:15 - "*while it is said:*

"Today, if you will hear His voice,
***Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."*"**

Heb 3:16 - "*For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?*"

Heb 3:17 - "*Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?*"

Heb 3:18 - "*And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?*"

Heb 3:19 - "*So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*"

THEY DID NOT BELIEVE AND OBEY….EVERY WORD SPOKEN FROM GOD…..
Let's pray…..

Be seated….

This will be our breakdown of teaching through these verses….

1. Eternal Warning - Verse 12
We're going to spend some time on verse 12, which I believe the writer is really addressing some of these Hebrews, who aren't fully sold out for Christ yet….and he's warning them… they are there in their midst, but not yet saved…. They are not partakers of Christ….and that goes for anyone here who isn't confident concerning their relationship with Jesus…..

2. Eternal Calling - Verse 13
Then we'll look at verse 13, which I believe is the calling and ministry for EVERYONE in this church who is a partaker of Christ and is saved…. not just for the pastors, but for EVERYONE in the Body of Christ…...

3. Eternal Security - Verse 14
Then we'll look at verse 14, which I believe is one of those verses that teaches eternal security, and how God wants to tell us just HOW, we can have confidence in our own salvation….

And we will use verses 15 through 19 as God's example and living, historical explanation through the Israelites, of how God through His grace, always warns us, calls us, and wants us to feel secure in Him….

1. Eternal Warning - Verse 12
Heb 3:12 - "*Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;*"

Beware is a pretty strong Word…... especially coming from God's Word…..
This isn't about the times that we are weak in our faith which all of us who are saved will experience sometimes…..
Unbelief goes much deeper……
"Unbelief is not inability to understand, but unwillingness to trust… it is the will, not the intelligence, that is involved." (Newell)

This is someone who won't even pray for greater faith…..
It's not that you CAN'T believe….but it's that you WON'T believe…..so openness and willingness is key…..
This message from God's Word, especially this verse here today is for someone here at Riverside or someone online….
And it is quite possibly the most important thing you have ever heard up to this point in your life…..
It's that significant and that consequential…..
Everything, and I mean everything, could change for you today….. Not necessarily that all of the challenges in your life will get better…and you will no longer sin….
THAT'S NOT IT…..but definitely that your perspective and how you see the world, how you see life, and how you see God, and how you see yourself, from this point on could change forever……
God's Word says…..speaking from Jesus…..

John 6:44 - "*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*"
If that is you, and the Father has been drawing you…He's been drawing you to Jesus……. and He's been doing it by convicting you, and by opening up your eyes, and showing you truth….. some of the things you used to do don't feel so good anymore, and you feel guilty, and you feel shame and wouldn't want anyone else to know what you're thinking or what you said or what you did….. and some of the things going on in the world today or even going on in the circle of your life….. just don't seem right….. you just know that there's something off…and that there's something wrong… and some of that wrong is inside of yourself…. and you don't know what to do about it….. but somehow, you have this strong sense deep within yourself, that the answer is with Jesus…..He's speaking to you…..
And a verse like this, strikes so deep into your heart….
Matt 11:28-30 - "*Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
***"For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*"**
YOU WANT THAT…..YOU WANT THIS JESUS AND HIS REST…YOU WANT FORGIVENESS AND PEACE AND A NEW START…..
But even if you have been coming to church for a while, or watching for a while, you get a sense within yourself in your spirit….that you're still not IN CHRIST….you're not saved….you're not an eternal child of God…..
This verse 12 here, is speaking to you…..
Heb 3:12 - "*Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in…. departing from the living God;*"
You are right there at the edge, but sin and THE WORLD, still has a grip on you…..and that SIN, is holding you back from a FULL SURRENDER AND FULL COMMITMENT TO CHRIST…..

Because it is somehow telling you that it's not worth it…that you will be giving up too much, or that a relationship with Jesus can't give you all of this other stuff that you can get out there in the world…….BOLOGNA….IT'S A LIE…..
That's what that *evil heart of unbelief* IS……
This verse can also be a warning to the lukewarm Christian, who is neglecting this great Salvation…. or maybe someone sitting here that really isn't sure if they are saved just because they said a prayer 10 years ago… but they know they haven't been living a life reflecting faith in Jesus Christ…….and you're wondering if you're one of these people from…..
Matt 7:21-23 - "*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*
"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'
"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"
Very important here….. Jesus says to these Church going, outwardly religious people…..I NEVER KNEW YOU…..
He doesn't say….I KNEW YOU…..BUT YOU STOPPED PARTAKING OF ME AND LOST YOUR SALVATION……
NO…..they NEVER WERE a part of Jesus….and verse 14 answers some of this for us…..
Doing the will of the Father in heaven, is evidence of my belief and my identity in Christ….although I won't be perfect at it…..BUT…..
Believing whole heartedly in ALL HE SAYS, causes me to want to learn to OBEY all He says…..THAT IS BELIEF…..
Departing from the living God because of UNBELIEF, isn't necessarily some big sin like you're a murderer or a rapist or a drug dealer or a wife beater or a child beater or your drinking or you have bad language and anger…..NO…..it's that simple state of the heart in NOT HEARING AND

HEEDING GOD'S WORD….UNBELIEF…..THAT…. is what the enemy wants from you….TO JUST NOT BELIEVE AND NOT TRUST GOD WITH YOUR WHOLE LIFE….FIRST, TO ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOU….AND THEN TO SURRENDER IT ALL TO HIM….That's what you aren't believing in…….UNBELIEF…. …..THAT EVERYTHING YOU NEED IS IN HIM…..
With your salvation first……
Remember the verse, I said earlier…..
***and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me*…..**
You're just not there…..you're just not there yet…..and you don't know if you can believe in living a life like that…..
That's why the writer gives us the example of the Israelites wandering for 40 years in the desert…..
Heb 3:16 - "*For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?*"
They felt the same way as you do….. can we trust that everything we need is in God, in Jesus Christ……
They heard….And you have heard…. you have heard God's Word and you have been shared the gospel of Jesus Christ…
Yet you struggle with fully believing it all…..
Rebellion….. is NOT receiving this gift from God, now that you have heard it…..
Heb 3:17 - "*Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?*"
Heb 3:18 - "*And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?*"
Heb 3:19 - "*So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*"
So I think it's pretty clear there in those last two verses, 18 and 19, that obedience and belief, and unbelief are tied together…..
If you sum up those two verses, it's basically saying that if you don't obey, it is evidence of your unbelief…..
Belief is shown by obedience…..

Faith without works is dead……
But before you get all fearful and start to panic, thinking that many times, I'm not obedient…
For a BELIEVER….. once again this doesn't mean that you have to be perfect…..you really CAN'T be perfect…but you can DESIRE to be perfect like Jesus… and practice righteousness…..
God's Word, and His rebukes, and instructions, and promises, spoken to you…are what we need to be obedient to……..
And His Word says…..
1John 1:8-10 - "*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
***If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*"**
So a BELIEVER, admits their sin before God, and when necessary before a brother, or whoever they have sinned against…..they feel ashamed and broken…..they confesses it and receive forgiveness…..
In doing this you are……BELIEVING GOD AND HIS WORD AND OBEYING IT…..EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT PERFECT….
But this verse 12 I believe IS NOT TALKING TO A BELIEVER……although it will convict a believer to grow….
Because if you have UNBELIEF, as these Israelites did….you don't repent and confess and feel broken….you just carry on…..time and time again…..right to the end…..
They didn't obey God, which showed and was evidence, that they didn't believe….. they didn't believe that God was all they needed, and that He could provide everything for them, including forgiveness, eternal life, The promised land…..
To STAY CONNECTED AND TRUSTING GOD…..TO THE END….

And we'll see that this verse isn't talking about someone losing their salvation either……
I am a firm believer in eternal security with our salvation, and believe God's Word teaches this also…..
God wants us, His children to feel secure…..
And it comes down to belief or unbelief…..
We can be forgiven for all sin, but we can't be forgiven for unbelief…. because unbelief, is denying and rejecting Jesus Christ and Him crucified for our sin….. so forgiveness isn't available for that person…..
And some might say, but isn't this verse talking about a brethren….. so isn't this talking about someone who is saved who can depart from God? So lose our salvation?
In context, this is clearly talking about someone who is investigating Christ and is very close, but hasn't yet surrendered and is teetering between the alluring aspect of the world and the truth they are tasting in the Word…..
And God is warning them of the danger of leaving……before, they with an open heart, believe…..and are SAVED……
And the book of Hebrews later on will revisit this idea of someone who is close to being saved, but they depart and go their own way…..
And because we are limited in our time, can I just simply explain this also, by saying that the Bible speaks of false brethren…. that there are those who come to church and we call them brothers, and they may seem like a brother, but ultimately they are not partakers of Jesus Christ…..
1John 2:19 - "*They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.*"
And that's precisely who God is speaking to here….. telling them to not let sin drag them away into unbelief, but to stick around and hear the truth with an open heart so that you can come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and find Salvation…..
And if that is you…..STICK AROUND…..

Let God speak to you….you got NOTHING to lose by sticking around…BUT SO MUCH TO GAIN……
I CAN'T EVEN EXPRESS……
And we want to love you and encourage you and support you…..
Which is what we will look at here in verse 13…..
2. Eternal Calling - Verse 13
Heb 3:13 - "*but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*"
From verses 15 through 19…..those Israelites in the desert, had heard and seen all of the glory of God…. but they hardened their heart, and they turned to sin….. ultimately, the sin of unbelief……
So this call to EXHORT one another, is the calling or ministry or job of EVERYONE who is saved and fully surrendered to Jesus….ALL OF YOU HERE… IF ARE SOLD OUT FOR CHRIST…..to encourage those who aren't yet sold out and living a life through faith in Christ…..to be an example of the joy in a life abiding in Jesus……
And we don't do that by hitting them over the head with scripture…. but just by being an example to them and loving them dearly…… showing them a living example of a life with Christ…..
So this tells us about the huge and VITAL importance of the Body of Christ…..
We have people here today…and we have people who will be coming, who aren't full partakers of Christ….. they aren't following Jesus and believing in Him and trusting all that He says…….. and many of us might have been one of those people before…… but someone exhorted us or encouraged us in our journey…… and we have brothers and sisters here that are saved, but their faith is weak right now, and sometimes they question their salvation……
God wants us to exhort one another….. which simply means to love one another, be there for one another, and to speak

encouragement into one another….to forgive one another and bare one another's burdens, and express your love into one another by sharing our experiences with God and how He has blessed you in your life…. and to lift one another up and tell them that your life with Jesus is the best thing ever….even when things are difficult with your health or your marriage or your family or your finances…..JESUS IS STILL THE BEST…. and I'll never leave Him……
THAT….. is exhorting one another….. and we love it….. because it goes on in this church all the time…..
But the writer of Hebrews here says to do it….TODAY…..
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE…..and they leave…..
So don't leave before you see the evidence of the awesomeness of this life in Jesus….. because the alternative is devastating……
Don't leave, because as he says…..
***lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin*……**
Sin is deceitful and it's deceptive and it's sneaky….
There's an adjective that I use in the men's Bible study all the time……INSIDIOUS…..
Sin is insidious and strangely seductive…..
We're telling you right now here at this church…. if you are questioning a faith in Jesus Christ, and a trust or belief in Him and all He says…... and something inside of you is questioning whether or not it's worth it, and there's something better out there in the world for you…..THEN THAT IS SIN….. And it's tricking you and it is hardening your heart……. just as the writer says here…..
And for all of us here who are being called by God to exhort one another, trying to protect them from the deceitfulness of sin and unbelief…... take this Word from the apostle Paul that he gave to Timothy… teaching us just HOW, to exhort one another…..and how NOT…to exhort one another….
2Tim 2:23-26 - "*But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.*

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,
in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,
***and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*"**
So that's our job guys….
Let's love everyone who comes through the doors of this church and speak truth into them with all gentleness and humility, love and understanding ….
We're not better than them…. we just want the best for them….

And for those here today, who are saved and secure in the Lord….. He has this encouragement for us…...

3. Eternal Security - Verse 14
Heb 3:14 - "*For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,*"
We Persevere…..
Let's just cut to the chase and stop humming and hawing, or pussy footing, or beating around the bush……
The ONLY WAY, you will EVER, feel secure in your salvation, and the great hope of eternal life with Jesus to come….. and NOT be afraid of eternal judgement…..
Is if you hold fast to the confidence of your faith right to the end…….. as we said…. not that you will be perfect…. but when you do fail….YOU'LL FEEL IT….YOU'LL CONFESS IT…. and you'll talk to the Lord and say Lord forgive me and put me back on track….. you'll spend time with Him…. you'll be in His Word, and you'll talk to Him throughout the day, and when the opportunity arises, you won't shy away from sharing your faith with other people…..YOU'RE ABIDING IN CHRIST…..

And you're not WORKING FOR YOUR SALVATION….
Jesus did all the work…..
You're working out your Salvation…..you're living it out…..
Philippians 2:12-13 - "*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;*
***for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*"**
SEE THAT….. it's God Who is causing you to live like this, to live a godly life, faithful, and obedient to Him….. and He's causing you to live like this…..BECAUSE YOU'RE HANGING OUT WITH HIM…..A LOT…..YOU'RE ABIDING IN HIM….TRUSTING HIM….BELIEVING HIM…AND THEREFORE BEING OBEDIENT TO HIM…..
Now listen closely because this is REALLY IMPORTANT……
Our verse says…..
Slide
Heb 3:14 - "*For we HAVE…. become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,*"……. it doesn't say…..
WE WILL BECOME….partakers of Christ IF… we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end…...
That would be WORKS….thinking we are partially saving ourselves because Jesus didn't finish the work…..
and it doesn't say…..
If we DON'T…. hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, we will STOP… being partakers of Christ…..... that would mean that I could lose my salvation… because I wasn't good enough right to the end….. and I just didn't make it…..
I SAY….AND GOD'S WORD SAYS…..
NO….. An emphatic no…..it DOESN'T SAY THOSE THINGS….
It CLEARLY says, that if we are holding the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end…. If I never lose confidence that my only hope is in Jesus Christ, right to the end…..

That is evidence that…..I HAVE ALREADY BECOME A PARTAKER OF CHRIST……
I SIN……BUT I'M CONVICTED, AND I REPENT AND I CONFESS…..AND THE WHOLE TIME, I NEVER STOPPED BELIEVING JESUS WAS MY ONLY HOPE FOR SALVATION…..
GOD WANTS ME TO KNOW AND FEEL SECURE…..
So He says…..don't drift away….. Stay close to Me…….
We are not trying to convince God to save us…..or that we're worthy of being saved….. He already knows your heart, if you have a broken spirit and a contrite heart, and He knows that you are already His child…. but He wants YOU to know…..
He wants you to feel confident to the end…. so that you're not ashamed at His coming, but you're excited…..
The truth is as scripture says, if anyone walks away from the Lord and isn't confident and steadfast to the end, then they never were partakers of Christ…. they never were a child of God……
In 2Timothy, Paul is telling Timothy about false brethren, who have walked away from the truth and he says…...
2Tim 2:19 - "*Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*"
Don't name the name of Christ or say that you're a follower of Jesus and then walk around in sin and disobedience…..
YOU'RE FOOLING YOURSELF….
So Paul tells Timothy, to tell those people who are doing that…..TO STOP…..trust God….Believe Jesus…..
And as he told the Philippians……
***for it is God who works in you*……..**
This is what our verse 14 is saying to those who ARE SAVED….You…..
***HAVE*…….. *become partakers of Christ if you hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end*…….**
Partakers of Christ…..STICK IT OUT…. throughout the highs and lows and all the difficulties in life….. we stick with

Jesus…. we believe Him…we believe His every Word…and we trust Him…..and when we fail, we confess it to Him….and then we get back walking with Him again……..
RIGHT TO THE END…..
THAT….. is what working out your faith with fear and trembling is……
It's not the fear and trembling that the world should fear and tremble with because a mighty God is coming to judge the world….. for a believer, it's a different trembling…. trembling over the awesome majesty and glory of this great God Who loves you so much, that He sent His only Son to die for you…….HOLY SMOKES…..
Psalm 2:11 - "*Serve the LORD with fear,*
***And rejoice with trembling.*"**
That's why I believe finishing the race well, IN THE END… is so important as Brent has taught….
This verse 14……..IS GOOD NEWS…..
This verse is telling us…. not that we have to be perfect…but, that if you are in the battle daily, fighting against sin, and bringing it before the Lord, and keeping your faith and trust in the finish work of the cross with you always…Inquiring of Jesus in your day to day life…then YOUR SAVED……
This is NOT…. what the Israelites in the desert did…..
They continued to sin, and they hardened their hearts…..
They didn't listen to God although they heard Him…..
And in the end….. it showed that they were NEVER partakers of Him….. only a small remnant……So…..
***if you hold the beginning of your confidence steadfast to the end…….then you HAVE become a partaker of Christ*…..**
So don't rely SOLELY….. on the fact that you one day years ago, came forward at a meeting and said a prayer…..THIS IS A LIVING FAITH……
SHOW YOURSELF…..to be a follower of Jesus….for your own confidence……

1John 2:28-29 - "*And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.*
***29If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.*"**

And for anyone here today, who isn't saved and you haven't asked Jesus for forgiveness and surrendered your life to Him….. then today is the day that He wants you to do that….. He wants to save you and forgive you and give you life with Him here and now and eternal life to come…..
WHY?
BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU……
Everything He does is a response to His own agape, love…..
EVEN…..His judgement……
So as He says….HEED MY VOICE….. And respond to the Word we looked at TODAY……
Heb 3:15 - "*while it is said:*

"Today, if you will hear His voice,
***Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."*"**
He says today… because trust me guys there is an urgency….
Because sin will harden your heart, and if you are hearing His voice today and your heart is soft and you are hearing Him…. Then my goodness, this might be your only opportunity to go to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you…..
The more you sin, it damages your conscience and your conscience loses its sensitivity until it doesn't feel anymore…. so while you are still feeling….GO TO JESUS…

Don't harden your heart….. if you know, you are hearing God's voice saying come to Me…...then go to Him…..

John 3:16 - "*For God so loved the world (THAT'S YOU), that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*"
Jesus died on a cross to pay for your sin…then He was buried in a grave….and then He rose again in victory over sin and death…..if you WANT THAT FOR YOURSELF…..simply ask Him….RIGHT HERE AND NOW…..*Jesus help me believe, and please forgive me*…*and help me follow You for the rest of my life*…..
And if you do this…. begin living for Him right here and now and let us help you…because this is a living faith….. Come and tell someone up here for prayer or someone here at the church, or myself…..and once again LET US…..respond to the Word that we saw today……
Heb 3:13 - "*but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*"
Let us encourage you in this lifelong journey because we're now family…..

Let's pray…..