

THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

- Purpose
 - 13:22
 - Exhortation: “a calling to one’s side”; an appeal, entreaty, encouragement, consolation and comfort; an urging to pursue a certain course of conduct; can include warnings
- This letter was written to urge Hebrew brethren in Christ to persevere *in Christ* and to not fall back into Judaism
- In order to do that, warnings and encouragement are given interspersed with argumentation to show why – to demonstrate the superiority of Christ

HEBREWS: “BETTER”

1. The Better Messenger: The Son
2. The Better Apostle
3. The Better High Priest
4. The Better Covenant
5. The Better Sacrifice in the Better Tabernacle
6. The Better Way: Faith

1. When and for what purpose was Jesus made for a little while lower than the angels, verse 9?

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” – John 1:14

“for the suffering of death...that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone”

2. Christ was made perfect through _____.

Sufferings, v. 10

3. Jesus became flesh that through _____ He might destroy him who had the power of _____. Who is him?

Jesus became flesh that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death.

“him” is the devil

1. Through death Jesus released those who through _____ of _____ were all their lifetime subject to _____.

Through death Jesus released those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

2. Jesus had to be made like His brethren in order to be a _____ and _____ High Priest.

faithful and merciful

3. Why is Jesus able to aid those who are tempted?

“For in that He himself has suffered, being tempted”

3:1-2 CHRIST JESUS – FAITHFUL APOSTLE AND HIGH PRIEST OF OUR CONFESSION

“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, {2} who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.”

3:3-6 CHRIST JESUS GREATER THAN MOSES

“For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.

{4} For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.

{5} And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward,

{6} but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”

3:7-11 ALTHOUGH MOSES WAS FAITHFUL, ISRAEL FELL IN THE WILDERNESS

“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

‘Today, if you will hear His voice,

{8} Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,

In the day of trial in the wilderness,

{9} Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me,

And saw My works forty years.

{10} Therefore I was angry with that generation,

And said, “They always go astray in their heart,

And they have not known My ways.”

{11} So I swore in My wrath,

“They shall not enter My rest.”””

3:12-15 CONSIDERING ISRAEL, THEN A WARNING IS IN ORDER FOR US

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

{13} but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

{14} For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

{15} while it is said:

‘Today, if you will hear His voice,

Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.’”

3:16-19 ISRAEL COULD NOT ENTER HIS REST BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF/DISOBEDIENCE

“For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?

{17} Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?

{18} And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?

{19} So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”

Some Take-Aways

- We have in verse 7 a clear testimony in Scripture to its own divine inspiration
- Here is an inspired example of using the historical accounts in the Old Testament to make application to Christians
 - Romans 15:4
 - 1 Corinthians 10:11

Some Take-Aways

- Disobedience comes through a hardening of the heart
 - The heart is the place where we
 - Think and believe (the intellect)
 - Decide and purpose (the will)
 - Are convicted (Acts 2:37), Believe (Romans 10:10) and Obey (Romans 6:17)
 - Proverbs 14:23

Some Take-Aways

- It is clear for the second time in Hebrews (first time, 2:1-4) that Christians can fall away from God
 - 3:12-14
 - “departing from the living God”
 - “...if....hold....to the end”
 - Falling away comes from an unbelieving heart
 - An unbelieving heart is evil
 - It happens by a hardening process through the deceitfulness of sin
- Beware and exhort one another daily while it is called “today” – while there is opportunity

Some Take-Aways

- God was serious in His oath to Israel about not entering His rest
 - Exodus 12:37 – 600,000 men left Egypt, not counting women and children
 - How many entered Canaan?