

Hebrews

Lesson 3

Firmly Committed to Serving Christ 3:1-19

THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN

These days many believers do not take seriously the claims of Christ for a life of dedication to Him. In our churches we emphasize the blessings and joy that Christ offers His followers. A life of faith, self-denial and sacrifice is commendable for others, but often not for us personally. Professional and social success is more valued than faithfulness and suffering that accompany a life surrendered to God. We prefer a path of comfort more than the way of the Cross

The Israelite nation began well. They passed through the Red Sea as the redeemed people of God. But in the wilderness things soon changed. **According to Hebrews 3 (see the study chart)**, they hardened their hearts through the deceitfulness of sin. During 40 years that generation rebelled, tempted God, and strayed from His ways. They were perverse, unbelieving, and disobedient. Because of their unbelief, they were not allowed to enter the promised land. They were deceived by sin.

The author of Hebrews gave a solution, a way his readers could protect themselves from the deceitfulness of sin. As participants of God's heavenly calling, they were reminded to fix their thoughts on Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest whom they had acknowledged. Looking to Him, they could persevere when tested and not fall into a state of rebellion and unbelief. Instead of going astray, they would keep their confidence and encourage one another in the Body of Christ. Fixing their attention only on Christ, they would learn not to follow the negative example of their unfaithful ancestors!

Today the deception of sin seems stronger than ever, but there is hope! The way to resist spiritual compromise is to fix our attention on our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. As a result, He will faithfully protect our hearts from becoming selfish and hardened. "See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God."

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Crossworld: All Professions. One Mission.

Temple Bible Church: Surrender, Community, Mission

FIRMLY COMMITTED TO SHARING IN CHRIST

GOD:



By Thinking on Jesus

By Persevering under Testing

By Encouraging One Another

By Avoiding Unbelief

Our Apostle, High Priest, Christ, Son	<p>3:1—Therefore, HOLY BROTHERS and SISTERS, who SHARE Faithful in the HEAVENLY CALLING, FIX your THOUGHTS on JESUS, whom we ACKNOWLEDGE as our APOSTLE and HIGH PRIEST. He was FAITHFUL to the ONE who APPOINTED him, just as MOSES was FAITHFUL in all GOD'S HOUSE. JESUS has been found WORTHY of GREATER HONOR than MOSES, just as the BUILDER of a HOUSE has GREATER HONOR than the HOUSE ITSELF. For EVERY house is built by SOMEONE but GOD is the BUILDER of EVERYTHING. "MOSES was FAITHFUL as a SERVANT in ALL GOD'S HOUSE," bearing WITNESS to what would be SPOKEN by GOD in the FUTURE. But CHRIST is FAITHFUL as the SON over GOD'S HOUSE. And WE are HIS HOUSE, if indeed we HOLD FIRMLY to our CONFIDENCE and the HOPE in which we GLORY.</p>	God's House / God, the Builder
In wilderness 40 years	<p>7--So, as the HOLY SPIRIT says: "TODAY, if you HEAR his Testing VOICE, do NOT HARDEN your HEARTS as you DID in the REBELLION during the TIME of TESTING in the WILDERNESS, where your ANCESTORS TESTED and TRIED me, though for FORTY YEARS they SAW what I DID. That is WHY I was ANGRY with THAT GENERATION; I said, 'Their HEARTS are ALWAYS going ASTRAY, and they have NOT KNOWN my WAYS.' So I DECLARED on OATH in my ANGER, 'They shall NEVER ENTER my REST.'</p>	God's Spirit angered
Daily, while called today	<p>12--SEE to it, BROTHERS and SISTERS, that NONE of you Conviction has a SINFUL, UNBELIEVING HEART that turns AWAY from the LIVING GOD. But ENCOURAGE one ANOTHER DAILY, as LONG as it is CALLED "TODAY," so that NONE of you may be HARDENED by SIN'S DECEITFULNESS. We have come to SHARE in CHRIST, if indeed we HOLD our original CONVICTION FIRMLY to the very END. As has just been SAID: "TODAY, if you HEAR his VOICE, do NOT HARDEN your HEARTS as you DID in the REBELLION."</p>	The Living God
Heard & rebelled	<p>16--WHO were they who HEARD and REBELLED? Were they Unbelief not ALL those MOSES led OUT of EGYPT? And with WHOM was he ANGRY for FORTY YEARS? Was it not with THOSE who SINNED, whose BODIES PERISHED in the WILDERNESS? And to whom did GOD SWEAR that they would NEVER ENTER his REST if not to THOSE who DISOBEYED? So we SEE that THEY were NOT ABLE to ENTER, because of their UNBELIEF.</p>	God was angry

Examples of Faithfulness: Moses & Christ

Warning of Scripture: Ps 95:7-11

Exhortation against Sin: See to it...

Result of Unbelief: Bodies perished

(1) As a privileged participant in God's heavenly calling, my thoughts should be fixed on Jesus Christ so I can persevere in trials, encourage others, and learn important lessons from the past. (2) The main warning here is that believers must keep themselves from having a hardened heart caused by the deceitfulness of sin, especially unbelief. (3) This chapter lists negative experiences of the Israelites: spiritual hardening, rebellion, tempting God, leaving the ways of God, perversity, unbelief, sin and disobedience. (4) The passage also promotes positive concepts of Christian living: obedience to God, faithfulness, confidence, hope, the glory of Jesus, mutual encouragement, and the search for spiritual rest. (5) May the Lord always guard me from having a hardened, fickle, straying, perverse or unbelieving heart! ❤️ (6) *May we indeed hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory. Amen!*