

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Chapter 3

*Christ is
superior to
Moses*

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ² who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. ³ For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴ (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶ but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
on the day of testing in the wilderness,

⁹ where your fathers put me to the test
and saw my works for forty years.

¹⁰ Therefore I was provoked with that generation,
and said, “They always go astray in their heart;
they have not known my ways.”

¹¹ As I swore in my wrath,

“They shall not enter my rest.””

¹² **Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.** ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they

*Warning #2
against
unbelief*

Lesson 4

Consider Jesus!

- A. Apostle = one who is _____
to the people...
- B. High Priest = the priest who _____
on behalf of the people before God

Why is Jesus worthy of more glory?

Moses was faithful as a _____

Jesus was faithful as a _____

What is God's house? _____

Notice the condition— If we hold fast our confidence and hope. What is the Christian hope?

Another Warning:

Psalm 95, Numbers 13:25-38 & 14:1-38

The Israelites refused to enter God's rest in the Promised Land because they were afraid of the Canaanite warriors. Therefore, God disinherited them and they would never see rest .

The message to the Hebrews is adamant that even true believers can forfeit their salvation by forsaking the Lord.

*Christ offers
a more
perfect rest
than that
offered by
Moses*

would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Chapter 4

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ² For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. ³ For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,

“As I swore in my wrath,
“They shall not enter my rest,””

although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴ For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” ⁵ And again in this passage he said,

“They shall not enter my rest.”

⁶ Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.”

*A sober call
to active
faith*

⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹ **Let us therefore strive to enter that rest,** so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹² **For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.** ¹³ **And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

In effect, the Israelites committed the unpardonable sin, and lost even the possibility of receiving God's salvation.

Unless we too commit the unpardonable sin, we still have the possibility of God's salvation.

Compare to the Collect for Purity
BCP. p.67