

The Hopelessness of Tomorrow

Hebrews 3:12-19

Introduction:

“Christ never failed to distinguish between doubt and unbelief. Doubt is can’t believe. Unbelief is won’t believe. Doubt is honesty. Unbelief is obstinacy. Doubt is looking for light. Unbelief is content with darkness”. - Henry Drummond

“Failure to believe stems from moral failure to recognize the truth, not from want of evidence, but from willful neglect or distortion of the evidence”. - D.A. Carson

1. An Imperative to “Pay Attention”

“Take heed” - note, observe, consider, mark. consideration, care; caution, vigilance, watchfulness.

- **Pay attention to your heart.**
- **Pay attention to where you are headed.**

2. An Instruction to “Encourage” Others.

- **Encourage one another daily.**

3. An Incentive to “Persevere”

- **To “hold on to”**

The word **“confidence” is translated, “Title Deed”** - used by Greeks for documents kept in their official archives that were proof of a person’s ownership of personal property.

4. An Illustration to “Remember”

Israel’s failure in the wilderness - the unbelief and rebellion of Israel in the wilderness is a classic example of “a sin unto death:

- **They did not enter God’s rest.**
- **They died and their carcasses remained in the wilderness.**

5. An Insistent Plea of Urgency

- **“Today” - tomorrow may never come!**

Conclusion: The Implications of Unbelief.

- **An evil heart of unbelief**
- **A departure from the living God**
- **A hard heart that is deceived by sin**
- **An inability to enter into God’s rest or enjoy His best**

There was a story of a British soldier in the First World War who lost heart for the battle and deserted. Trying to reach the coast for a boat to England that night, he ended up wandering in the pitch black night, hopelessly lost. In the darkness he came across what he thought was a signpost. It was so dark that he began to climb the post so that he could read it. As he reached the top of the pole, he struck a match to see and found himself looking squarely into the face of Jesus Christ.

He realized that, rather than running into a signpost, he had climbed a roadside crucifix. Then he remembered the One who had died for him -- who had endured -- who had never turned back. The next morning the soldier was back in the trenches. (Consider Jesus)