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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 171 (NT SECTION)

## A. The Assurance of Salvation

### Does Hebrews teach that you can lose your Salvation?

**Answer: NO!** If verse 14 says, "For we have become partakers of Christ [in the past], if we [in the future] hold fast our assurance firm until the end," then what conclusion should we draw if we do not hold fast our assurance (in the past)? I believe the answer is: Then we did not become "partakers of Christ" in the past.

It would be wrong to say, "If we do not hold fast our assurance, then even though we were once partakers of Christ, nevertheless now we lose our part in Christ." That is the opposite of what this verse says. It says, we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast our assurance to the end; and if we do not hold fast to our assurance to the end, then we did not become a partaker of Christ in the past.

Notice, Hebrews 3:10 said, "They always go astray *in their heart*." POINT: The heart of man is always the issue—nothing else. There are six questions (three technically) asked in today's passage making a case on why the children of Israel missed entering into the Promised Land. All question are answered in v. 19, "because of *unbelief*."

The word in v. 19, **Unbelief** (GK: ἀπιστία, pronounced, *ah-pis-TEE-ah*, in the Accusative case, meaning *they never believed*. In John 3:16, **believe**, [GK: πιστεύω (*pis-TEE-oh*), in present tense. Faith starts and never ends. Biblically, to believe is not just to believe in Christ's existence but to believe in Christ by surrendering your whole heart to God once and for all.

## B. A Trip to the Wilderness

### To Persevere in Your Faith...

#### 1. There is a great sin to avoid.

**Hebrews 3:12, NLT** - Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God.

#### 2. There is a great service to practice.

**Hebrews 3:13, NLT** - <sup>13</sup> You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

#### 3. There is a great salvation to hold on to.

**Hebrews 3:14, NLT** - <sup>14</sup> For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.

#### 4. There is a great story to personalize.

**Hebrews 3:15, NLT** - <sup>15</sup> Remember what it says: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled."

**Hebrews 3:19, NLT** - <sup>19</sup> ...because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest.

- **Hebrews 3:16, NLT** - <sup>16</sup> And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn't it the people Moses led out of Egypt?
- **Hebrews 3:17, NLT** - <sup>17</sup> And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness?
- **Hebrews 3:18-19, NLT** - <sup>18</sup> And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his rest? Wasn't it the people who disobeyed him?

**To enter God's rest, we must persevere with surrendered hearts in obedient faith to God.**