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Mere Profession vs. Actual Possession of Christ Hebrews 3:7-19

- 1) Theology of Hebrews 3:7-19: *what it says about God*
 - a) He speaks clearly through the Spirit, Scripture (7)
 - b) He speaks through prolonged miracles (9)
 - c) He can be tested; provoked; angry; wrathful (9-11)
 - d) He hands down judgment to the disobedient (11)
 - e) He provides eternal rest to the faithful (19)
- 2) Problem: Stubborn unbelief in the face of a mountain of evidence for God (7-11)
 - a) "Is the Lord among us, or not?" (Exod. 17:7)
 - b) God's voice today calls us to repent of sin, trust in Christ, & obey
 - c) Israel's past reveals they believed God but failed to obey
 - d) When God tests our faith, we are not to test Him
 - e) Jesus: "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead" (Luke 16:31)
- 3) Solution: Encouraging fellow Christians to remain strong in the faith (12-14)
 - a) The danger of falling away lurks
 - b) The deceitfulness of sin can harden our hearts
 - c) Our eternal assurance is found in our steady obedience to the end
 - d) Jesus: "If you abide in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine" (John 8:31)
 - e) Commitment to Christ as Lord distinguishes mere *profession* of faith & true *possession* of the living God
- 4) Disobedience to God equates to unbelief in God (15-19)
 - a) Many believe in God, yet they choose to live in rebellion to Him
 - b) Only those who profess faith & obey will rest peacefully for eternity

