

**Passage:** Hebrews 3:1-19

**Title:** Jesus the Master Builder

**Summary:** In our passage today, we see Jesus is the “Master Builder”, and He is building something wonderful, the Church (us). We have a warm and wonderful passage regarding what He is doing in our lives presently and eternally. However, the Lord gives us a warning in the midst of the warning, and that is don't let unbelief rob you of your reward.j

*Hebrews 3 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. <sup>3</sup> For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. <sup>4</sup> For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. <sup>5</sup> And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, <sup>6</sup> but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you will hear His voice, <sup>8</sup> Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, <sup>9</sup> Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.’ <sup>11</sup> So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’” <sup>12</sup> Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; <sup>13</sup> but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, <sup>15</sup> while it is said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” <sup>16</sup> For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? <sup>17</sup> Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*

### **addressed to Hebrew Believers / pulled back into Judaism / losing focus**

This book is addressed to Hebrew Believers, who were being pulled back into Judaism. Pulled back into traditions, into the temple and sacrificial system. They were being pulled back into religion and rituals, and were losing focus on all that Jesus had done.

### **about the superiority of Christ**

This book is about the superiority of Christ. He is the supreme God who demonstrated He is worthy to be praised and to be Lord of our life.

### **Better**

The word *better* is used thirteen times in this book as the writer shows the superiority of Jesus Christ and His salvation over the Hebrew system of religion. Christ is "better than the angels" (Heb. 1:4). He brought in "a better hope" (Heb. 7: 19) because He is the Mediator of "a better covenant, which was established on better promises" (Heb. 8:6).

### **Perfect**

Another word that is repeated in this book is perfect; in the original Greek it is used fourteen times. It means a perfect standing before God. This perfection could never be accomplished by the levitical priesthood (Heb. 7:11) or by the Law (Heb. 7: 19), nor could the blood of animal sacrifices achieve it (Heb, 10:1). Jesus Christ gave Himself as one offering for sin, and by this He has "perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).

### **Eternal**

Eternal / Forever a third word that is important to the message of Hebrews (eternal 5 times / forever 9 times) - . Christ is the "author of eternal salvation" (Heb. 5:9). Through His death, He "obtained eternal redemption" (Heb. 9: 12) and He shares with believers "the promise of eternal inheritance" (Heb. 9:15). 'His throne is forever (Heb. 1:8) and He is a priest forever (Heb. 5:6; 6:20; 7:17, 21). "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

### **Combine all 3**

When you combine these three important words, you discover that Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings

- are eternal
- and they give us a perfect standing before God.

The religious system under the Mosaic Law was imperfect because it could not accomplish a once-for-all redemption that was eternal.

## **History / His-story / weaves / from the foundations – cross – right hand**

This Bible is more than a history book, it is His-story, and every book in the Bible points to Christ; but no single book so wonderfully weaves the whole Bible together as the Book of Hebrews does. From Genesis through Revelation, 66 books, by 40 different authors, no book better weaves the whole picture together like Hebrews does. We will see Jesus from the foundations of the world, to the cross, to being seated at the right-hand of the Father making intercession for the saints.

### Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

*(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....*

The message is complete, God has spoken through the Son, there is nothing more to say.

### Outline of the Book of Hebrews:

Chapter 1 – Christ and His Deity: The Son of God  
Chapter 2 – Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man  
Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses  
Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete  
Chapter 5 – Christ and His Priesthood: Our Great High Priest  
Chapter 6 – Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance  
Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek  
Chapter 8 – Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete  
Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full  
Chapter 10 – Christ and His Sacrifice: The Animal Sacrifices are Insufficient  
Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith  
Chapter 12 – Christ and His Endurance: The Author and Finisher of Our Faith  
Chapter 13 – Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct

This Study, we will look at:

#### Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses

- Jesus the Apostle and High Priest (3:1)
- Jesus the Master Builder/Carpenter (3:2-6)
- Warning #2 – Doubting (3:7-19)

## **The author / Moses / Jesus greater**

The author has soundly brought the point out to the reader that Jesus is superior to the angels (chapter 1&2), and now in chapter 3 he will bring to point that Jesus is superior to Moses. Next to Abraham, Moses was undoubtedly the most greatly revered man among the Jewish people. To go back to the Law, the temple worship, meant to go back to Moses. It was important to the writer to convince his reader that Jesus Christ is greater than Moses, for the entire system of Jewish religion came through Moses. In this chapter we will see that as great as Moses is, Jesus is greater, Jesus is superior, Jesus is the Faithful One.

## **Prayer**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

## **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)* <sup>16</sup> *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

### Jesus the Apostle and High Priest (3;1)

**(Hebrews 3:1 NKJV)** Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

#### **Sent One**

Notice Jesus the Apostle; Apostle means “sent one”. Jesus is the sent one. In the Gospel of John we read repeatedly that Jesus is sent from God, **for He is the final message from God**, the message is complete. (John 3:17, 34; 5:36, 38; 6:29, 57; 7:29; 10:36; 11:42; 17:3)

*(John 3:17 NKJV)* **"For God did not send His Son** into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

*(John 3:34 NKJV)* **"For He whom God has sent** speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

*(John 5:36 NKJV)* **"But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish; the very works that I do; bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.**

*(John 5:38 NKJV)* **"But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.**

*(John 6:29 NKJV)* Jesus answered and said to them, **"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."**

*(John 6:57 NKJV)* **"As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.**

*(John 7:29 NKJV)* **"But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me."**

*(John 10:36 NKJV)* **"do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"**

*(John 11:42 NKJV)* **"And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."**

*(John 17:3 NKJV)* **"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

#### **Apostle & High Priest**

This first verse is a beautiful picture of our Savior; He is the “sent One” and our High Priest. Jesus comes to us as an Apostle, and He intercedes for us as our “cupbearer” and the “Captain of Our Salvation.”

*Hebrews 2:9 (NKJV)* <sup>9</sup> *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

*Hebrews 2:10 (NKJV)* <sup>10</sup> *For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

Sent for us, sent for you, sent by God, He sent His only Son... for you, for me, what is man that You are mindful of him as we studied last week, oh what God would do and did for us:

*Hebrews 2:6 (NKJV)* <sup>6</sup> *But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him?"*

#### **Holy Brethren / Not ashamed**

Look at the beautiful promises that come with Him being the Apostle and High Priest. We are called “holy brethren”, we are “partakers of the “heavenly calling.” Holy Brethren, how comforting, even when I don’t feel so holy. As we studied last week, he is not ashamed to call us “brethren” *Hebrews 2:11 (NKJV)* <sup>11</sup> *For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

#### **They’re not mine**

I am reminded of a story of a Christian Club at a major college university. They were having a bonfire, and the purpose of the bonfire was to bring all the things that were keeping a person in bondage, and to

throw them in the fire. There was a young man who had so looked forward to this bonfire, he couldn't wait to throw his bondage into the fire. Unfortunately, earlier in the day while visiting his parents a hundred miles away his car broke down. So he called his best friend, who just happened to be the starting quarterback and most known person on campus. He said please, I want to see these things burn, will you please take the box under my bed to the bonfire and toss them for me. The quarterback said he would. So that night, as the quarterback pulled the box from under the bed, his heart sank, for it was full of pornographic magazines. But nonetheless, he took them down to the fire. When He got there the fire and activities were in full swing. People were throwing bottles of alcohol, and the crowd would cheer, boxes of cigarettes, bags of marijuana; with each toss, the crowd would cheer louder and louder. Well the quarterback shows up, and all eyes turn on him, what did he bring, what is his sin, what is his bondage. As he uncovers the box they see the pornography and gasps. He takes a hand full of magazines and tosses them, the crowd cheers, with each toss they cheer louder and louder; but what they couldn't hear was that with each toss he would scream – they're not mine, they're not mine.

### **Jesus never once said they're not mine**

But holy brethren, never once when Jesus hung on the cross did, he ever say, they're not mine, they're not mine; for He is not ashamed to call us brethren. Rather when He hung on the cross that day, He would say they're mine, they're all mine forever. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross so that he may say, they are mine, they're all mine.

*Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

He is Faithful, He is the "Sent One", sent to us and for us.

### **Jesus the Master Builder/Carpenter (3:2-6)**

**(Hebrews 3:2 NKJV) who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.**

Jesus was "faithful" to Him who appointed Him (God). The theme of the chapter here is faithfulness, and we see Jesus was faithful to what God called Him to do, and thus in verses 7-19 we will be given a calling to be and stay faithful. But for here in this section, Jesus was faithful, because He is faithful, and we can rest and move though life based on the truth.

**(Hebrews 3:3 NKJV) For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.**

**(Hebrews 3:4 NKJV) For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.**

**(Hebrews 3:5 NKJV) And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward,**

**(Hebrews 3:6 NKJV) but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.**

### **Moses served God's house / Jesus the builder**

Moses in 'all his house' doesn't mean a literal house, but a people. Moses did a great job being a servant in the house, but it was Jesus who created the house. Moses did a great job serving the people, but Jesus created the people, and the Creator is always greater than the creation. The builder always has a piece in ownership.

*Hebrews 1:1-2 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;*

### **Jesus is the Master Carpenter**

Christ built the house, and notice verse 6, Jesus is over the house, and we are His house:

*(Hebrews 3:6 NKJV) but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are*

Jesus is the Master Carpenter, as He builds a body (Eph 5 / 1 Cor 3:16). Jesus is the Master Carpenter, and He is fitting every piece (you and me) so perfectly together to make Himself a Body, which is His Church, which is His Bride.

[\(1 Corinthians 3:16 NKJV\)](#) Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

[Ephesians 5:25–27 \(NKJV\)](#) <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Depending on your translation, for one of the most quoted verses in the Bible, John 14:1-2, your translation may say mansions, or it may say rooms. The Greek word simply means “dwellings”. I believe rooms is the better translation, because that is how I see this relationship being with us. I don’t want to live down the street in a great mansion, and be distant from Him, I want to be with Him. In the Jewish culture when a son took a bride, he would build a room unto his father’s house, it was an addition, to which he brought his bride into upon marriage.

[John 14:1–3 \(NKJV\)](#) <sup>1</sup> “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

I remember when I was in Bible College, and my friend Scott who was on staff at the college. He caught the heart of young woman who like him was a student then stayed at the school and went on staff. Their first kiss was at the altar on their wedding day. They truly were two very special people, and amazing hearts for one another and the Lord. Scott was surely to this day one of the meekest, humblest, and greatest men of God I have ever had the honor to meet and become friends with. Let me tell you, Bible College was no easy road. It wasn’t worship and fellowship, and some casual Bible studies. We were up early for specific breakfast time in the cafeteria, then student body morning devotions, then classroom studies, then specific lunch time, then classroom studies, and everyone served at the campus in some way or another for 2-4 hours a day (it was to develop a servant’s heart and to community share in keeping the prices down by doing the upkeep and maintenance ourselves rather than paying some from the outside to do it – I had it pretty good as I did maintenance and forestry), and then we had specific time for dinner, then after that the evening was your to do as you wish. I had 2 roommates and we we never got tired of being together and we fellowshiped and enjoyed each other. But lots of time it was to the library to research and write, because we were there to draw near to the Lord, and for many of us to prepare for the ministry (whether missions or pastoral).

Me and my roommates spent countless time together, but Scott who I mentioned though a good friend, he didn’t have time to hang out with us. Being on staff he was as busy as us, sometimes busier. I was in bed by 11, midnight at the latest, then all of us back up around 6-7am. Not Scott, he was up until 2-3am every day. See the school had properties around the campus to house the staff (teachers, support workers, pastors), as they didn’t live in the dorms of course. So Scott was assigned a house, an old somewhat well-used house just off of the campus, that when he and Denise got married would be their staff housing. And every night for all those months of engagement, after all the campus/school work was done, Scott would go to that house and until 2-3 in the morning, and prepare a place for his bride. She never saw it until their wedding. He never tired, he was never cranking in the morning, he was always smiling and filled with joy; I literally never say him sour, but always sweetness and the joy of the Lord. He knew what he was building for, and building to, a bride that he had waited his whole life for, and to which he was going to love and cherish with his whole heart and being.

And so, Jesus, the master builder, is preparing a place for His Bride. I think of last week study that He worships in our midst. He is giving glory and honor to God the Father, He leads us into the throne of heaven as we worship, He takes us to the Father and says this one is mine, is he/she the most beautiful thing you have ever seen. And, when we sleep, Jesus gets the hammer out, the saw, puts on the carpenter belt, and prepares a place for us, not down the street distant away, but in the Father’s house.

Now back to Moses, as we move on.

### **Jesus is greater than Moses / Don't Go back to Religion**

Moses could only serve the people, it was Jesus who created them. Jesus is greater than Moses, that is the main point the author is making here in chapter 3. There is no reason to go back to religion and the law, for Jesus is superior, and the message of salvation is complete in Him.

### **Moses the example**

Look at Moses, what a man of God. Moses talked with God, he performed miracles, he interceded for the people, he stood against the pharaoh, he led the people out of bondage; as great as Moses is, Jesus is superior.

### **One thing Moses couldn't do / Unbelief kept them wandering**

Moses did great things, but as great as Moses was, there was one thing he couldn't do, and that was that he could not lead them into rest. Moses led them out of the bondage of Egypt, but he couldn't lead them into the Promised Land. They were close, but because of their unbelief, they would spend another 40 years wandering in the wilderness. We are not able to cry out like the 10 spies, and all the people joined with them. There are giants in the land, they are huge, we are just grasshoppers, we can't take the land. We are able to say as Moses, Joshua, and Caleb. The people went backwards in unbelief (doubting), instead of forward in faith, they missed their inheritance and died in the wilderness. It was the new generation that possessed the land and entered into their rest. They looked at their limitation, instead of looking to God and believing His promise.

**Numbers 13:31–14:2 (NKJV)** <sup>31</sup> But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." <sup>32</sup> And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. <sup>33</sup> There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." <sup>1</sup> So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. <sup>2</sup> And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!

### **Even Moses ended up failing**

Even Moses ended up failing, for he failed in belief when he smote the rock, lost his temper, misrepresented God. God said Moses you misrepresented me, I'm not angry with the people, you can't enter into the Promised Land.

**Numbers 20:11–12 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. <sup>12</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

### **The author makes his point**

The author makes his point, Moses could not bring the children of Israel into the rest of the Promised land, even as great as he is. Jesus is superior to Moses, and He can bring you into rest. But you can't doubt, and that brings us to Warning #2.

## **Warning #2 – Doubting (3:7-19)**

### **6 Warnings of the Book of Hebrews:**

- [Warning 1 - Drifting Away: 2:1-4](#)
- [Warning 2 - Doubting: 3:7-4:2](#)
- [Warning 3 - Dull Hearing: 5:11-14](#)
- [Warning 4 - Departing: 6:4-6](#)
- [Warning 5 - Despising: 10:26-39](#)
- [Warning 6 - Denying: 12:14-29](#)

### **This Group / Soon Shaken**

This group of people written to, many had lost their jobs, their homes, their business, some have been killed or persecuted (Hebrews 10). They could hear the trumpets blowing at the temple, they could see their friends heading to the temple to offer sacrifices, they could see how easy their lives were, and they would ask themselves, what is the use of fighting against it, why not go back to the old way, everything

was easier, no hardships and sufferings. They would say to themselves, after all I'm saved, I can blend back in, it isn't a big deal, I've accepted Jesus. Others may have been saying, my life has been nothing but pain since I gave my life to Jesus, where is He during the hard times, where is this life, and that more abundant that he promised, I don't see the advantage of being a Christian. What they didn't know was, that soon, those very same people who they thought had it better, that their lives were going to be shaken, for in just a few years, Nero would come in and not only destroy the temple, he would slaughter thousands of Jews. They say that they blood flowed through the streets of Jerusalem like a river. For those people who ignored the "Final Sacrifice", they would have no foundation to fall back on, and for many, they would have missed out on the opportunity of eternal life in the presence of the King.

### **Hold Fast**

We are to hold fast, notice verse 6, "if we hold fast". That word "if" can also mean "since". Since we hold fast to the confidence and rejoicing to the end.

[\(Hebrews 3:6 NKJV\)](#) but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

The Author is going to say to the reader, don't doubt that God will do all He said He will do, no matter how bad things get for you, no matter how bad you want to quit, hold-on, He will do all that He says He will.

### **Psalm 95:7-11 / speaking of today**

Verses 7-11 are Quoted from Psalm 95:7-11, it reflects on the children of Israel not entering the Promised land because of their unbelief, and warns the reader today, don't miss out on the rest, the promised land today because of your unbelief. It is speaking of today, not just eternity. (How do I know it is speaking of today and just eternity, because there are no giants in heaven, and there are no battles to fight in heaven.)

[Psalm 95:7-11 \(NKJV\)](#) <sup>7</sup> For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: <sup>8</sup> "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, <sup>9</sup> When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work. <sup>10</sup> For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.' <sup>11</sup> So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' "

**(Hebrews 3:7 NKJV) Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:**

***"Today, if you will hear His voice,***

Again, this is quoting Psalm 95. The Spirit is confirming that all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and specifically the point being made is to affirm that the Old Testament is as equally inspired as the New Testament.

[2 Timothy 3:16 \(NKJV\)](#) <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Knowing the Psalm – Knowing the Shepherd

I am reminded of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 11,

[2 Corinthians 11:6 \(NKJV\)](#) <sup>6</sup> Even though I am untrained in speech, yet I am not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.

"My speech might be a little rough," said Paul, "but not my knowledge."

Asked to quote Psalm 23, the famous Shakespearean actor articulated each and every phrase perfectly. Then the host of the party asked his pastor, who was also in attendance, to quote the same psalm. The pastor lacked the rhythmic cadence, the powerful voice, and the smooth speech. All he had was a tear rolling down his cheek.

"I know the psalm," said the actor. "But this man knows the Shepherd."

Paul knew the Shepherd. Paul knew Jesus. "I might not match up to your favorite speakers or profound teachers," he said. "I might not measure up in speech, but in knowledge I do, for I know Him."

I pray we all stop, and allow the Holy Spirit to minister to us today, and that we may know Him, more intimately and personally, and heed this warning for our life today.

**(Hebrews 3:8 NKJV)**

*Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,  
In the day of trial in the wilderness,*

**(Hebrews 3:9 NKJV)**

*Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me,  
And saw My works forty years.*

**Rather than trust God, they tested and tried God.** The wilderness wanderers pushed God's patience. The Hebrews who exited Egypt refused to take God at His word. They insisted over and over that He do something to prove Himself... You'd think Moses turning the river to blood, or parting the Red Sea would've sealed their faith forever, but realize miracles alone are not what produce faith. More often than not all miracles create is a desire for more miracles.

Faith grows by taking God at His Word. God has done more than enough miracles to prove Himself to us. **It's now time we rested in His promises.**

We have to cultivate, like any relationship, a closeness and oneness with the Shepherd, we must know the Shepherd if we are going to trust His Word.

**(Hebrews 3:10 NKJV)**

Therefore I was angry with that generation,  
And said, 'They always go astray in their heart,  
And they have not known My ways.'

The Jews who followed Moses were acquainted with God's works. For 40 years they saw His miracles on a daily basis, but they never learned God's ways. When we learn and know God's way, we will trust Him and His ways, and find total rest in our lives, even in the midst of the storms of life.

**(Hebrews 3:11 NKJV)**

*So I swore in My wrath,  
'They shall not enter My rest.'*

Look for God's works, without listening to His words, and living His way, and He'll sentence you to perpetual restlessness. You can kiss the peace of God goodbye. You'll spend your whole life wandering in a spiritual wilderness. Just ask the children of Israel.

We are told in 1 Corinthians these things are written for us so we don't make the same mistake they made.

*1 Corinthians 10:1-6 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup> Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.*

**(Hebrews 3:12 NKJV) Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;**

**(Hebrews 3:13 NKJV) but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.**



Today: There is urgency to the voice of the Holy Spirit. He never prompts us to get right with God tomorrow, or to trust in yesterday—the Holy Spirit only moves us to act today.

The Holy Spirit tells us today because it is a genuine invitation. We know that the Holy Spirit really wants us to come to Jesus because He says, “today.” If someone asks me to come over their house for dinner but they give no day or time, I know it isn’t a firm invitation yet. But when they say, “Come over on this day at this time,” I know it is a firm invitation, that they want me to come, that they are ready for me to come, and that it will be prepared for my coming. The Holy Spirit gives you a time for His invitation—today. (Guzik)

**(Hebrews 3:14 NKJV) For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,**

**(Hebrews 3:15 NKJV) while it is said:**

***“Today, if you will hear His voice,  
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”***

Again he quotes familiar verses, Psalm 95:7-8. Every Jew had this passage memorized. It was used in Jewish synagogues to call the people to their evening worship. Yet sadly, though the Hebrews heard these words week-after-week, most of them never took heed. Obviously, hearing and heeding are not the same.

**(Hebrews 3:16 NKJV) For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?**

**(Hebrews 3:17 NKJV) Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?**

When the moment of decision arrived at the threshold of Canaan only two men believed.

The other ten spies saw giants in the land and fortified cities - the obstacles. All twelve spies saw the same variables, but what doubters saw as stumbling blocks, Joshua and Caleb saw as steppingstones. The difference? Eyes of faith. The two who believed entered. The people that didn’t, died in the wilderness.

*Numbers 14:26–33 (NKJV) <sup>26</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, <sup>27</sup> “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. <sup>28</sup> Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the LORD, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: <sup>29</sup> The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. <sup>30</sup> Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. <sup>31</sup> But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. <sup>32</sup> But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. <sup>33</sup> And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness.*

**(Hebrews 3:18 NKJV) And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?**

**(Hebrews 3:19 NKJV) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.**

And here we see a vital principal, that clearly speaks, no need to try to say “what does this really mean”, for it means just what it say, they chose not to obey, they doubted God at His word, and they could not enter into the Promised Land – the key principal, God gives man a free-will to choose

**Listen, you can have all of Jesus Christ you want, but not one drop more. No man, government, or program can stop the work of God in your life – only you can by doubting.**

### **Blood & Water**

The ones, who could not enter into the blessings, were the ones that would not claim and seize the promises of God. They were delivered from Egypt by blood and water. They placed the blood over the door and the angel of death passed them. Then Pharaoh said go away from us, but as they marched, he changed his mind and sent his whole army after them. The nation Israel was on the verge of being wiped

out as they were backed against the Red Sea, but God delivered them again, this time by water as he parted the Red Sea, and they passed, then He closed the Red Sea and wiped out their enemy, the whole Egyptian Army.

Blood and Water, what came from Jesus' side that day on the cross, when the soldier pierced his side, blood and water.

*John 19:33-34 (NKJV)* <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. <sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

### **Too many Christian wander / spirit filled abundant life**

Too many Christian wander in that place between deliverance and the promised blessing, that spirit filled abundant life. Too many Christians in the wilderness, wandering the dry Christian life, they are saved by blood and water of the salvation on the cross, but never believe that salvation is just the beginning of the blessings that God has for them. The sin that kept them from blessings was that they thought it was too good to be true. When they saw the giants, they gave up.

### **You must step out / Convince Self God will bless / look at Jesus not the giants**

Christian you can live the abundant Christian life if only you will believe, if only you will step out to take the land. Believe the Father wants to bless you, even though we are all nothings. We convince ourselves that God won't bless us because we have done this or are involved in that; don't listen to that, don't look at the giants, rather look at the giant killer – Jesus Christ.

### **Learn this one lesson today / nothing less than my Utmost for His Highest**

Learn this one lesson today – Blessings, anointing, ministry, fruitfulness, victory, it is not about you, but about His Faithfulness. We are nothing, we are nothing but sinners, but He is faithful, and all we have to do is exercise our free-will and say Lord I believe you are faithful. I sound like I am contradicting myself, but listen, when you release yourself from having to be the faithful one, and just trust in the faithful one, Jesus Christ, then you will begin to claim those victories in your life, and begin seeing the fruit of the Spirit in your life, you will see God using you in the ministry, and His anointing to be upon you. Why? Because when you see yourself, you hopelessness, your wretchedness, but see His faithfulness in spite of it all, then you will cling to Him, you will desire Him, you will thirst for Him, you will say, “nothing less than my Utmost for His Highest”, for I believe that is where life, and that more abundant truly resides.

He is faithful. He says they're mine, they're all mine.

Before we close, I ask, what is it, that you have not stepped into by faith and taken?

### **Conclusion**

#### Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses

- Jesus the Apostle and High Priest (3:1)
- Jesus the Master Builder/Carpenter (3:2-6)
- Warning #2 – Doubting (3:7-19)

### **Prayer**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)* <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*