



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The Danger of Hardening Your Heart!

Passage: Hebrews 3:7-19

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Warnings are one of the clearest expressions of God's mercy. He speaks not to burden us, but to protect us. Yet one of humanity's most persistent failures is that we often hear God's warnings without truly responding to them. We delay, we assume there will be another chance, and over time the heart quietly begins to harden. Hebrews 3 confronts this danger head-on, calling God's people—those who worship, profess faith, and people who started well but are in danger of drifting—to take seriously the urgency of His voice. Three times Scripture says, "Today," and three times it pleads, "Harden not your hearts." This is not a message for unbelievers; it is a sober and loving summons to believers who are drifting, doubting, or in danger of turning away.

I. A Warning to Hear (Verses 7-8)

"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)

No one wakes up one morning suddenly cold toward God. It happens through multiple hesitations.

Unlike your phone, God's warnings do not remain on the lock screen indefinitely.



SUNDAY MORNING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

When the Holy Ghost speaks—through Scripture, through preaching, through conviction—He does not speak for information but for transformation.

II. An Example to Heed (Verses 8-11)

A. They Saw God's Works but Did Not Trust God's Heart

Israel witnessed miracles no other generation has ever seen and yet they hardened their hearts.

Every time God has proven Himself faithful and we still respond with doubt, it adds another layer of hardness to the heart.

B. The Catastrophic Crisis of Unbelief

Patterns that harden our hearts:

1. Questioning God's goodness
2. Murmuring against God's leadership
3. Romanticizing "Egypt"
4. Resisting godly counsel
5. Fighting spiritual authority

Unbelief hardens the heart because unbelief chooses self over God. And the more we choose self, the easier it becomes to keep choosing self.

C. God's Righteous Response

The wilderness was never meant to be their home, but it became their graveyard because their hardened hearts refused to believe God.

Unbelief keeps you wandering instead of entering in, restless instead of resting, and circling instead of conquering.



SUNDAY MORNING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

III. An Instruction to Implement (Verses 12-15)

Scripture never warns without offering a way of escape. The writer now gives two commands—one personal, one corporate.

A. Personal: Guard Your Heart

1. The possibility of departing

Apostasy rarely begins with a loud announcement.

2. The problem of an evil heart of unbelief

Unbelief is not intellectual; it is moral.

It is not that the heart cannot believe; it is that the heart will not believe.

B. Corporate: Encourage One Another

1. The necessity of daily encouragement

God designed the Christian life to be lived in community. No Christian is meant to travel to heaven alone.

Encouragement is not flattery or casual positivity. It is coming alongside another believer with truth, love, and grace and strengthening them to keep following Jesus.

2. The nature of sin's deceitfulness

Sin never presents itself honestly. It always markets pleasure while hiding destruction.

When sin is not confronted, not confessed, not forsaken, the heart begins to harden.



SUNDAY MORNING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Conclusion: The message of Hebrews presses a truth we cannot ignore: today is the moment that shapes eternity. Israel's tragedy was not a lack of knowledge, but a lack of response—and the same danger stands before us. Christ is speaking even now, inviting us to surrender, trust, believe, obey, and reconcile. His voice is not distant; His grace is not delayed. The question is not whether you once began with Him, but whether you will respond to Him today. Do not allow unbelief to harden what God is trying to soften. Hear His voice, yield to His leading, and step toward the rest and renewal only Christ can give. Jesus is better—so choose Him today.



Bethany Baptist Church • 4402 40th Street • Lubbock, TX 79414
806.799.2464 • churchstillworks.org • Dan Preston, Pastor