

Hebrews 3:1–19 — Consider Jesus, and Do Not Harden Your Heart

The word “therefore” at the start of this chapter points us back to what we have just learned: God has spoken through His Son, and the Son is greater than angels. Because Jesus is the eternal Son, the final revelation, and our merciful High Priest, the writer now gives a clear, practical call:

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

That word *consider* means more than a quick glance. It means to fix your attention on Him, to think carefully, to weigh Him, to keep returning to Him. Hebrews keeps pulling us back to this: if you want to avoid drifting, if you want to stand firm, if you want to enter God’s rest—keep your eyes on Jesus.

Jesus: Apostle and High Priest

The writer calls Jesus “the Apostle and High Priest of our confession” (Hebrews 3:1 NKJV).

An apostle is one sent with authority. Jesus is God’s sent One—the Father’s perfect messenger, the One who reveals God fully and truthfully.

A high priest is one who represents people before God. The Hebrew believers understood priests, temple worship, and the Day of Atonement. They had grown up with the sights and sounds of the sacrificial system. The writer is telling them: you have a High Priest now, and He is greater than the Levitical priests because He is the Son, not merely a servant. His sacrifice is final because He shed His blood on the cross to save us from sin, and His resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord.

Jesus Is Greater Than Moses

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

The writer is careful here. He does not insult Moses. Moses was faithful. Moses was used mightily by God. But Moses was not the foundation—he was part of the household.

“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 3:3 NKJV)

Moses served within God’s house. Jesus is the builder and Lord over the house.

And that “house” is more than a building.

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

God has always desired to dwell among His people. In the Old Testament, the temple was called the house of the Lord. But the greater wonder is what God does now: He dwells among His people by His Spirit. The church is not a place you visit; it is a people God inhabits. That is why worship matters. That is why fellowship matters. God loves to dwell among His people.

Servant and Son

“And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, but Christ as a Son over His own house...” (Hebrews 3:5–6 NKJV)

Moses was faithful as a servant, and his ministry pointed forward. The law, the sacrifices, the tabernacle, the priesthood—these were not meant to be the finish line. They were signposts pointing to Christ.

Jesus is not merely part of the story; He is the fulfillment of it.

Then comes a very personal statement:

“...whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.” (Hebrews 3:6 NKJV)

This is not a call to earn salvation by hanging on tightly enough. It is a call to persevere in faith rather than retreat into unbelief. True faith continues. It does not mean believers never struggle, but it does mean we do not abandon Christ for something else. The danger for these Hebrew believers was not losing a religious habit; it was turning from Jesus back to a system that could never remove sin.

Today: Hear His Voice and Respond

Now the writer quotes Psalm 95 and applies it directly:

“Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...” (Hebrews 3:7–8 NKJV)

Hardness of heart does not happen overnight. It happens through repeated resistance—when God speaks and we delay, excuse, rationalize, or refuse. Over time, the heart becomes less sensitive. Sin deceives, and the conscience dulls.

The example is Israel in the wilderness. They saw God’s works for forty years and still failed to trust Him. Their outward journey continued, but their inward posture remained stubborn.

“So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’” (Hebrews 3:11 NKJV)

A Sobering Warning: Unbelief Keeps People Out of Rest

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

Unbelief is not merely intellectual doubt. In this context, it is a refusal to trust God—choosing fear over faith, self-reliance over surrender, and the familiar over obedience.

The tragedy in the wilderness was that Israel had been delivered from Egypt, but they did not enter the fullness God promised. They came out, but they did not go in.

That can happen spiritually too. A person can be truly saved and yet live like they are still wandering—always anxious, always striving, always complaining, always stuck in a cycle of defeat—because they have not learned to trust God’s promises and rest in His sufficiency.

God wants more than your survival. He wants your growth. He wants your joy. He wants your settled confidence in Him.

God's Remedy: Daily Encouragement in the Body

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

This is one reason Christians need other Christians. Isolation is dangerous. Sin deceives, and it loves the dark. Encouragement, accountability, prayer, and honest fellowship are not extras—they are part of how God keeps us steady.

Then the writer repeats the call to perseverance:

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

And he closes with the diagnosis:

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

They did not enter because God was weak. They did not enter because the promise was false. They did not enter because they refused to trust Him.

Practical Application

1. Make “consider Jesus” your daily habit.
When fear rises, consider Jesus. When temptation pulls, consider Jesus. When discouragement settles in, consider Jesus. What you continually fix your mind on will shape the direction of your life.
2. Watch for the early signs of a hardened heart.
Delayed obedience, rationalized compromise, and persistent complaining are warnings. When God speaks, respond quickly. Soft hearts stay close to the Lord.
3. Stay connected to believers who will speak truth to you.
Hebrews assumes a daily rhythm of encouragement among God's people. Do not try to live the Christian life in isolation.

A Challenge for Believers

If you have been living in a spiritual “wilderness”—saved, but restless; forgiven, but fearful; redeemed, but constantly striving—hear God's word: *Today*. Do not harden your heart. Do not settle for survival Christianity.

Hold fast to Christ. Trust Him with what you cannot control. Obey Him where you have been hesitating. Enter the rest that comes from leaning fully on the sufficiency of Jesus.

An Invitation to Nonbelievers

If you have never given your life to Jesus Christ, the call is still “Today.” Do not put it off. Do not harden your heart.

Jesus shed His blood on the cross to save you from sin, and He rose again, declaring that He is God, Savior, and Lord. He is not offering you religion; He is offering you salvation—real forgiveness, new life, and peace with God.

Turn from sin and trust Him. Call on Him. He will receive you, cleanse you, and bring you into God’s family.