

Beware of Hard Hearts

December 4, 2022
Hebrews 3:7-11

Pastor Mark Turner
Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Intro:

- Theme of Hebrews: Jesus is Better!
- Ever known a professor who 'falls away'?
- Jesus - parable of the soils Mk 4:3-8;16-17
- Our pastor is concerned about rocky soil that withers under trial^{3:6}
- Quotes from Psalm 95. 1st 7 verses a call to worship
- But Ps 95:7-11 are a serious warning! Hebrews quotes this!

1) To avoid hardness of heart, submit to God's authority through His inspired Word.

- As the Holy Spirit says⁷. Bible is inspired by God.
- **God's Word is timeless & given to us by God**
 - Inspiration: 2 Pet 1:21; 2 Tim 3:16-17
 - Listen to God's Word, don't sit in judgment of it
- **Biblical stories are often given so we avoid the sins of those who went before us**
 - OT stores for our instruction 1 Cor 10:11 - we must hear
 - Psa 95 points use to Exodus 17 -
 - Massah=a test, Meribah=a quarrel
 - Then Psa 95 refers to rebellion of Num 14 after spies^{Num13}
 - Only Joshua & Caleb escaped judgment
 - Warning: learn and don't harden your heart & test God

2) To avoid hardness of heart, we must make sure our hearts are in proper relationship to God 8, 10; Prv 4:23

- **Sin begins in the heart.** Mk 7:21-22
 - we must pay attention to our hearts, God does^{1 Sam16:7}
 - we must be men after God's own heart^{Act13:22}
- **Examine your heart regularly**
 - Commanded for believers 1 Cor 11:27-29
 - Jesus: Jn14:15 if you love me, you will keep commands
- **To avoid hard hearts, know & submit to God's Word**
 - we go astray by *they have not known my ways*¹⁰
 - Constantly adjust your thoughts - Isa 55:8-9 to God's
- **God's ways often involve extreme trials for His people**
 - Just look at Jesus^{Heb2:10} - not the way we would do it
 - Jesus suffered to redeem us - way it had to be
 - Israel delivered thru Moses - imperfect man
 - Exodus to the Red Sea - seemed impossible
 - Canaan - why didn't God just wipe out Canaanites?
 - God's ways often involve bringing His people to an end of themselves so they must depend & trust God

3) Submit to God's Word & Ways, enter His Rest 11

- Rebellion thwarts entering God's Rest^{Num14:21-36}
- Rebellion is when we think we can make ourselves right with God by our actions...
- Rest in the completed work of Christ on your behalf!
- Gospel hope: Rom 4:5; 5:1-2

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