

AN EVIL HEART OF UNBELIEF
Hebrews 3:12-16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The nation of Israel refused to believe God
- 1) They would not hear His word
 - 2) They hardened their hearts
 - 3) They tried God by asking for proof of God's love and power to provide for them.
 - 4) They provoked God by their unbelief
 - 5) They always misjudged God and did not know His paths
- B. God would not let them enter into the land of Canaan
- 1) They refused to believe Joshua and Caleb
 - 2) God swore that they would not enter in to it
 - 3) 3:11
 - 4) This "rest" was inhabiting the land of promise
Numbers 14:23, 30, 35 Deut.
 - 5) This "rest" was literally a permanent abode in this land, where they could give all of their time and energy to serving the Lord.
 - 6) *Deut. 12:1-12*
- C. What is a good illustration of God's will for the Israelites?
- 1) God wants us to give Him our service
 - 2) Suppose He made us all extremely wealthy in order to face us all from worry.
 - 3) Would we have services every day?
 - 4) What would we do with our wealth?
- D. God was warning this congregation
- 1) They were leaning toward unbelief
 - 2) They were close to hardening their hearts

I. This Hebrew Congregation Should Think About Their
Circumstances *verse 12*

A. *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief"*

- 1) *"take heed"* = βλέπετε = "to see to it". This warning should be taken seriously.
- 2) *"evil"* = πονηρος = "active malignancy"
- 3) *"unbelief"* = απιστιας = "faithlessness", "untrustiness", "distrust"

B. *"in departing from the living God"*

- 1) *"departing"* = αφιστημι = "to place away from", "remove", "to cause to depart"
- 2) *"And desert the cause of the living God"*

II. The Action They Should Take *verse 13*

A. *"But exhort one another daily, while it is called today"*

- 1) *"exhort"* = παρακαλω = "to encourage"
- 2) *"one another"* = εαυτους = "yourselves"
- 3) *"Encourage yourselves every day, day by day, while there is still a today"*

B. *"lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin"*

- 1) *"hardened"* = σκληρυνω = "to make day, stiff"
- 2) *"deceitfulness"* = απατη = "deceit, esp. by false statements", "self-deception"
- 3) *"Through the deceitful character of sin"*
- 4) Sin never tells the truth about itself
- 5) Satan is a liar and the father of it

III. What The Steadfast Congregation Possesses

A. "For we are made partakers of Christ..." vs 14a

- 1) "partakers" = μετοχος = "having an association with another", "a sharer with another"
- 2) "For we all participate in Christ"

B. How are we "sharers" in Christ?

- 1) Romans 12:4-5
- 2) Ephesians 5:30 - "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."
- 3) The church is the body of Christ and if the body (church) is dissolved through neglect they will lose this association, partaking.

IV. We May Lose, As A Congregation, This Sharing verse 14b

A. "...if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end."

- 1) "hold" = κατεχω = "to hold down", "hold fast"
- 2) "beginning" = αρχη = "origin"
- 3) "confidence" = υποσασις = "that which underlies", "ground", "basis"
- 4) "steadfast" = κατεχω = "to hold down"
- 5) "If we really keep the conviction that we had at first, unshaken to the very end" Gspd

B. They were beginning to doubt the validity of their initial commitment to Christ and to one another.

- 1) They had an "origin" as a church
- 2) This was a present tense relationship

- V. They Should Remember Two Historical Facts verses 15-16
- A. *"while it is said, "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the day of provocation." vs 15*
- 1) "Remember what is written"
 - 2) Hear His voice, open your heart, and do not do what our fathers did.
 - 3) Don't repeat the mistakes of the past
- B. *"For some, when they had heard, did provoke:" vs 16*
- 1) "For who, when they heard did provoke?"
 - 2) "Who were they that heard and yet were rebellious?" RSV
- C. *"...howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses"*
- 1) "Had they all not gotten out of Egypt under Moses?" Ber
 - 2) "...who had escaped from Egypt under Moses' leadership"
Gspd
 - 3) We understand that some 600,000 people came out of Egypt. We know of only (2) that specifically did not rebel against God's plan and purpose for Israel.
 - 4) The rebellion was by the majority
- D. This is a lesson in type
- 1) As a nation they were delivered
 - 2) As a nation they were baptized
 - 3) As a nation they were led by the Pillar and Cloud
 - 4) As a nation they rebelled