

*The Letter to the*  
**Hebrews**



# Introduction

- The author continues to teach that Jesus is better: better than the angels, better than the apostles, and now, better than Moses.
- The faithfulness of Moses is highlighted, and Jesus is determined to be better than Moses because He is Son and over God's House.

**Jesus is Better Than  
Every Man**

**Hebrews 3:1-6**

# Jesus is Better Than Every Man

- For the first time, the author uses the title “holy brothers” when addressing them.
- This is a reference back to Hebrews 2:11, when Jesus calls us brothers.
- Imagine if a famous person you knew in high school called you brother.

# Jesus is Better Than Every Man

- In the midst of this reminder, the reader once again reminds his readers that Jesus is above all.
- There was such a high regard for Moses, some Jews placed Moses even higher than the angels.
- Moses was law-giver and high priest.

# Jesus is Better Than Every Man

- Hebrews calls Jesus the apostle, the high priest, and the builder.
- Apostle - identifies Jesus as the one who represents God to humanity.
- Because Jesus talks to us (1:2; 2:3), we can hear God.

# Jesus is Better Than Every Man

- High Priest - identifies Jesus as one who represents humanity to God. Jesus mediated for us so we can talk to God.
- Builder - identifies Jesus as creator of all. Because Jesus is over the house, we can hold fast our confidence as family.

**Jesus is Better For  
Every Man**

**Hebrews 3:7-11**

# Jesus is Better Than For Man

- The author quotes Psalm 95 and introduces a comparison of the wilderness generation with the readers.
- The text is a warning to the readers. It was originally spoken about the wilderness generation - an unwillingness to receive God's direction aroused His anger.

# Jesus is Better Than For Man

- Time and again, they refused to recognize the divine ways of the Lord.
- Their hard and unbelieving hearts kept them from entering God's rest.
- A key feature in these verses is the tendency to "harden our hearts."

# Jesus is Better Than For Man

- How we respond to the Lord springs from our heart.
- Our heart is more than feelings, it is our mind and our will.
- The wilderness generation hardened their hearts by means of their conscious disobedience.

# Jesus is Better Than For Man

- The concept of a hard heart is something to be feared.
- If you choose to turn a deaf ear to the Lord there are consequences.
- The heart is the wellspring of life, and we are admonished in Scripture to take care of it (Proverbs 4:23).

# Application

- Can you remember a time when you heard the Lord, but ignored Him?
- Can you remember a time when you heard the Lord and obeyed His voice?
- Do you see a difference, as you look back over your life?

**Exhort One  
Another**

**Hebrews 3:12-15**

# Exhort One Another

- Believers are to exhort one another, fighting deception of sin, which leads to a hardened heart.
- “Take care brothers” - application of the text to the Christians reading Hebrews.
- Notice he is talking to Christians in this passage (brothers).

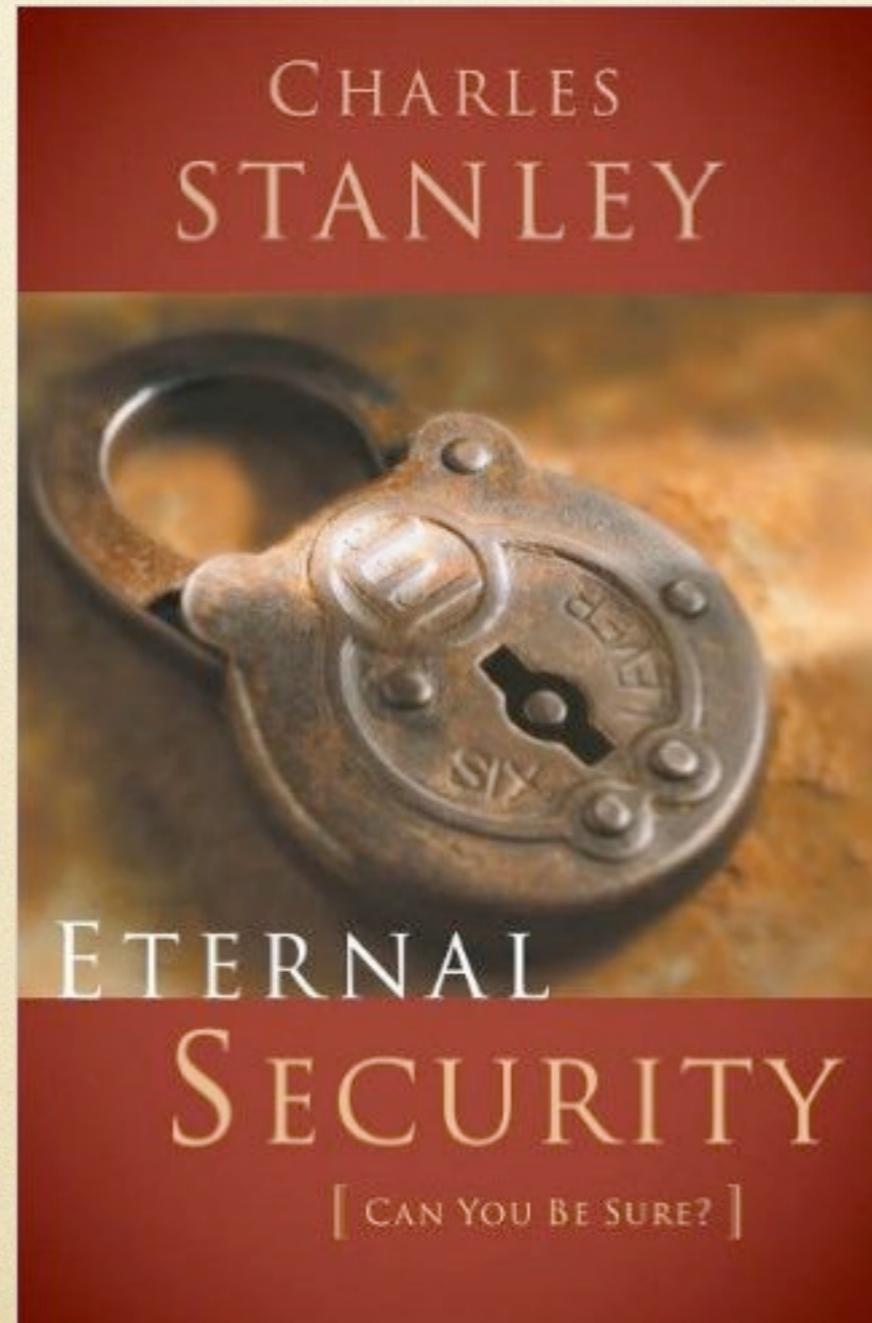
# Exhort One Another

- Each Christian must be careful to guard against “an evil, unbelieving heart.”
- This is what we saw in the lives of those in the wilderness who were willing to “fall away from the living God.”
- Therefore we are to exhort one another every day against a hardened heart.

# Exhort One Another

- “As long as it is called today” - this is a reference back to the beginning of the quote from Psalm 95.
- It is another way of saying, “while you still have opportunity.”
- The implication is that some of his readers have a hardening heart.

# Unbelieving Heart



# Unbelieving Heart

- The word “unbelieving” is presented as a contrast to the example of faithfulness demonstrated by Moses and Jesus (3:1-6).
- When one is “unbelieving,” he or she demonstrates that it is a lack of obedience.
- The context here focuses on a hardened heart - this is disobedience and rebellion.

# Exhort One Another

- Why did this happen? The writer attributes this to “the deceitfulness of sin.”
- How can we prevent this? We are to hold on to our original confidence.
- We must remember what is true about God and what is true about ourselves.

# Exhort One Another

- We are to live with Christ within us:
- “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20

# Application

- How does the deceit of sin harden your heart and the hearts of others?
- We are told to exhort one another (3:14) and to soften our heart to the voice of the Lord (3:15).
- How should we do that individually and within the Examine class?

# **Unbelief and Disobedience**

**Hebrews 3:16-19**

# Unbelief - Disobedience

- Unbelief is demonstrated in disobedience.
- The rebellion of Israel (Numbers 14) illustrates this important principle.
- The Israelites were unable to enter the Promised Land because of unbelief (3:19).
- Once again we see the consequences of unbelief and rebellion.

# Conclusions

- We should not ignore the Lord and reflect on what happened when we ignored Him.
- We should be wary of the possibility we could develop a hardened heart.
- We should remember the dire consequences of unbelief and rebellion.

**Prestonwood  
Baptist Church**

**Pastor Graham's Update**

# Facts and Figures

- 40,000 members
- 16,000 watching online
- \$40 million church budget
- Plano campus - \$200 million, paid in full -  
debt on other campuses
- Baptized 25,000 people
- Hundreds on missions
- 2,000-3,000 volunteers



# Reasons for Blessing

## 1. Bold commitment to truth

Dedicated to teaching truth

Truth plus tone - grace and truth

Never wavered, never compromised

Practical, personal application

# Reasons for Blessing

## 2. Engaging and elevating worship

Have made seamless transition

Reaching people is more caught than taught

Worship that invokes God's presence and invites participation

# Reasons for Blessing

3. God-called, Christ-centered, spirit-filled leadership

Dedicated to the highest standards

4. Excellence

God doesn't bless mediocrity

Attention to detail

Excellence without opulence

# Reasons for Blessing

## 5. Faith

There is a can-do mentality at Prestonwood

This includes a willingness to fail

We are believing the book

## 6. Unity

Never be revival without unity

Not found in other churches

# Reasons for Blessing

## 7. Member and ministry involvement

Dedicated to the belief that every member is a minister

## 8. Generosity

At the time, the largest church capital campaign was “Touching Eternity.”

# Reasons for Blessing

## 9. Evangelism and missions

7000 seat worship center and another 3000

Don't measure a church by "seating capacity" but by its "sending capacity"

The true measure of church is "lives changed"

# Reasons for Blessing



The key to success is to keep  
the main thing the main thing.



