

WARNING



Prairie Rose EMC, Dec. 6, 2020

Pastor Mike

Hebrews 2:1-4; 3:7-4:1; 5:11-6:20; 10:26-10:31; 12:15-12:18

Some main ideas about the intended audience of Hebrews:

1. **The author's only audience is Jewish**
2. **They were real believers**
3. **They were going through difficult persecution**
4. **They were taking backward steps instead of growing in their faith**

"Hebrews proves Christ is greater than the Old Testament law and the Old Testament way of life, so that these Jewish believers would move on to maturity within the faith, and not go back to their old way of living under the law despite the persecution from other unbelieving Jews and gentiles ultimately so that they would not forfeit their salvation, which they had once attained, and receive as many rewards as possible at the judgement seat."

Modified from Justin Decker

"Just because you have a good start doesn't guarantee a happy ending."

Their disbelief led to disobedience

"They were not able to enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief." Heb. 3:19

**Disbelief = Lack of faith
Belief = Faith**

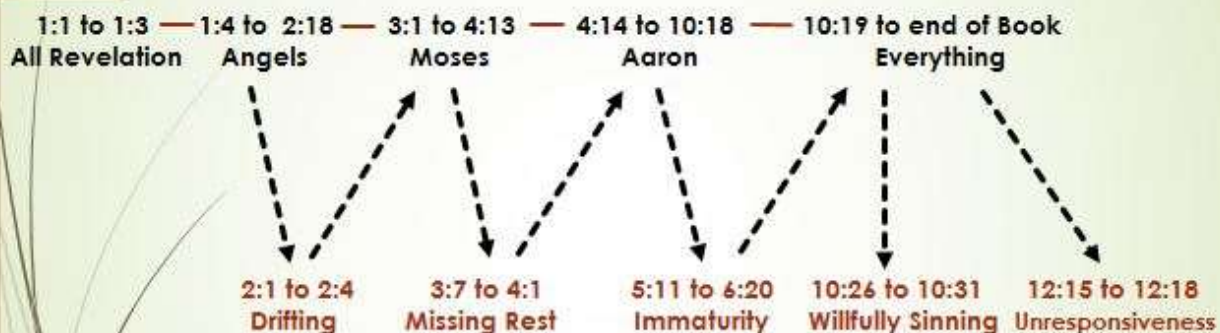
**Disbelief = Disobedience
Faith = Obedience**

You can have great faith and be filled with great doubt!

The question is: "how obedient or disobedient are you?"

What is your orientation toward?

(Theme) Christ is Greater than:



**(Application)
The Warning of:**



5 Warnings

#3 Immaturity 5:11-6:20

A summary:

- The immediate danger here is stunted growth. Stunted spiritual growth has left them vulnerable.
- The potential danger here is falling away.
- The consequence of falling away is becoming so hardened that repentance is impossible.
- The alternative to stunted growth is diligence. The alternative to falling away is hope.

Hebrews 6:4-6

1. The author is addressing Christians

1. Have once been enlightened.
2. Have tasted the heavenly gift.
3. Have shared (been partakers) in the HS.
4. Have tasted the goodness of the word of God.
5. Have tasted the powers of the coming age.

2. There are apparently Christians who have or are in danger of falling away from the faith.

“Apostasy” = willfully rebelling against God

3. What are we to make of the statement?

“It is impossible for those If they fall away, for them to be brought back to repentance.” (vs 4a, 6a)

Summary statements:

- To forsake the faith once it has been embraced is very serious and to return to the faith becomes difficult.
- The difference between backsliding and apostasy is important. Both are sin but one has more serious consequences.
- We need to offer grace and forgiveness in Christ to whomever we meet.



“Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.”

Hebrews 4:11

The Christian life is both obedience to God and dependence on God. *“Make every effort to enter that rest.”*

- It consists of effort on our part and rest in His sufficiency.
- It consists of obedience on our part and trust in Him.
- It consists of discipline on our part and dependence in Him.

“The message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Now we who have believed enter that rest just as God has said, ...”

Hebrews 4:2

There is a message here for all of us:

1. For those who struggle and doubt, are insecure – God is with you, he can hold you, hang on, cling to him. He’s got you.
2. For those who are careless and belligerent. The message is be aware, be careful, you can drift and walk away. There’s real danger here, there is a warning here that you need to take very seriously.

“We have this hope as an anchor for our soul, it’s firm and secure. It enters into the inner sanctuary behind the curtain where our forerunner Jesus has entered on our behalf.”

Hebrews 6:19

What is your orientation? Obedience or disobedience? Belief or disbelief?

Words to the songs that Nolan Plett is playing for the Dec. 6, 2020 Morning Service

#1 "Because He Lives (Amen)"

William J. Gaither, Gloria Gaither © 2014

I believe in the Son
I believe in the risen One
I believe I overcome
By the power of His blood

Amen, Amen
I'm alive, I'm alive
Because He lives
Amen, Amen
Let my song join the one that never ends
Because He lives

I was dead in the grave
I was covered in sin and shame
I heard mercy call my name
He rolled the stone away

Amen, Amen
I'm alive, I'm alive
Because He lives
Amen, Amen
Let my song join the one that never ends

Because He lives
I can face tomorrow
Because He lives
Every fear is gone
I know He holds my life my future in His hands

Amen, Amen
I'm alive, I'm alive
Because He lives
Amen, Amen
Let my song join the one that never ends

Amen, Amen
I'm alive, I'm alive
Because He lives
Amen, Amen
Let my song join the one that never ends
Because He lives
Because He lives

#3 "Cornerstone"

Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan © 2012

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name
My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all
He is Lord, Lord of all

#2 "Blessings"

Laura Mixon Story © 2011

We pray for blessings, we pray for peace
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering
And all the while, You hear each spoken need
Yet love us way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise

We pray for wisdom, Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love
As if every promise from Your word is not enough
And all the while, You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know the pain reminds this heart
That this is not
This is not our home

It's not our home

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
And what if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near

What if my greatest disappointments or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
And what if trials of this life-
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are Your mercies in disguise