

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Hebrews 3:12-19

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Hebrews 3:12-19.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

- 12 Take care, brethren,
 that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart
 that falls away from the living God.
- 13 But encourage one another day after day,
 as long as it is *still* called "Today,"
 so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- 14 For we have become partakers of Christ,
 if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,
- 15 while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,
 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."
- 16 For who provoked *Him* when they had heard?
 Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses?
- 17 And with whom was He angry for forty years?
 Was it not with those who sinned,
 whose bodies fell in the wilderness?
- 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest,
 but to those who were disobedient?
- 19 So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

1. How do you think that this passage relates to the previous section?

2. What is meant by an 'evil, unbelieving heart'?

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3. Is the command in verse 12 individual or corporate? In other words, is it directed at making sure that you personally do not have an evil heart, or that others do not have an evil heart?
4. How can one practically 'take care' lest there be an evil, unbelieving heart?
5. Why do you think that encouragement (v. 13) is so important?
6. What might it look like, practically, to obey the command in verse 13?
7. How is the deceitfulness of sin 'hardening'? Have you ever experienced that? How?

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❖ Day 2

Read Hebrews 3:12-19 again.

8. What is the connection between verse 14 and the text before it?
9. Is verse 14 teaching works righteousness? How would you explain this to someone else?
10. What does it mean to be a 'partaker of Christ' (verse 14)?
11. The quotation in verse 15 comes from Psalm 95:7-8. Turn to that passage and look closely: what is going on here?

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12. What is the connection between verse 15 and the text before it?

❖ Day 3

Read Hebrews 3:12-19 again.

13. How do verses 16-18 fit into the argument of this passage?

14. Why is it significant that those who came out of Egypt provoked God in the wilderness?

15. What is the significance of the phrase 'led by Moses' in verse 16?

16. What is the punishment for those who were disobedient? Why is it important for us today?

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17. What is the sin that this passage is trying to keep us from committing?

18. Do you wrestle with unbelief? How do you fight against it in your own life? How should you?

19. Why is the example of the Israelites in the wilderness significant for us today?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would, as individuals and as a church, be free from the sin of unbelief. Pray that we would recognize the severe danger of leaving Jesus Christ, and that holy fear would keep us close to our Savior. Pray that we would recognize and fight against any temptations to this unbelief. Pray that we would find ways to practically love others by encouraging them, so that they do not fall into unbelief.