

Warning: The Peril of Unbelief

Hebrews 3:6-19

This morning, we come to the second warning passage in the book of Hebrews. It begins in 3:7 and continues to 4:13. Remember the author of Hebrews has a pastor's heart, which is often like that of a parent's heart. There are five Warning Passages in Hebrews:

- A warning not to _____ away (Heb. 2:1-4)
- A warning against having an unbelieving heart of _____ (Heb. 3:7-4:13)
- A warning against Spiritual _____ (Heb. 5:11-6:12)
- A warning against _____ Christ and His sacrificial work (Heb. 10:26-39)
- A warning against _____ the chastening of the Lord (Heb. 12:4-11)

Four approaches to these warning passages:

- The warnings are merely _____
- The warnings are concerning loss of _____
- The warnings are concerned with loss of _____
- The warnings are real warnings, dealing with the reality that the congregation is a mixed group of believers and unbelievers.

The Holy Spirit _____. (7) This warning passage begins with the word, "therefore" which connects it to the previous verse. Verse 6 ends with an exhortation to "hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end."

Note: (1) The author declares that the "Holy Spirit says", clearly identifying the role of the Spirit in the writing of the Holy Scriptures. (2 **Peter 1:21**) (2) The author does not say "the Holy Spirit said" (past tense), but "says" (present tense). The Scriptures are the living Word of God; the Spirit continues to speak when we open the Bible. When the Scriptures speak, God speaks!

The Scriptures provide an _____ of unbelief. (7b-11) We now see the failure of Israel to enter into the rest God had for them. The illustration comes from Numbers 14 when the people refused to trust God and enter the Promised Land.

Note: (1) Being among the congregation does not guarantee true saving faith. Not everyone in the congregation brought out of Egypt truly had a heart of faith! (2) **Seeing signs, wonders and miracles doesn't always produce saving faith.** They all witnessed the same mighty deeds of God, yet many refused to trust God. (3) **Most often it is time and trials that reveal what is truly in the heart.** Many people start well, but not all finish well. Remember the parable of the sower, the seed, and the soil.

The Scripture issues a _____ warning. (12-19) The writer is assuming that they are "brethren", but warning them to "take care", lest anyone among them fall away from the living God due to an evil unbelieving heart. **The falling away is the result of them not truly being born-again. Their defection from Christ only serves to reveal that they never truly belonged to Christ in the first place.** (1 John 2:19)

Application points:

Encourage one another. (13)

- Encourage one another now, while it is still, today! (13b) There is an urgency about the things of God.
- Beware of the deceitfulness of sin. It has a hardening effect! (13c) It is dangerous to harden your heart toward God and the Holy Spirit's voice.
- The most destructive and damning sin is unbelief. (19) "Whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." (John 3:18)