



Sunday, June 20, 2021

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Hebrews 3:7-19

How could someone witness God's great acts of salvation and still reject Him? This is a sobering question. The people of Israel, when they came out of Egypt, saw the great signs and wonders that God performed on their behalf. There were the ten plagues, which culminated in the Passover. There was the parting of the Red Sea. There was water from a rock and bread from heaven. Over and over, God demonstrated His saving power to them. Yet, many of them still rejected God. And the generation that had seen those great miracles on their behalf all died in the wilderness except Caleb and Joshua.

The same question could be asked of the church. How can we witness God's great acts of salvation in Christ's death on the cross, the Holy Spirit's power to change people's lives, and still reject Him? The fact remains: presence in church is not the same as being saved. It wasn't true of the people of the Exodus generation, and as Pastor Don noted on Sunday, it's not true of us, whose experience could be called a "New Exodus." May God help us persevere!

Context

Hebrews 3 begins with perhaps the most direct appeal to the specific situation of the audience. The great poetic praise of Jesus in the opening chapters is soul-stirring, and yet the author is aiming at something in portraying Christ in this way. He is aiming at getting his audience to see that Christ is worth every sacrifice, everything they have. His worth, then, serves to underscore the fact that they owe Him total devotion and to abandon total devotion to Him is tantamount to death. As the argument develops, there are several "warning" passages similar to this, but this is one of the first extended "warnings" in the book of Hebrews.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Hebrews 3:7-19

Exposition of the passage v. 7-11, 16-19

Exhortation from the passage v. 12-14

- Watch out for ourselves (v. 12)
- Watch out for others (v. 13)

Discuss

- 1) Have you ever known someone who once professed to be a Christian but now shows no signs of walking with the Lord? What happened?
- 2) What do you perceive to be the greatest threats to your faith/devotion/allegiance to Christ right now?
- 3) What do you perceive to be the greatest threats to the faith of people around you?
- 4) Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How do those verses encourage you to persevere in your own walk with the Lord? And how do they encourage you as you seek to help others persevere as well?
- 5) How can we, as a group, better help one another to persevere in the Christian life?