



Sunday, February 17, 2019
Pastor Keith Sovo

Intro to Hebrews 3:12-14

As Christians, it is important that we take responsibility for helping other Christians live out their faith and persevere in the Christian life. Certainly, there are many benefits associated with connecting with other Christians—friendship, people to help when you have needs, etc. But in some ways, focusing on those benefits has caused us to become self-centered when it comes to connecting with other Christians. We connect insofar as connecting suits our needs, but as soon as we no longer derive the same satisfaction from the group, we leave.

So then, we need to be reminded, as the author of Hebrews does in this passage, that connecting with other Christians is not optional. It is not a secondary thing in the Christian life. In fact, helping others persevere in the Christian life is a pretty basic aspect of loving one another—the most ubiquitous command in the New Testament. So, let us have a renewed zeal for the glory of God and to see one another pursue Him in genuine faith and trust.

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 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 3:12-14

“Persevering Together Until the End”

- I. Only those who persevere until the end will be saved (v. 14)

- II. Perseverance in the Christian life is treacherous (v. 12b, 13b)

- III. We are responsible to help one another persevere in the Christian life (v. 12a)

- IV. One way we can help one another persevere is by encouraging one another (v. 13a)

Discuss

- 1) Have you ever known someone who once professed to be a Christian but not 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?