

Introduction

Living in the last days

- We are living in the last days
- This passage warns us against falling away

Text:

Heb 3:12-4:1 (ESV) (12) Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. (13) But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (14) For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. (15) As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." (16) For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? (17) And with whom was he provoked 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 unable to enter because of unbelief. (4:1) Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.

Message

Examine our own heart

It is possible to fall away

Need to understand this reality - been lulled into a sense of security falsely

See the other exhortations

This concept is supported throughout the context of the passage:

- **Heb 3:6 (ESV)** (6) but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.
- **Heb 3:14 (ESV)** (14) For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our

original confidence firm to the end.

- **Heb 4:11 (ESV)** (11) *Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.*
- **Heb 4:14 (ESV)** (14) *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

This is actually the theme for the book: hold fast

Note: Enemy's CONSTANT attack

- Our armor is defensive - because he's trying to knock us from our stand on Faith
- **Point:** There is no one who is immune to falling in the last days
- See Paul's awareness **1 Cor 9:27 (ESV)** (27) *But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*
- See Phil 3

Examine our hearts for unbelief

- We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ
- **Gal 5:6 (ESV)** (6) *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.*
- Faith in a life eternal... **promised rest** - and that faith expresses itself in how we love

Deceitfulness of sin

- See v13 - sin lies to us - it is deceitful
- It talks us in to settling for something less than that promised rest
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Exhort our brothers and sisters

Definition exhort

- Strongly urge
- Be persuasive

We are to encourage one another not to give up on God's promise

This promised rest

- Consider the quotation from Psalm 95

- **Heb 3:7-11 (ESV)** (7) *Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, (8) do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, (9) where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. (10) Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' (11) As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'"*

Israel missed it (see verses around it)

- Israel didn't enter in because of unbelief
- See **Heb 3:19 (ESV)** (19) *So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.*
- They tried to obtain the promised rest by empty works
- Therefore there's still this promise of rest **Heb 4:1 (ESV)** (1) *Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.*

We must not miss it

- They missed it... they started out, but failed to obtain
- We must not be like them!
- Cain asked God "am I my brother's keeper" - the answer is yes!

Note: every day

- The text says we are to exhort one another every day
- This because we constantly need to be reminded and encouraged
- No one is exempt
- More necessary now than ever. See **Heb 10:24-26 (ESV)** (24) *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (26) For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,*

We aren't to judge one another - we all struggle with questions of faith from

- We are to exhort and encourage - not judge
- We all struggle with issues of faith from time to time
- There is no one who is exempt
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Seize the day!

- Carpe Diem - seize the day
- “Dead poets society” , but truth for us today
- This exhortation is based on Psalm 95
- Key concept is “Today” *Today if you hear his voice!*

There’s still time

- There’s still time
- If you hear the Spirit speaking - act Now!
- Note: One day it will be too late (see Noah and the ark)
- Note: One day we may no longer hear

But also, yesterday doesn’t matter

- So easy to be lulled into complacency
- Are you believing like you once did? Are you still living for eternity?
- Have we settled.
- Again Paul from Philippians 3

Response

- Examine your heart if we find we’ve fallen short... sin producing unbelief we have Jesus our high priest.
- See **Heb 4:14-16 (ESV)** (14) *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. (15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*
- Make it your mission to take as many to heaven with you. We are our brothers keeper
- You have a job to do in this body - you are to exhort and encourage one another