

STUDIES IN THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

PART I

STUDY NUMBER FIVE - Hebrews 3:12-19

In our study in the book of Hebrews,
we have an unknown author, writing
to a group of individuals, who have come
to know Christ, out of Judaism.

They are now contemplating going back to Judaism
because of the persecution and the suffering
that they are experiencing.

The writer begins by pointing to the fact that
JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S LAST MESSAGE TO MEN

He is the **FINAL PROPHET.**

The writer then points up the fact that
JESUS CHRIST IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS.

He sounds a warning in chapter 2 on the
DANGER OF DRIFTING.

He follows this with a glorious picture of Christ,
who came to taste death for every man and
provide eternal salvation.

In our last study we learned that
CHRIST IS SUPERIOR TO MOSES.

This is the hardest thing for these
Jewish believers to accept.

The fact that, Christ was superior to Moses.

We saw Moses as **RESIDENT** in the house and
Christ as **PRESIDENT.**

He is the creator of the house, he is the son, and
Moses is the servant.

But the main verse last week that we really
landed on, was
“Keep yourself focused on the person of Christ.”

That settles a whole lot of the other problems.

Now let me remind you of the back drop
to the argument because these remaining
2 studies have the same backdrop.

And when you understand this, it makes the text,
become more alive, for you.

The backdrop is found in Psalm 95 and Numbers 14.

**The children of Israel miraculously
through the Passover came out
of the land of Egypt and were heading
toward the Land of Canaan.**

**Remember they stopped at Sinai and
received the commandments.**

They were there about 10 or 11 months.

**Then they traveled up to Kadesh Barnea and
when they get there, do you remember
what they did?**

**Instead of going in with the promise of God,
they formed a committee and 10 of those guys
basically said, we can't go in and 2 said
that they could go in.**

They believed the majority and refused to go in.

**They wandered in the wilderness for 40 years
and they died.**

**That's in essence what's going to happen
to these Hebrew Christians if they turn around
and go back under Judaism.**

They'll wander around in that wilderness

without any real meaning and purpose to life
and they'll end up dying physically and spiritually.
Let me share a little story, from Our Daily Bread:

Many years ago, a doctor made a house call on a dying patient who asked, "Doctor, what will heaven be like." The physician paused and tried to think of a helpful reply. Just then they heard the sound of scratching on the closed door of the patients bedroom. The doctor asked, "Do you hear that? That's my dog. I left him downstairs, but he got impatient and came up here looking for me. He doesn't know what is in this room but he knows his master is here. I believe that is how it is with heaven, we don't know what it is like but we know that Jesus will be there and really nothing else matters. My knowledge of that life is small, the eye of faith is dim but it is enough that Christ knows all and I shall be with Him."

The focus of last week's study was on the
PERSON OF CHRIST and that solves
all kinds of problems for us,
when we are focused in that direction.

Let's get started verse 12.

v.12 Keep on taking care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

Right from the beginning we are
going to have 2 commands,

One in verse 12 and

One in verse 13.

These two commands have this in common

They're both in the present tense.

Now when you have a present tense command

in the Greek, it will either be positive

or it will be negative.

It's something that is meant to be going on
all the time, because it is a serious matter.

These two positive present tense commands,
need to be going on all the time,
because this is a serious matter.

1. KEEP ON TAKING CARE

Now let me translate it this way.

Be seeing to it “brethren” or see to it “brothers.”

Keep a watchful eye open,

because this is a serious matter, and
there is a real danger.
Remember last week it was “HOLY BRETHREN
partakers of the heavenly calling.”

“KEEP ON TAKING CARE BRETHREN”

Why the warning?

“LEST” is your key word.

“Lest there should be in any one of you”

In other words, the possibility is there
in any one of you for departing from the living God.

**“Lest there should be in any one of you an evil,
unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.”**

Now let's go back, and take that apart for a second,
and understand why the writer
is talking to people, just like you
and me as believers, and
what we might discover.

Do you realize that there are four things
that can knock you out today?

1. SIN
2. SATAN
3. SUFFERING
4. The SAVIOR

Let's look at those four S's.

1. SIN can cause you to COMPROMISE your COMMITMENT.

And as a result of that COMPROMISE,
loose your fellowship with the Lord,
not your relationship, and be ineffective.
Sin does that it just creeps in!

1. SATAN is like a ROARING LION
walking about seeking whom, he may devour,
His fiery darts can catch us in a moment,
when our shield of faith is down.

2. SUFFERING because when someone
is suffering so severely,
it's at those times, that you really question
whether God is there, and
whether He really cares.

3. The SAVIOR has promised, to come
at any time, and what a tragedy
for Him, to come
and find us, unprepared.

So when you put those four things
together, what is that telling you?

That's telling me that I better live life,
with a real short fuse.
I should live life on a daily basis.

Life is a cinch by the inch,
And by the yard it is hard.

Don't try to live the whole thing at once,
by some gigantic commitment but
break it down into bite size chunks,
and then you begin to pile up
CREDIBILITY, INTEGRITY, HONESTY,
CHRIST LIKENESS and FAITHFULNESS.

So let me put it this way, live it
one day at a time, with three things
that are true everyday, and don't you let
one of these three things,
get out of the box.

1. Be Faithful to keep your priorities intact.
Remember who's first.
Contemplate Jesus keep your focus there.
He's number one.
Don't let anything get in the way of that.

2. Be Faithful to maintain and deepen
your relationship with the Lord.
Let everyday serve as a contribution
to being closer to the Lord
at the end of the day,
than you were at the beginning of the day.
3. Be Faithful to live the day as though
it might be, your last day upon this earth.
Recognize that you don't have forever.

"KEEP ON TAKING CARE, BRETHREN, LEST THERE SHOULD BE IN ANY ONE OF YOU..."

Notice how PERSONAL and
POINTED this warning is.

It is "IN ANY ONE OF YOU."

**"...AN EVIL, UNBELIEVING HEART,
IN FALLING AWAY FROM THE LIVING GOD."**

Is it possible for a believer to be evil?

We know that the Apostle Paul, had a struggle
with that in Romans 7 when he said,

**“The good I would, I do not, and that
which I would not, I’m always finding I’m doing.”**

**In Galatians 5, he describes it as the war,
between the old Paul and the new Paul.**

**The flesh and the spirit are in constant
conflict.**

**And Paul draws an ugly list
of fifteen things that are characteristic
of the flesh, and the potential
of that nature, within us.**

So, we have to say YES.

**I want to be righteous, but evil
is present with me.**

**When I say “Sickum”, evil manifest itself
and I act just like somebody
in the world.**

**Now do I ever manifest unbelief,
in a sense, that I am not
really trusting God?
That He is going to work
all this out.**

**So I live in unbelief
for periods at a time.**

It's true, we do those things
so it's a very present peril.

The RESULT of this manifestation of the heart
is "FALLING AWAY FROM THE LIVING GOD."

What did the children of Israel do,
when they got up to Kadesh Barnea?

They turned and walked away.

They literally walked away from the
responsibility of the commitment that they
had made, to be God's people, and to go in
and possess the land.

There never is a time, that you
turn and walk away, from God.

And yet they are getting ready to do that.

They did it with Moses and now
they are getting ready to do it again.

What is the caution for you and me?

The potential is there for a Christian
to act, just like he was, before
he became a Christian.

**Paul said, "I have a desire to do good
but evil is always present with me,
there to frustrate me."**

Warren Wiersbe comments:

The sin of Israel is stated in verse 12--"departing from the living God." The Greek word gives us our English word "apostasy." This is the only place this word is used in Hebrews. Does "apostasy" mean abandoning one's faith and therefore being condemned forever? That does not fit into this context. Israel departed from the living God by refusing God's will for their lives and stubbornly wanting to go their own way back to Egypt. God did not permit them to return to Egypt. Rather, He disciplined them in the wilderness. God did not allow His people to return to bondage.

The emphasis in Hebrews is that true believers have an eternal salvation because they trust a living Savior who constantly intercedes for them. But the writer is careful to point out that this confidence is no excuse for sin. God disciplines His children. Remember that Canaan is not a picture of heaven, but of the believer's present spiritual inheritance in Christ. Believers who doubt God's Word and rebel against Him do not miss heaven, but they do miss out on the blessings of their inheritance today, and they must suffer the chastening of God.

pp. 42-43

Ray Stedman says:

The Word of God is pointing out to us that we may profess the Lord Jesus, we may take our stand in some outward way at least upon the cross of Christ and claim His death for us. We can profess to have been baptized into His body, and say so by passing through the waters of baptism ourselves. We can enjoy the fatherly care and providence of God and see Him working miracles of supply in our life, and even find in the Scripture much which sustains the heart, at least for awhile. Yet, when it comes to the test, when God asks us to lay hold of the giants in our life which are destroying us; those giants of anxiety, fear, bitterness, jealousy, envy, impatience, and all the other things that keep us in turmoil and make us to be a constant trouble to our neighbors and friends--when we are asked to lay hold of these by the principle of faith and we refuse to do so, the writer says we are in danger of remaining in the wilderness and never entering the promised rest.
p. 46

Now in verse 13 we have the second command and it's positive.

**v.13 But keep on encouraging one another every day,
as long as it is still called "today," lest any one of
you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.**

**In verse 12 we have the PRESENT IMPERATIVE
telling us to "Keep on taking care."**

**Here in verse 13 we have the PRESENT IMPERATIVE
"KEEP ON ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER."**

How often? "EVERY DAY."

**We need it "EVERY DAY", not just once in a while
at anniversaries and special times,
but "EVERY DAY."**

"Give us this day, our daily bread."

Give me my shot of encouragement every day.

**"If any man will come after me let him deny
himself and take up his cross when?
DAILY!"**

This is living life a day at a time.

That is a PRESENT IMPERATIVE.

**Back in verse 12 it was "Keep on taking care"
recognize the danger of it,**

but now **"KEEP ON ENCOURAGING
ONE ANOTHER EVERY DAY."**

Why?

**"LEST ANY ONE OF YOU BE HARDENED
BY THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN."**

What does that mean when it says
BE "ENCOURAGING"?

That's an interesting Greek word; it is **parakaleo**.
It's the Greek word which means
"to be called along side."

Kaleo means "to call out" and
para means "to call along side."

We are built to need each other and
we feed off the **ENCOURAGEMENT**
that we give each other.

In verse 12 we have the **COMMAND**
to look out for **OURSELVES** personally, and

in verse 13 we have the **COMMAND**
to be looking out for **OTHER BROTHERS AND**
SISTERS who need a word
of encouragement along the way.

DYING FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

When an accountant for a certain business committed suicide, an effort was made to find out why. The company's books were examined, but no shortage was found. Nothing could be uncovered that gave any clue as to why he took his life—that is, until a note was discovered.

It simply said: "In 30 years I have never had one word of encouragement. I'm fed up!"

Many people crave some small sign of approval. They need a word of recognition, a caring smile, a warm handshake, and an honest expression of appreciation for the good we see in them or in their work.

Why is it that we have to wait
until it's too late?

You have people lining up to eulogize a fellow
at his funeral.

Why not wake up to recognize,
that we all need ENCOURAGEMENT and
then do something about it, right now!

(The Tribute by Dennis Rainey with David Boehi)

At the end of the program I asked Crawford if he'd like to give a verbal Tribute to his dad for what he'd meant to him. By the time he finished, I was crying with him. Here's what he said:

Dad, I love you, and thanks for the sacrifices of working over thirty years at the A&P warehouse. Thank you for choosing not to get paid triple-time on those Christmases and other days when we needed the money living in that small apartment in Newark, because you wanted to spend time with your kids.

Thank you for not buying new cars until after we were grown because you wanted to have money for vacations and you wanted to show us things. Thank you for teaching me and telling me that I'm a man and standing with me during hard times.

Everything I am today is because of you, and nobody may ever know who you are. You never made a big splash of it and you never blew your own trumpet, but you quietly did the deed. Thank you.

p. 71

**"BUT BE ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER DAILY,
AS LONG AS IT IS STILL CALLED 'TODAY.'"**

"AS LONG AS IT IS CALLED TODAY"

**is taken from Psalms 95:7 and would mean
"while you still have opportunity."**

**You really only have today
to be an encouragement.**

**You don't have yesterday, it's gone, and
you don't know, that you're going to be here
tomorrow, so you have today.**

You're focused in a single day.
 And you better do it today rather than
 bury your good intentions.
 And have people at a loss because you
 didn't do what you needed to do.

**"AS LONG AS IT IS STILL CALLED 'TODAY,'
 LEST ANY ONE OF YOU BE HARDENED
 BY THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN."**

There are 2 KEY WORDS in the remaining part
 of verse 13, which reflect, the character of sin:

1."HARDENED"

2."DECEITFULNESS."

We already know that it is possible to have a
HARDENED heart.

You can have a **HARDENED** heart toward the Lord,
 when you don't do what He says.

*We talked about that last week,
 but you can get a hard heart down here,
 when you see the selfishness of other believers,
 who fail to minister and to encourage you
 and your heart gets lonely and

your heart gets hard,
because you see people who just don't care
and your heart gets hard.

What does it mean when it says
"THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN?"

Sin never comes around and says,
**"Hey look I'm here today to ruin your life
and send you to hell."**

The "DECEITFULNESS OF SIN" can certainly
be seen in:

The story of the **PRODIGAL SON** and the
dire straits he finds himself in, until he comes
to his senses, and returns to his father
and home.

ACHAN as he stole the garment and articles
from Jericho and buried them in the floor
of his tent.

You can see it in **ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA**
as they lied about a real estate deal.

You can see it in the life of **DAVID** as he

got involved in adultery and murder.

You can see it in Elisha's servant **GEHAZI**
as he chases after Naaman's chariot
to get some personal remuneration,
for the miracle that had taken place.
He ends up a leper.

The word "DECEITFULNESS" has in it
the thought of "to trick" or "fraud."

MacArthur says:

When a person becomes spiritually hardened, he rarely
is aware of it. He can hear the gospel of Jesus Christ
time and time again and not respond. My father often
used the well-known expression, "The same sun that
melts the wax hardens the clay." If your heart is not
melted in faith, it will be hardened in unbelief.
p. 93

J. Vernon McGee says:

We as believers need to beware of the deceitfulness of
sin. We can actually come to the place where we feel
our lives are satisfactory to God although we are
leading a wilderness life. For example, a believer can
be dishonest and yet say that his conscience does not
condemn him! Then he should condemn his
conscience, because it has become hardened through
continuance in sin. I know men in the ministry who

have been totally dishonest; they have been found to be liars, yet they can get down on their knees and pray the most pious prayers I've ever heard. And their conscience does not condemn them. Of course it doesn't condemn them, because it has become hardened; they are permitting sin in their lives. p. 529
Ray Stedman observes:

We share in Christ if that faith which began in us continues to produce in us that which faith alone can produce, the fruit of the Spirit. This is the second warning of this book. The first one was against drifting, the danger of paying no attention, of sitting in a meeting and letting the words flow by while our minds are occupied elsewhere. That is the peril of letting these magnificent truths, which alone have power to set men free, drift by unheeded, unheard.

This second warning is against the danger of hardening: of hearing the words and believing them, understanding what they mean, but taking no action upon them. The peril of holding truth in the head but never letting it get into the heart. Truth known never does anything; it is truth done which sets us free. Truth known simply puffs us up in pride of knowledge. We can quote the Scriptures by the yard, can memorize it, can know the message of every book and know the whole Book from cover to cover, but truth known will never do anything for us. It is truth done, truth acted upon, that moves and delivers and changes.
p. 47

**Over and over in the scripture you see
the subtleness of sin and what it does.**

**The deceitfulness of it is probably
best in James 1.**

James 1:13-15

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

1 Timothy 4:2

**By means of the hypocrisy of liars
seared in their own conscience
as with a branding iron.**

**They are individuals who have a
CAUTERIZED CONSCIENCE.**

**It's a conscience beyond feeling because you
get to the point, that you can do it and look
somebody straight in the face.**

**You can lie, you can cheat, you can be dishonest
and with a hardened heart, your conscience
no longer has the feeling, it's hardened.**

Now sin does five ugly things;

- 1.blinds the eyes,**
- 2.stifles the conscience,**
- 3.hardens the heart,**
- 4.dulls the ear**
- 5.corrupts the mind. . .**

That's the giant sweep of "the deceitfulness of sin."

(Reality and the Vision by Philip Yancey, Editor)

**Pondering the complexity of sin, Augustine cries out,
"Who can disentangle this most twisted and
most inextricable knottiness?
It is revolting;
I hate to think of it;
I hate to look at it."
p. 84**

v.14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if indeed we hold firm the original confidence steadfast until the end;

"FOR WE HAVE BECOME PARTAKERS OF CHRIST."

"WE" are believers.

He identifies himself with them.

**"WE HAVE BECOME PARTAKERS OF CHRIST,
IF INDEED WE HOLD FIRM
THE ORIGINAL CONFIDENCE STEADFAST
UNTIL THE END."**

Remember last week in <u>verse 6</u>, to some of you, lose your salvation,	we had those statements and it was a concern that you could if you didn't do this.
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And I was sharing falter and but you can't	with you that you can you can fail, fall away from the relationship.
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The way you that you are	demonstrate the fact committed to Christ.
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Is that you of the storm.	stay there, in the midst
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And that you are by the adversity.	unruffled
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In other words, you don't turn and walk away.

If you have genuinely become
a partaker of Christ, you will not go away
from your original confidence,
you will hold firm to it.

1 John 2:19

They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.

v.15 while it is being said, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion."

Now that is a repetition of last week's verse.
We are back to Numbers 14 and we are also
back to Psalms 95.

If you hear His voice, don't go on
hardening your hearts, if He is speaking to you.

Warren Wiersbe says:

People with hard hearts know the truth but resist it and refuse to obey it. They know that God chastens disobedient children, but they almost defy God to act.

They think they can sin and get away with it. The first step toward a hard heart is neglect of the Word of God (Heb. 2:1-4), not taking it seriously. It is either "hearing" or "hardening." Take your choice (Ps. 95). p. 815

(God Works the Night Shift by Ron Mehl)

Some time ago, a friend of mine spoke to a gathering of Christian youth. During a prayer time, he asked them to kneel and pray. As my friend prayed, he noticed that behind him, to his left, he heard sobbing. He looked back and saw a lovely young woman. Her face was buried in her hands and she rocked gently back and forth as she wept and prayed for the salvation of her lost friends. He couldn't help listening as this girl prayed on and on, and he was moved by her passion and tender expression of love to Christ.

When the service was over, he asked the pastor about the young woman, pointing her out as she talked with her friends.

"Who is she?" he wondered.

The pastor smiled. "Oh, there's a great story, there," he said. "That's Sherry. She was a 'motorcycle momma' for three and a half years. She was passed around from

gang member to gang member, used up like so much trash. She committed sins that are unspeakable. She sold her soul to pleasure and was stripped of every bit of innocence a young woman should have. If you could see sin on a person, it would have been caked on her two feet thick. When she came to us, she was a sad, guilt-ridden girl."

The pastor paused, eyes half closed, remembering. "But then she received Jesus Christ, and you should hear her get up in front of the group and talk about God's grace! Her weeping –that's a sign of joy. She knows where she's come from, and how the Lord has forgiven her past."

The Lord saw the mess she made of her life, and let the beauty of His forgiving love fall upon her. Like snow that washes clean. Like snow that hides the twisted path behind. Like snow that covers all and opens a fresh, inviting world.

Sherry went from being a Hell's Angel to a snow angel. She learned that when God forgives, He does much more than simply cover up our sins. Lots of ugly things get covered up in the winter snows, but then, when spring melt-off comes, there they are again, as ugly and offensive as ever. No, when God forgives, the sin is gone! He takes it away and forgets it forever.
pp. 102-4

Now verses 16, 17 and 18 are a trio.

**There are
2 questions in verse 16,
2 questions in verse 17, and there are
2 questions in verse 18 and they all relate
to the story.**

**Here we are in Kadesh Barnea and the opportunity
to go in the land is before us
and here are the 6 questions:**

**v.16 For who when they heard, rebelled? Indeed, did
not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?**

QUESTION #1:

"FOR WHO WHEN THEY HEARD, REBELLED?"

QUESTION #2:

**"INDEED, DID NOT ALL THOSE WHO CAME OUT
OF EGYPT LED BY MOSES?"**

YES, they did except for Joshua and Caleb.

1 Corinthians 10:1-5

**For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that
our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed
through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in**

the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

v.17 And with whom was He angry for forty years?
Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

QUESTION #3:

"AND WITH WHOM WAS HE ANGRY FOR FORTY YEARS?"

It was that generation from Kadesh-Barnea and go that turned back and refused to trust God into the land.

He answers his own question with yet another question:

QUESTION #4:

"WAS IT NOT WITH THOSE WHO SINNED, WHOSE BODIES FELL IN THE WILDERNESS?"

To sin is human; to persist in it is stupidity.

Somebody put it this way:

**A little sin will add to your trouble,
subtract from your energy, and
multiply your difficulties and it will
divide your relationships.**

**You can choose your sin, but you can't choose
the consequences.**

Sin causes the cup of joy to spring a leak.

(The Victorious Christian Life by Dr. Tony Evans)

Cancer is a dreaded disease. It begins when one cell no longer wants to go along with the body's program and decides to go solo, to do its own thing. Not only does this cell begin to act independently, it also begins reproducing its own kind. One rebellious cell begets a whole new family of Benedict Arnolds, producing a lump in some part of the body, which instead of contributing to the body begins to rob the body of its strength. As if this weren't bad enough, these traitors then decide to metastasize, spreading their influence to other parts of the body. Like the Mafia, they silently, yet violently, penetrate vital organs to establish their own cronies and sabotage each organ's effectiveness. If undiagnosed or left untreated, this army of rebels brings death and

destruction to the whole body.
p. 55

v.18 And to whom did He swear that they should not enter into His rest, but to those who were disobedient?

QUESTION #5:

"AND TO WHOM DID HE SWEAR THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER INTO HIS REST?"

QUESTION #6:

"BUT TO THOSE WHO WERE DISOBEDIENT?"

v.19 And so we are seeing that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

**"SO WE ARE SEEING" is the CONCLUSION
to the writer's argument.**

**"And so we are seeing that they were not able
to enter (WHY) because of unbelief."**

**Let's take the final 4 verses and look at
the 4 KEY HOT WORDS that created
the problem:**

1. REBELLED in verse 16

"For who when they heard, rebelled?"

2. SINNED in verse 17

"Was it not with those who sinned,"

3. DISOBEDIENT in verse 18

"but to those who were disobedient?"

4. UNBELIEF in verse 19

"they were not able to enter because of unbelief."

**There is your 4 ugly culprits as to why
their remains are strewn in the desert
of their disobedience, not going into the land.**

(From Our Daily Bread, October 14, 1994)

Phillips Brooks, former minister of Boston's Trinity Episcopal Church, is perhaps best known as the author of "O Little Town of Bethlehem." He was a very busy pastor, yet he always seemed relaxed and unburdened, willing to take time for anyone in need.

Shortly before Brooks died, a young friend wrote to him and asked the secret of his strength and serenity. In a heartfelt response, Brooks credited his still-growing relationship with Christ.

He wrote, "The more I have thought it over, the more sure it has seemed to me that these last years have had a peace and fullness which there did not used to be. It is a deeper knowledge and truer love of Christ. . . . I cannot tell you how personal this grows to me. He is here. He knows me and I know Him. It is the most

real thing in the world. And every day makes it more real. And one wonders with delight what it will grow to as the years go on."

What a testimony to the strength and serenity our Savior can provide! What a motivator for all of us who know Him as Savior to cultivate daily a closer, deeper fellowship with Jesus! Only that relationship can bring abiding peace and delight.--VCG

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: "Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth" (Psa. 26:2, 3).

LESSON #2: It is our responsibility to be continually checking up on ourselves and our spiritual condition.

LESSON #3: It is our responsibility to keep on encouraging one another every day.

LESSON #4: We only have the guarantee of today. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come.

LESSON #5: There is a deceitfulness of sin because we never do really see the consequences before we get involved.

LESSON #6: One of the evidences of a genuine relationship with Christ is the unconditional commitment to "stay by the stuff."

LESSON #7: "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (Heb. 3:15).

LESSON #8: The failure of the Israelites is seen in four words:
(1) they rebelled; (2) they sinned; (3) they were
disobedient; and (4) they were filled with unbelief.

LESSON #9: The reason more do not experience His rest is
because of unbelief.

LESSON #10: Have you entered into the rest of the total
adequacy of Jesus Christ?

STUDIES IN THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

PART I

STUDY NUMBER FIVE - Hebrews 3:12-19

v.12 Keep on taking care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

v.13 But keep on encouraging one another every day, as long as it is still called "today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

v.14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if indeed we hold firm the original confidence steadfast until the end;

v.15 while it is being said, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion."

v.16 For who when they heard, rebelled? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?

v.17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

v.18 And to whom did He swear that they should not enter into His rest, but to those who were disobedient?

v.19 And so we are seeing that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Read Hebrews 3:12-19 and summarize in your own words what Paul is saying in this section.**
- 2. State in your own words the warning that is sounded in verse 12.**
- 3. What are we commanded to do in verse 13?**
- 4. How are believers characterized in verse 14?**
- 5. What warning is sounded again in verse 15?**
- 6. With whom was He angry for 40 years, according to verse 17, and what happened to them?**
- 7. To whom did "He swear that they should not enter into His rest," according to verse 18?**
- 8. Why were they not able to "enter into His rest," according to verse 19?**
- 9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?**
- 10. What lesson have you learned from this study?**

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: "Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth" (Psalm 26:2, 3).

LESSON #2: It is our responsibility to be continually checking in on ourselves and our spiritual condition.

LESSON #3: It is our responsibility to keep on encouraging one another every day.

LESSON #4: We only have the guarantee of today. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come.

LESSON #5: There is a deceitfulness of sin because we never do really see the consequences before we get involved.

LESSON #6: One of the evidences of a genuine relationship with Christ is the unconditional commitment to "stay by the stuff."

LESSON #7: "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

LESSON #8: The failure of the Israelites is seen in four words: 1) they rebelled; 2) they sinned; 3) they were disobedient; and 4) they were filled with unbelief.

LESSON #9: The reason more do not experience His rest is because of unbelief.

LESSON #10: Have you entered into the rest of the total adequacy of Jesus Christ?