

BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

Small Group Study Guide: Hebrews

Week of September 21 (Week 3)

Hebrews: Hold Fast – Perseverance (3:1-19)



CHAPTER 3 SUMMARY

Hebrews chapter 3 focus on four main themes: supremacy of Christ over Moses, faith and unbelief, perseverance and encouragement and warning against apostasy. With these themes in mind, the author exhorts believers to consider Jesus, our faithful high priest, and warns against the dangers of unbelief and a hardened heart.

SERMON DISCUSSION

Topic:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

OBSERVING AND APPLYING THE TEXT

1. How does the author of Hebrews contrast the roles of Moses and Jesus in verses 1-6?
2. Why might a contrast between Christ and Moses have been necessary and helpful for the original hearers of Hebrews?

3. What should Christian faithfulness look like in our current cultural context?

Reflection: "The author of Hebrews urges us to consider Jesus. The world urges us to consider anything else. What are some of the most prominent things the world urges you to consider instead of Christ? What are some helpful ways you can learn to consider Jesus more frequently and rightly in your current context?" (R. Albert Mohler, *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews*, 107).

4. What is the warning of the Holy Spirit in verses 7-11? What is the connection of this warning to the previous section?
5. In verses 8-11, what are the characteristics of the Israelites in the wilderness that the author of Hebrews is pointing out to his audience?
6. How does the concept of "today" in verses 7-8 apply to your present spiritual state?

Reflection: "If there was any group on the planet that should have believed in God, it was the Israelites. Think of all that they should have seen: ten miraculous plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, manna from the sky, water from a rock, and the divine presence of God in the tabernacle. And yet, even with all those privileges, most still did not believe." (Michael J. Kruger, *Hebrews For You*, 51-52).

7. In view of the warning in verses 7-11, what is the exhortation in verses 12-15?

8. How does the author of Hebrews describe or characterize the Israelites in verses 16-19?
9. How can the history of the Israelites serve as a lesson in your own spiritual journey?

Reflection: “The Israelites committed many sins in the wilderness, but only one prevented their entry into the land of promise, the sin of unbelief. Verse 19 powerfully demonstrates the need to persevere in faith. Without faith, we will not enter the promised land. The faithless will not enter God’s eschatological rest. The faithful hold firmly until the end.” (R. Albert Mohler, *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews*, 116).

PRAYER

PRAYER GUIDE

September 22-26, 2025

Read Hebrews 3

Monday: 3:1 “Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession.” “Consider” means meditation, desire, fixing the mind, or concentration. This takes discipline. Would you ask God today to help you cultivate desire, concentration, discipline, and time to fix your eyes upon Jesus? As the hymn writer says: “Turn your eyes upon Jesus | Look full in his wonderful face | And the things of earth will grow strangely dim | In the light of his glory and grace.”

Tuesday 3:2-6 “who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house... now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant...but Christ is faithful over's house as a son.” Regularly meditate on Jesus' faithfulness and His role as our high priest. Let this reflection strengthen your faith and commitment to Him. Thank God for the faithfulness of Jesus and his role as our high priest.

Wednesday: 3:7-14 “Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion...” make it a habit to encourage fellow believers daily. Share words of encouragement, pray together, and support each other in faith. Pray for the strength and wisdom to encourage and uplift fellow believers daily.

Thursday: 3:12-14 “Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.” The Corinthians were to always be on their guard and never go to sleep at their theological post, making sure that false teaching did not corrupt the church. In this hostile world, it is essential that believers in Christ be courageous and strong. Ask God to help you to be watchful, to stand firm in the faith, and be strong. Pray the same for fellow believers at Briarcliff Church. Ask God to keep your heart soft and responsive to His voice, avoiding the pitfalls of unbelief.

Friday: 3:18-19 “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.” The Consequence of Disobedience. Chapter three concludes with a reminder that those who disobeyed and did not believe were unable to enter God's rest. Seek God's help to persevere in faith, especially during challenging times, trusting in His promises.