

Hebrews 3:1. Verse 1 starts off with a "Therefore" and this specific word is used throughout the New Testament to reference what was just written (or spoken). As we saw last time: we are reminded that Jesus (The Son of God actually) gave up some of His Omnipotence, omnipresence, and Omniscience (respectively; Power over all things, ever present in all places, and Knowledge over all things). He voluntarily was born of a woman, "made lower than the angels", lived a perfect and Godly life, voluntarily absorbed God's wrath and also voluntarily let Himself be crucified so that anyone who believed on Him would also be resurrected and be considered a son, or daughter, of God the Father. And the next word is: "holy" which means that we are considered "holy" in God's eyes as well. That being said, we are charged to remember all these things, consider them done, and focus on Jesus as our apostle (Gospel Teacher) and High Priest (Advocate for us to God).

Hebrews 3:2 "He was faithful...", "Moses was faithful..." are the ONLY statements God asks of us in all His Word! We will see in Hebrews 11 that every old Testament saint was "counted as righteous" because they had faith that God would send a Messiah/Savior and all of us are considered Holy because of our faith in the Messiah/Savior/Jesus that He did send. In Hebrews 11:6 it says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him" and Hebrews 11 opens up with a definition of what faith is: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen". Notice also that Jesus' faithfulness, which was perfect, was put at the same level as Moses' faithfulness; which was not even close to perfect. Why? Because God does not ask us for perfection, He asks us to try and do our best in our faith and to help us to do that He gives us the indwelling Holy Spirit to help us along. God hands out A's all day long just for effort.

Hebrews 3:3-6 Again, Jesus' faithfulness was much greater than Moses (that anyone for that matter) but both were considered faithful in that what was pre-ordained for them to do. Hebrews 11 will clarify that, for example Moses was counted as faithful the moment he packed his bags and headed for a place that God had ^{not yet} shown him.

Hebrews 3:7-19 The opposite of faith, being faithful, faithfulness is

unbelief. Unbelief is calling God a liar. Examples include: believing that there are many ways to heaven when God the Son said "No one comes to the Father but by me"; or the arrogance of thinking that being a good person will get you into heaven when Jesus pleaded with God 3 times "that if there be any other way let this cup (crucifixion) pass; or foolishly thinking that we can be righteous when Scripture tells us that "there is none righteous, no not one". People that teach that there is no Hell are calling God a liar especially when Jesus preached more on Hell (2:1) than He did on Heaven; or that teach that after you die it's all over when God's Word makes clear that all who have ever lived will one day acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and every knee shall bow; in this example the Israelites called God a liar because they said, "send in some spies (Scouts) to see if we can take this promised land."

Correct: "Ok, God I trust you", "Not my way but your way".

Incorrect: "Sorry God but I don't believe you", "My way is better/easier".

— lets review the account of Israel at the entrance to the promised land. (Handout)

Hebrews 4:1 "Since the promise of entering His rest still stands" (since we are assured of His eternal presence with us)... "be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short." (don't just take the promise and call it a day! Falling short is not regarding salvation but rather completing our task of spreading the Gospel)

Hebrews 4:2-3 Someone, at some point, opened our eyes to Jesus Christ and God's love for us while we were yet sinners, so now it's our turn to pass it on. After all we were created to do so: Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand that we should walk in them." Verses 2-3 seem to point to God saying that to omit to do that which you were designed for is equally as bad outright denying to do what God specifically told you to do. The difference is (in my opinion only) that we are "believers" and as such there is now no condemnation for them that are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1) only loss of rewards (and possibly souls) (1 Corinthians 3:12-15).