

HEBREWS 3

Hebrew 3 is a continuation of the priority of Jesus and who we are in, and through Him.

Who are we in Christ?

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling – We know from the previous chapter that Jesus is our Heavenly High Priest. Also, that He has given us all authority and dominion over everything.

Holy brethren: This is who we are because of Jesus. Our heavenly, holy High Priest is *not ashamed to call brethren*. (Hebrews 2:11)

We should consider ourselves blessed and be encouraged, that Jesus, the superior One calls us His **holy brethren** and **Partakers of the heavenly calling**: Because Jesus is committed to *bringing many sons to glory* (Hebrews 2:10), we are partakers in His heavenly calling.

Consider the Apostle, and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus. This tells us that **we should remind ourselves when we go through difficult times and hardships, that God loves us so much, that He allowed His Only Son (Jesus) to suffer for us, and that Jesus after enduring it all calls us His holy brethren.**

Of our confession: Does this not show us the heart of the Father and His Son Jesus? It should be an honour for us to serve a Mighty God like this!! This should be our confession: **We serve an awesome, Mighty God.** Godliness is a **confession** made with both the mouth and the way we live and conduct ourselves - (Matthew 10:32, Romans 10:9).

Who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.

Here Paul uses Moses as an example: As a mere man, Moses showed an amazing faithfulness in his ministry; but Jesus showed a *perfect* faithfulness – surpassing even that of Moses. **For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses.**

Jesus was absolutely faithful to the Father (**Him who appointed Him**), so He will undoubtedly be faithful to us as He represents the Father. We should rejoice that (**Christ as the Son of God**) represents us as His brethren before the Father, in heaven.

We trust that *He who has begun a good work in us will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ* (Philippians 1:6).

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years. Therefore, I was angry with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.’ So, I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’” – Quoted also in Psalm 95:8-11

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says – we must listen to His voice and *not* allow our hearts to become hardened.

Today: There is *urgency* to the voice of the Holy Spirit. We might not even see tomorrow and then it might be too late – the Holy Spirit moves us to act **today** and not to postpone. It is a firm invitation to act now.

Therefore, I was angry with that generation: God’s anger was kindled against **that generation** on account of their unbelief. They refused to trust God for the great things He promised, and they were unwilling to continue in trust. Therefore, they could not **enter** the **rest** God had appointed for them, the Land of Canaan, as we have seen in the previous books we have studied.

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said:

Exhort one another daily: - It is easy to criticize, but much harder to exhort one another. We should be exhorting and encouraging one another on a daily basis, knowing that the evil one tempts us all continuously. - **(Matthew 7:5)**

Lest any of you become hardened: - We need to be constantly vigilant not to harden our hearts. Hidden sin may look innocent, but it is bait on a hook, which could easily catch you and not let you go. Hidden sin, hardens the heart. As your heart becomes harder you become *less and less sensitive* to your sin. You become more and more distant from Jesus, and your spiritual journey are in danger.

Partakers of Christ: To partake in Christ we have to lay aside sin and the nature thereof, striving to holiness in Christ Jesus. We need to partake in everything that Christ represents and deny the things of the flesh and that of the world.

For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*

Here we see the results of hardening our hearts. The Israelites were stranded in the desert for 40 years because they hardened their hearts and became rebellious. Hardening our hearts always comes with a penalty.

And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest - When we trust in Jesus, making Him the centre of our lives, the comforter of our souls, we enter into God's rest.

In the next chapters (Chapters 3 & 4) we will learn more about God's rest

They could not enter in: The Israelites (God's chosen people), after crossing much of the wilderness trusting in God, and after seeing so many reasons to trust in Him, they ended up falling short, only because they did not persevere in faith in God and His promise.

Lesson from Hebrews chapter 3:

1. Who we are in Christ – His brethren, His ambassadors and co-heirs to the Kingdom of God.
2. The Superior One is interceding for us. – Making us more than conquerors.
3. Our Confession – we serve a Mighty God
4. Not to harden our hearts – Do not Judge. Exhort & pick up those who are struggling.
5. Make Jesus the Centre of our Lives – so we can enter into God's rest.