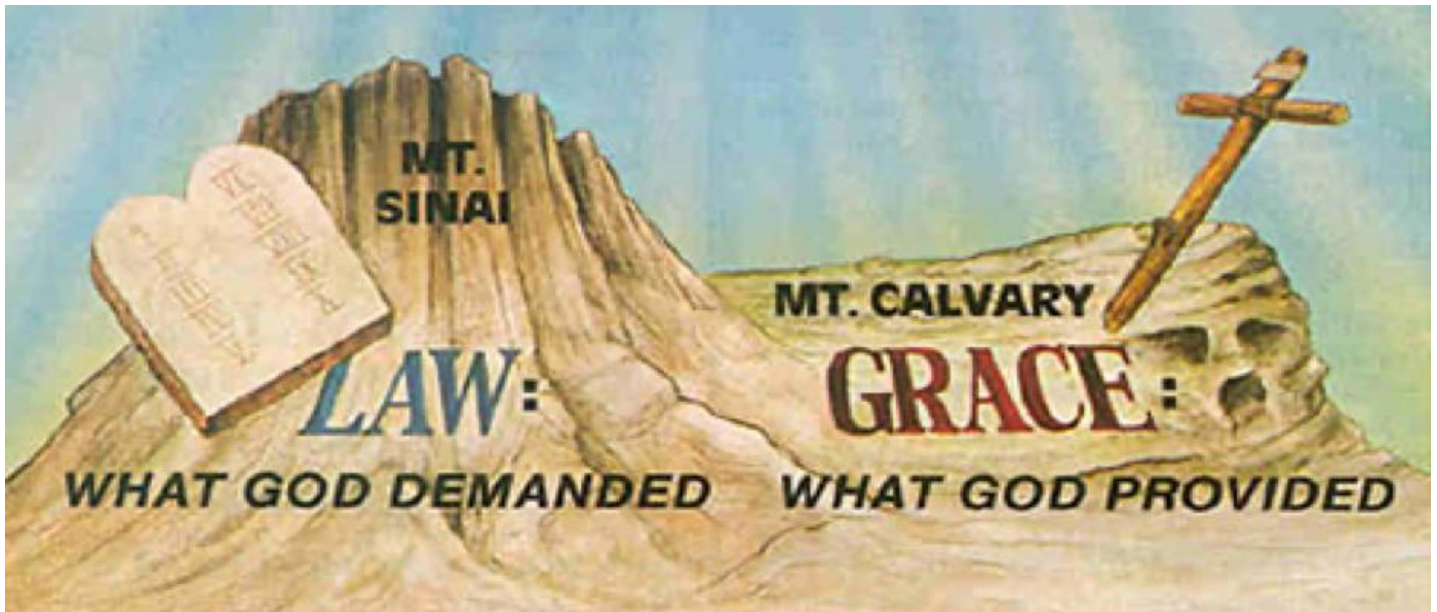


IS THE OBJECT OF YOUR FAITH JESUS CHRIST?



Grace and Peace to you from the Philippines. Our reading today is Hebrews Chapter 3. Paul is writing to Jewish believers in Rome who have elevated angels, Moses, and prophets above Jesus. King Nero was seeking to kill Christians, and many were leaving the faith and going back to their old traditions. Paul is trying to help the believers understand that Jesus is greater than angels, Moses or the prophets. Jesus is GOD in the flesh who made all things. v.4

In this chapter, we are told to do two things. 1) v.8,15 says, "harden not your hearts." 2) verse 13 tells us to "exhort (encourage) one another." All of us need encouragement from time to time.

In the first verses, it is noted that the children of Israel looked to Moses to provide their needs. However, JESUS is far better than Moses. JESUS is GOD in the flesh, Creator and maker of the world. Verse 10 and 11 says "...They do alway err in their hearts..." and that is the reason GOD says, "...They shall not enter into my rest." (heaven) The Israelites who were led by Moses saw all the miracles that GOD did for 40 years to keep nearly two million people alive in their desert journey. However, they did not believe GOD. They complained in their unbelief. That's the reason they never saw the promised land. Their corpse laid in the desert. v.17

What keeps someone from going to heaven? The answer is found in the last verse and the last word of this chapter. It is "unbelief". Unbelief is the opposite of faith. What, then, shall we do? Verse 7 and 8 tells us, "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." The answer is what Paul told the Philippian jailer, "...Believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31) The opposite of "unbelief" is "faith". However, your faith must have an object. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." If JESUS CHRIST, GOD, the Son, and Creator of the world is the object of your faith then you have eternal life and a place reserved in heaven. (See Ephesians 2:8,9)