

Scripture Text

Hebrews 3

Context

The writer of Hebrews is explaining how Jesus is better. In chapter 1, we see that Jesus is better than prophets and angels. In chapter 2, we see how Jesus is bringing many sons to glory through his suffering, which enables him to be a better, merciful and faithful high priest. Now, in Chapter 3, Jesus is seen as better than Moses, as a son over God's house who we are being built into if we hold fast our confidence and boasting in our hope.

Observation and Meaning

- Who are we urged to 'consider' (or 'fix our attention on') in v1? Why is Jesus better than Moses (v2-6)?
- How do we relate to Christ in v1-6? What does it mean when the writer says 'we are His house'? And what is the condition to us being his house? (v6)?
- What is the warning given in verses 7-19?
- List down all the various ways this danger is spoken about. What role does faith and unbelief play in falling away?
- What does the passage urge us to do to help one another remain in fellowship with the living God? How crucial are our relationship to this task of ensuring we do not fall away?
- What do you think the nature of this exhorting (v13) is? What would it look like if we continually encouraged one another with the truths from 3.1-6? If we believed that Jesus is indeed 'better', how would that affect our likelihood to have a hardened heart towards God?

Big Idea

God's people live as his family together to encourage one another towards active faith in the 'better-ness' of Jesus, so that our hearts aren't hardened by sin and we don't fall away.

Connecting to Bible Storyline

Jesus is gathering a people to himself, who are his house, if we hold fast our confidence in him.

Sermon Outline

1. The reminder: Jesus is better! (v1-6)
2. The warning: Don't fall into unbelief (v7-11)
3. The command: Strongly encourage each other! (v12-19)
4. How we try to live out this vision at RHC
 - a. Faith practices
 - b. Gospel heart

Application

- What is crucial to believe from verse 1-6 in order to not let our hearts grow hard?
- Who does God give us to help us to keep soft hearts before God and remain in faith?
- Who in your life is helping you remain in active faith, and reminds you that Jesus is better in the particular areas where you are prone to doubt God's promises? What can you do to help you get into such relationships?
- What are your relationships like with others at RHC? Are you exhorting others to see and know that Jesus is better? How can you better do that with others in this 'house'?

Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?

What is the situation of the author and of the readers?

Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?

Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.