

July 10th 2011
The Letter to the Hebrews
Part Eleven
Study Questions

1). Heb 3:7 ¶ *Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,*

a). What do we know from this scripture about the original recipients of this letter?

b). What other information is given to us in Hebrews Chapter 5 concerning them?

c). What did this mean for them with regards to their spiritual maturity?

d). How would the first warning at the beginning of Chapter 2 fit into this?

e). What comparisons could we make between the original recipients and ourselves and what should we learn from them?

2). What example is given to us with respect to the hardening of the heart?

a). *'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.'*

What is God's stated reason for Israel's actions?

b). What do we know about knowing His ways?

c). Read Hebrews 5:13-14 – what connection is there between these verses and knowing His ways?

d). Why is it that we can only ‘know’ God’s ways through experience?

e). Under what circumstances do you think we could be led away from the right course?

f). What would be the Lord’s reaction to us if we did allow ourselves to be led astray and what would be the final consequence and why?

g). *11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'*"

What does this verse teach us concerning God?

3). Heb 3:12 *Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;* Who is being addressed here?

a). What does the word ‘beware’ mean?

b). What can we know about the word ‘evil’ here and what would you say is particularly significant about it?

c). What does the word ‘departing’ teach us?

d). Where would this inevitably take us to again?

e). Explain exactly what would be meant by not giving the more earnest heed to the things we have heard.

4). Heb 3:13 *but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.* What personal responsibility is shown to us in this verse?

a). What would it mean for us to ‘exhort’ and what would this look like in practice?

b). What hardening is being referred to in our verse?

c). What would be the cause of this hardening?

d). What do we know about ‘the deceitfulness of sin’?

e). What connection is there between what we learn here and v12?

5). Heb 3:14 *For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,* 15 *while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."* What does it mean to be ‘partakers of Christ’?

a). What do we need to do to be a partaker of Christ?

b). What does the word ‘confidence’ mean?

c). In a general sense what would our ‘confidence’ be?

d). In a more particular sense, who would our confidence be?

e). Read Hebrews 2:5-10 – what reasons do we find here for Christ being our ‘confidence’?

f). What would it mean to ‘hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end’?

g). What is the context in which v14 is set?

h). What connection can we make between hearing His voice and the beginning of our confidence?

i). What would bring shipwreck to both?

6). Heb 3:16 *For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.* What technique does our writer use to teach us in these verses?

a). What essentially is the same answer to all the questions?

b). Why do you think the writer wants to emphasize this all over again?

c). What is significant about the word ‘obey’ at the end of v18?

d). So why couldn’t they enter in to God’s rest?

e). What do you think we are supposed to learn from this?

f). So what do we need to do?

