



# JESUS

Up **C**lose and **P**ersonal

A Study of Hebrews | The Pastors' Bible Study 2013-2014

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**Hebrews 3:12-19**

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## **Hebrews 3:12-19 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup>Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end. <sup>15</sup> As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

<sup>16</sup> Now who were they who heard and yet were rebellious? Was it not all those who left Egypt under the leadership of Moses? <sup>17</sup> But with whom was he angry forty years? Was it not those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, if not to those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

## Reflection Questions

1. The author advises the recipients to guard against having an “evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.” What things lead to unbelief in the lives of people around you? What is the connection between unbelief and turning away from the living God? Have you examined your own heart lately?
2. The remedy for a “heart that turns away from the Lord” is daily exhortation. To exhort means to *strongly encourage or urge someone to do something*. Are we too polite towards others when we encounter sin and unbelief in the church? What would we gain by being a community of encouragement? Consider the great cost to our congregation if we ignore this advice.
3. Verse fourteen says that *we have become partners in Christ*. Another way to think of this is that we are shareholders in the inheritance of Christ. As shareholders in Christ we share both the losses (sufferings) and gains (rewards) of God’s Kingdom. Like any long-term investment, we would be wise to persevere during the downturns being confident that our gains will far outweigh our losses. Where does this confidence come from?
4. Having highlighted the need to *hold our first confidence firm to the end*, the author returns once again to Psalm 95:7-8. “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” What is your current heart condition? Are there any areas of your life where you have become *hardened by the deceitfulness of sin*?
5. Jesus uses the story of the Israelites from Numbers 13-14 to give us a history lesson. The people of God had hearts that turned away from the living God. As a result, they missed out on their chance to enter the Promised Land. What do we miss out on if we harden our hearts to the voice of God?
6. Verse 16 reminds us that the Israelites heard the voice of God and yet remained rebellious. What is the difference between hearing and believing? What is the difference between intellectual ascent and active trust? What area of your life do you need to trust God with this week?