

Bible Study on Hebrews 3 of 8 – Leader Guide
Hebrews 3:1 - 4:13 (Jesus' Superiority over Moses)

Schedule:

- 1/19 – Hebrews Introduction & 1:1-2
- 1/26 – 1:3 - 2:18 (Jesus' Superiority over the Angels)
- 2/2 – 3:1 - 4:13 (Jesus' Superiority over Moses)
- 2/9 – 4:14 - 7:28 (Superiority of Jesus' Priesthood: Jesus, the New Melchizedek)
- 2/16 – 8:1 - 10:18 (Superiority of Jesus' Sacrifice)
- 2/23 – 10:19 - 11:40 (Exhortation to Faithfulness and OT Examples of Faith)
- 3/2 – 12:1-29 (Jesus the Ultimate Example of Faithfulness & warning against disobedience)
- 3/9 – 13:1-25 (Final Exhortations, Blessings and Greetings)

Hebrews Chapter 3

3:1-6

- A. This particular section of Scripture is used for this holiday: Transfiguration.
- B. Moses was faithful in all God's house (v. 2, 5); Christ is faithful over God's house (v. 3, 6); We are God's house – members of his family because of Christ our brother (Heb. 2:17).
 - a. Moses who God used to lead His people and through whom gave us His Law and the Torah – and yet, Christ is still far superior.
 - b. Jesus is the Son, who serves & faithful followers are servants, who are called sons and daughters.
- C. 3:6 foreshadows a key theme/topic of dispute in the Church: Good Works

3:7-19

- A. 3:7-11 is a quote from Psalm 95:7-11 and the author teaches on it in Heb. 3:12-19.
- B. 3:7 begins with “Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,”
 - a. The Scriptures are written by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit, and they are His words → 2 Timothy 3:16!
- C. 3:13 – This is a great memory verse. Sin is deceitful. An evil heart is one that refuses to believe God and trust in Jesus (3:12). This causes the heart to harden and it turns God's goodness into evil, and that which is evil into goodness.

- D. 3:16-19 When we hear of hard heartedness (especially with Moses), we may think of Pharaoh, but the author points out those with unbelief in the desert.
- E. The Formula of Concord uses this passage to talk about good works and the doctrine of election, saying “our salvation depends on hearing God’s voice, so our perseverance in it also depends on his certain Word and our ongoing faithful adherence to it.”¹
- a. Based on 3:14 - “God, who has called us, is so faithful that when he has begun a good work in us,” he will also continue it to the end and complete it, if we do not turn away from him.”²

Hebrews Chapter 4

4:1-10

- A. As the author writes about entering God’s rest, he alludes to several ways in which this rest comes. Rest from our work and rest from our good works.
- a. We rest in this Gospel message from Ephesians 2:8-9 - ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- B. We find rest in God’s Word, in the work of Jesus and in the Divine Service.
- a. Luther’s Small Catechism – the explanation of the third commandment: We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

4:11-13

- A. 4:11 – “Let us strive together” (as one family), “so that no one may fall” (as an individual) by the same sort of disobedience.”
- a. We strive to enter God’s rest, encouraging one another to not fall into daily temptations of sin and disobedience, which can lead to a hardened heart.
- B. We cannot hide our inmost self or attempt to stand before God defiantly. He pierces past all barriers and sees the “thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

¹ Kleinig, *Hebrews*, 193.

² *Formula of Concord*, XI, 32.

- a. This is for our good. We like to hide from God as did Adam and Eve in the garden. His word Shows Our Sin (Law) and Shows Our Savior (Gospel).

God Bless.
Pastor Brubaker, 2/2/25