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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- The Old Testament tells us that God has **no pleasure in the death of the wicked.**

(Ezekiel 18:32)

- The New Testament tells us that God is **not willing that any should perish**

(2 Peter 3:9)

- **For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him **might be saved.****

(John 3:17)

- From Genesis to Revelation the Bible is full of warning signs
- Warning men of the wrath of God if men continue on the course of sin.

- This chapter falls into four parts:
 - The illustration:
Israel's Rebellion
 - The invitation:
“Take heed.”
 - The instruction:
“Exhort one another daily.”
 - And the issue:
unbelief.

- And as we come to Hebrews 3:7-9,
 - We have God's warnings to sinful men.
- Turn to Jesus Christ before it is too late.

- These brethren had heard the gospel.
- Some had believed and obeyed.
- Others had believed, but had not committed.

- Some were hanging on to the edge of believing, but weren't willing to commit themselves,
- Because of some fear.
 - Maybe the fear of persecution
 - Or the love of their own sin.

- So this passage today is the Holy Spirit giving a warning.

- The greater the knowledge,
the greater the sin.

- The conviction of the writer to the Hebrews was that, if under the old law, apostasy was a terrible thing, it had become doubly terrible now that Christ had come.

- There are many people who intellectually have responded to the gospel.
 - They believe it, but they have never committed.
 - Never repenting of their sins.

- To know the truth
and not accept it
brings upon a man
a worse judgement
than to really
not know it
and not to accept it.

- ***For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.***

(2 Peter 2:21)

Hebrews 10:28-29 (CSBBible)

28 *Anyone who disregarded the law of Moses died without mercy,...*

29 *How much*

worse punishment

do you think one will deserve

- *who has trampled on the Son of God,*
- *who has regarded as profane the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified,*
 - *and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?*

- God does not think you've done Him a favor just because you like His gospel.

- And to whom much is given much is required.

- One of life's greatest failures is the failure to see the sacredness of sacred things

- The writer of Hebrews has a great fear for those who've heard the gospel.

- And for whatever reason fail to obey.

- Now in order to get this warning across, the Holy Spirit uses an Old Testament example.

- Hebrews 3:7-11

- It is the story of the rebellion of Israel in the wilderness:

- These people, as they wandered through the wilderness on the way from Egypt to Canaan, had enjoyed **the protection of God**
 - They were guided by the pillar of **fire** by night and the **cloud** by day.
- They had even been fed every day by the **quail** and **manna** as it came from the skies, fresh every morning.
(**Exodus 16**)

- When the Jews heard Jesus refer to them as ***children of the devil***
 - They said to him, "***We are not children of the devil, we are children of Abraham.***

- ***Our fathers ate bread in the wilderness for forty years;***
- If that is not a sign that we are **the people of God**,
I don't know what could be!
(**John 6:30-66**).
- **But the writer says,**
 - **"With whom
was he provoked
forty years?"**

- When the test finally came and they stood on the borders of the promised land,
- They were given the word of the Lord through Moses to advance and take the land.
- But they held back because they were afraid of the giants in the land.

- When they were asked to face the giants they refused to do so.
 - They turned back and for forty years wandered in the wilderness.

- And their failure to do so revealed the bitter truth that they never had any faith.
 - They had never really believed God.
 - They were only eager to get out of Egypt.
 - And had no intention of facing the giants in the land.

- The Word of God is pointing out that we may be **guilty ourselves.**
 - Guilty of **little faith.**
- Are we like the father **in Mark 9:24** who cried with tears, ***“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief”***

- When God asks us to destroy the giants in our lives are we guilty?

- What giants am I talking about?

- You say,

”I don’t have any giants in my life.”

- The giants of anxiety, fear, bitterness, jealousy, envy, anger etc.
- And we refuse to do so,
 - We are in danger of remaining in the wilderness and never entering the promised rest.

- Take care, brethren,
 - lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart,
 - leading you to fall away from the living God.
 - But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today,"
 - that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- (Hebrews 3:12-14 RSV)**

- By faith we can have a type of Promise Land here on earth.
- A Promise Land that produces real Spiritual fruit.
- Fruit that Paul calls: “*Fruit of the Spirit*”.
(**Ephesians 5:20**)

Galatians 5:22-23 (CSBBible)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is:

- love, joy, peace,
- patience, kindness,
- goodness, faithfulness,
- 23 gentleness,
- and self-control.

- Hebrews presents two warnings:
 - # 1 Danger of drifting.
 - # 2 Danger of paying no attention.
 - Are we in danger of letting God's magnificent truths which alone have power to set men free, to drift by, unheeded, unheard.

- **This second warning**
is against the
danger of hardening
spiritual arteries.
- Are we **hearing** the words
and **believing** them,
 - **Understanding**
 - what they mean,
 - But
taking no action.

- There is the danger of holding truth in the head,
 - But never letting it get into the heart.
 - But truth known never does anything;
 - It is truth done which sets us free.

- The terrible danger of hardening the heart.
- Is what the Lord Jesus meant when he said to his disciples,
 - ***"If they believe not Moses and the prophets, neither will they believe though one should rise from the dead,"***
(Luke 16:31).

- **Hebrews 3:12**

**Take heed, brethren,
lest there be in any of you an
evil heart of unbelief, in
departing
from the living God.**

**3:13 But exhort one another
daily, while it is called To day;
lest any of you be hardened
through the deceitfulness of sin.**

- The consequences of failure **are so tragic,**
- And the tendency to procrastination **so universal,**
- That action is demanded **today.**

- The statement of Paul underlines the fact **that life** does not come a **day** at a time,
- but a **moment** at a time;
 - Hence, **NOW** is the day of salvation.

- The same sunshine
melts butter
and
hardens concrete;
- And the same gospel
saves some
and
destroys others.

- People's hearts **are hardened** by continuing in sin, **procrastination**,
 - It is gradual **atrophy** of the spirit brought on by **disobedience**.

- After the rooting out of evil, there must come the filling with good.
- The best way to avoid evil is to do good.

Luke 11:27-28 (CSBBible)

²⁷ As he was saying these things, a woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to him,

***“Blessed is the womb
that bore you
and the one who nursed you!”***

• ²⁸ He said,
***“Rather, blessed are those
who hear the word of God
and keep it.”***

- A moment of emotion is a fine thing;
 - But the greatest thing is a life of obedience.

- **But all is not lost!**
- Even in such a state,
one may,
if he will permit it,
be softened and healed
by the word of God.
- **How**, do you say?

- How may the stony heart be broken?

- *"Is not my word like a fire, saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaks the rock into pieces?"*
(**Jeremiah 23:29**).

Hebrews 3:7

Wherefore as the
Holy Ghost saith,
Today if you will
hear his voice,
3:8 Harden not
your hearts,...

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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