

A Warning Against Unbelief
Series: The Supremacy of Jesus
June 27, 2010 Pastor Bill Bump

We have seen in the first two chapters that Hebrews makes a series of comparisons to remind us of the supremacy of Jesus.

Chapter 3 begins with a reference to Jesus as God's Messenger and High Priest.

Hebrews 3:1-6 (NLT) And so, dear brothers and sisters who belong to God and are bound for heaven, think about this Jesus whom we declare to be God's Messenger and High Priest. For he was faithful to God, who appointed him, just as Moses served faithfully and was entrusted with God's entire house. But Jesus deserves far more glory than Moses, just as a person who builds a fine house deserves more praise than the house itself. For every house has a builder, but God is the one who made everything. Moses was certainly faithful in God's house, but only as a servant. His work was an illustration of the truths God would reveal later. But Christ, the faithful Son, was in charge of the entire household. And we are God's household, if we keep up our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ.

Jesus Christ is far superior to Moses because he was not only the servant in the house, he was the builder of the house.

The key question that arises is: "How will we respond to the leadership of Jesus who is the greater figure?"

It is not enough to just talk about how great Jesus is if we don't ask, "What will I do about it?"

Hebrews 3:12-4:1 (NLT) Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. You must warn each other every day, as long as it is called 'today,' so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. But never forget the warning: 'Today you must listen to his voice. Don't harden your hearts against him as Israel did when they rebelled.' And who were those people who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Weren't they the ones Moses led out of Egypt? And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom was God speaking when he vowed that they would never enter his place of rest? He was speaking to those who disobeyed him. So we see that they were not allowed to enter his rest because of their unbelief. God's promise of entering his place of rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to get there.

The issues at stake are of such importance that we ought to treat them very seriously. We ought to fear failure that is caused by unbelief.

Hebrews 4:10-13 (NLT) For all who enter into God's rest will find rest from their labors, just as God

rested after creating the world. Let us do our best to enter that place of rest. For anyone who disobeys God, as the people of Israel did, will fall. For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are. Nothing in all creation can hid from him. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes. This is the God to whom we must explain all that we have done.

No matter how hard we try, we cannot possibly make ourselves more acceptable to God.

We need to be aware that the God in whom we have to believe looks at our hearts.

He wants us to believe him, to appreciate him, and to trust him.