

# PERSEVERING TOGETHER

Life Groups; Week of Sunday, January 15, 2023; Hebrews 3:7-19; Steve Thiel

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**Sermon Theme: People who come to saving faith in the Lord Jesus will always persevere in that faith, never fall away, and will ultimately enter God's eternal rest. Therefore, true Christians exhort one another on a daily basis to not be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin, but to continue to believe in Jesus!**

## **I. Eternal Security – Read Hebrews 3:1-6b, 14**

- A. Read Hebrews 3:6 and 3:14. In what ways are these statements similar? According to the text, what are the defining characteristics of those who have truly come to saving faith in Christ?
- B. When you think about persevering in the faith, what does that look like on a daily basis? How is the fruit in your life connected with your confession? And why is it so critical?
- C. The perseverance of the saints is one of the most comforting doctrines in Christian theology. How might it encourage you and be a blessing to others as you continue to walk by faith?
- D. What do you make of the statement, "There's no such thing as a person who used to be a Christian"? How do you think through that statement and what's the importance of it?

## **II. Example of Unbelief – Read Hebrews 3:7-11, 15-19**

- A. What observations do you make in verses 7-11?
- B. Read Psalm 95. How does the author use this Psalm in the context of Hebrews 3? What is the significance of the use of Israel as an example for the church enduring persecution?
- C. In what ways do you, like Israel, presume on God's kindness? Would your relationship with the Lord look any different today if you knew that it was your last day on earth?
- D. The author argues that one of the reasons Israel fell away was because their hearts were hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Is there any sin in your life that you entertain and refuse to put to death? Are you at war with your sin, or do you pick and choose your battles?

## **III. Exhortation to Persevere – Read Hebrews 3:12-13**

- A. According to Hebrews 3:12-13, what is the purpose of our exhortation to one another?
- B. How might you grow in exhorting and encouraging one another in the faith? What are the key steps to get you to that place (relationship, clarity, courage, conviction, confidence, etc.)?
- C. Do you regularly confess your sin to others as a means to prevent the hardening of your heart? What practical things can you do to encourage believers to persevere in the faith?
- D. How would you evaluate your love for Christ and the good news of the gospel? Is your heart growing softer and softer to the things of God? How is 2 Peter 1:3-11 helpful in this regard?