**Greater Than All – wk 3 – The What If?**

**Who do I do if a friend (or self) is struggling to trust Jesus?**

**What if someone walks way? Did they lose their salvation?**

**Only book of the NT that is unclear who the author is… (likely Paul)**

**- Written to Hebrews followers of Jesus thinking about leaving Jesus**

**- Quotes OT more than rest of NT - an encouragement and warning**

**Chap 1 highlighted - The Divinity of Jesus – That Jesus is God creator of all things in the very flesh – by him, thru him, for him!**

**Chap 2 highlighted – The Humanity of Jesus – Jesus fully God became fully human and actually died for our sins!**

**Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, (Knowing Jesus is God of all eternity in the flesh who died for our sins) holy brothers, you who share (Partakers) in a heavenly calling, (partakers of salvation - holy in Christ - the saved) consider Jesus, (take note of this – know this – discern this…) the apostle and high priest of our confession, (of faith) 2 He (Jesus) who was faithful to Him (God) who appointed Him (Jesus), just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. (Moses was the greatest prophet of the OT for Jewish people – the law giver. Jesus is greater!)**

**He starts off by Highlighting Jesus again – He is more than you think!**

* **Jesus the ambassador – The apostle - messenger sent on a mission, representative of God. Jesus the preacher of good news from God**

**God sent Jesus to be his ultimate word and voice.**

* **Jesus the mediator – The High priest - chief priest of all priests. He goes before God on our behalf. (Comes up a lot)**

**Not a person, Mary, priest, pastor, or family member.**

* **Jesus the faithful – who was faithful – You think Moses was faithful – more so Jesus. Emphasis is that Jesus will continue to be faithful.**

**2 Tim 2:13 - If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself. Jesus is perfect faithfulness.**

**Hebrews 13:5 - He will never leave you nor forsake you!**

**You can count on Jesus!! He is faithful!!**

**3:3 For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses (Moses saw a glimpse of glory – Jesus is of the very essence God’s glory) - as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. 4 (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)**

* **Jesus the builder - builder of all things is God.**

**Moses wrote the Torah = the foundation, the bones for the house of God. Jesus is the builder of the house - greater than Moses and Torah!**

**I am reminded of - Psalm 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. (Unless the lord builds your house…)**

**Hebrews 3:5 Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, (The OT is a sign that points to Jesus) 6 but Christ is faithful over God's house as a Son. (Moses was great but never called a Son) And we are His house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence (Don’t give up or turn back - Can we fall away? More to come on this...) and our boasting (confident knowing) in our hope.**

* **Jesus the pastor - over God's house**

**Moses was just a servant for the house of God. We are the house of God. Jesus rules over the house. Jesus is over of the house of God.**

**Jesus is the shepherd – the pastor – the leader – Jesus what do you have for us.**

**I want to talk about that hope we have in Christ!**

* **Faith – supernatural trust in what we do not see**
* **Hope - supernatural confidant assurance of what you know**

**1 Cor 13:13 - Everything will change but - these three remain: faith, hope and love… these are reliable anchors!**

**(Do you believe this? Another Warning) 3:7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, (Ps 95:7-11 - notice equate scripture as from the HS) “Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, 9 where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. (Moses’ exodus – give quick background) 10 Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.’ (never truly believed) 11 As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’”**

**Compares those who turn away from Jesus to those who turned from God with hard hearts in the wilderness and received the wrath of God. God condemned their unbelief and God still does to those who do not believe.**

**12 Take care, (lit. beware!) brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. (Supreme ruler)**

**Be careful of those among you who do not believe and who are actively leading others astray!**

**Fall away (apostēnai - verb, to lead away to depart). Noun version where we get “apostate”. Those actively leading people astray are apostates. They have “evil, unbelieving hearts”**

**13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,”**

**Since there are those who actively trying to lead you astray, while you still have a chance - no second changes after this Heb 9:27 appointed for everyone to die once and them face judgment**

**13 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. (How? Deceitfulness of sin.)**

**3:14 For we have come to share in Christ, (echoes vs1 – partakers in Christ of his salvation) if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. (Can you fall away from salvation? More to come…) 15 As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” (Quoting Ps 95 again)**

**16 For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? (In the wilderness they did not believe the word of God) 17 And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? (They said no to God and died in the desert) 18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.**

**The writer is saying - so too our faith in Jesus, the provision for sin, is the key to entering the promised kingdom of heaven. Our unbelief will keep us out – we do not all get in by default.**

**\*\*\* Salvation is found only by those who respond to Jesus by faith.**

**The Jesus who is God in the flesh – who dies for our sin. No other Jesus, not other belief, no other way.**

**FOUR QUESTIONS:**

1. **What if I believe it?**

**If the HS is moving in your heart to respond to today, and you hear this and know this to be truth - that Christ is the wrath receiver your sin…**

**If by faith you believe who Jesus is and what he has done - you partake of Christ and become family and become the house of God.**

**Bible calls this born again – and you will inherit the Kingdom!**

1. **What if I don’t believe it?**

**3:19 …they were unable to enter because of unbelief.**

**You will not enter or know the kingdom of heaven**

**3:10 They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.’ 11 As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’”**

**You will know the wrath of God**

**That is why the message of Jesus is so good (Heb 2 - last wk) Jesus is the wrath taker – if you believe this by faith!**

**I just want fire insurance. Can you believe it then get in? Yes and no…**

1. **What if I believe it - but don’t live it?**

**3:12 Take care, (beware!) brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. 13 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.**

**Sin will keep you from God and from eternity with God**

**A tool of the apostate and drifters - the false promises of Sin**

**The deceitfulness of sin - It is okay, God doesn’t mind, confess later, as long as you love each other, what is a little lying, nothing wrong with loving money and stuff – these things will make you happy – God wants you happy. The lies of satisfaction and lasting hope.**

**Repeated and willing acceptance results in hard hearts. Calous to sin. The more we engage the more callous we get – the more we lie to ourselves about it. The more sin takes a hold on our life. Unconfessed sin breeds unbelief.**

1. **What if I believed it – and then changed my mind (fell away)?**

**Some point to v.6 and 14 and say they lose their salvation.**

**3:6 - And we are His (Jesus) house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.**

**3:14 For we have come to share (become partakers) in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. (v.14 Echoes verse 1 and 6)**

**Understanding the “if” of v6, 14.**

**What if we don’t hold fast? Is this saying I can lose my salvation?**

**This section starts with it (v1, 6) and end with it (v14) - “if indeed”**

**\*\* This is written to those who believe – those who have salvation**

**We are His house / we have become partakers**

**It is not you will become partakers if you hold fast – you have already become partakers– you are already in the household.**

**This is not a prerequisite for salvation.**

**\*\* This is written as a self-test those who believe**

**In the face of opposition if you hold fast to hope and don’t give up it shows you are truly Christs.**

**2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test.**

**The point is: we hold fast to our assurance in order to show (prove, evidence, demonstrate) that we are partakers of Christ.**

**It defines the household of God. It is a test of true faith. This your persevering confidence. You want evidence – don’t quit!**

**He is telling us - "If we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm to the end, we show that we are God's house."**

**Here is the point: God’s people will hold fast – God’s people will have hope – God’s people will hold tight to the end.**

**Unless indeed you fail to meet the test!**

**We see this in - 1 Peter 1:6** **In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith (more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire) may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

**Those who are truly of the faith hold fast! So, what happens if someone does not hold fast? Then they were never true partakers in Christ.**

**Spurgeon- Real Christians continue in the faith. The message in Hebrews 3 and 4 is that if you are real, then you are real until the end.** **If we do not hold fast, we were never Christians from the start.”**

**This is backed up in scripture - 1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.**

**This comes up more in Hebrews - will discuss when we get there.**

**Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful… 35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward… 12:1 …let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.**

**The primary point of this the letter is - Preserve - Be vigilant – Don’t give up – Don’t walk away – Run with endurance - because this is evidence you belong to Jesus!**

**I want to end going back to Hebrews 3:14 We have come to share in Christ…**

**15 As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts…**

**The greatest what if… “if you hear his voice”**

* **Will you harden your heart to the gospel of Jesus today?**
* **Will you allow the deceitfulness of sin to persuade you today?**
* **Today – will you hear his voice?**