

Topic/Subject: ***Today is the Right Time to do Right***

Scripture: Hebrews 3: 1-19 (7-15)

Background Scriptures: Joshua 24, Psalms 95:7-11, Exodus 17:1-7, Numbers 20:1-13

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## **I. Biblical Context**

The writer of Hebrews has conviction in his writings. The basis of his thought is that the supreme revelation of God comes through Jesus, and that only through him does man have real access to God. He supports his position by proving that Jesus was superior to the prophets, Jesus is superior to the angels, and Jesus is superior to Moses.

In Chapter 3, verse 1, the writer asks us to fix our attention on Jesus. Similar to when God says to Satan, “have you considered my servant Job” (Job 1:8). Meaning he wants us to take a deeper look at Jesus. This deeper look requires us to learn a lesson from Jesus in order to make a good decision. We see a similar decision having to be made when as we look to the Israelites in Joshua Farwell address and challenge to the leaders (Joshua 24). Joshua explains all the things that God had done for them when he sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt to how they wandered in the desert for 40 years. He reminded them that they took possession of the Promised Land. A place where they enjoy crops that they did not plant. Joshua reminds tells them that they have to choose whom they serve. Will you serve the gods that your ancestors serve beyond the Euphrates or the gods of Amorites whose land you possessed? Who will you serve? As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

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## II. The Lesson:

The Hebrew writer has worked diligently to prove the unique supremacy of Jesus and now he leaves an argument of exhortation. He presses upon his hearers the inevitable consequence of this unique supremacy. If Jesus is so uniquely great, it follows that complete trust and complete obedience must be given to him. If they harden their hearts and refuse to give him their obedience, trust the consequences will be serve.

The writer of Hebrews begins by quoting Psalms 95:7-11. Psalm 95 appeals to those who hear it not to be like the children of Israel, but as the King James Version states, "Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation." The two phrases provocation and the day of temptation translate into two Hebrew words referring to two places, Massah and Meribah. The events that took place at these two places can be found in Exodus 17:1-7 and Numbers 20:1-13. These passages tell of a rebellious incident in the pilgrimage of the children of Israel. They were thirsty in the desert and railed against Moses, regretting that they had left Egypt and forswearing their trust in God. In Numbers, God told Moses to speak to the limestone rock and water would gush forth, but Moses in his anger did not speak to the rock, but struck it. The water came out, but this act of distrust and disobedience God declared that Moses would never be allowed to lead the people into the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 3:26).

You must be aware unless you show the same disobedience and distrust of God like your ancestors showed, and for that reason lose the blessing you might have had, just as they lost theirs. So while there is still time, while you can still speak of today, give God the trust and the obedience that he must have. For the individual, todays means "while life lasts", and the Hebrew writers says, While you still have time, give God the submission you ought to give. Give it to him before your day closes."

There are three thing we must consider here:

1. God makes man and offer. Just as he offered the Israelites the blessing of the Promised Land, he offers to all of us the blessing of life which is

far beyond the blessing of a life that man can live without him. Our promise through Jesus is that he (Jesus) has gone to prepare a place for us (John 14: 1-3).

2. To obtain the blessing of God two things are necessary. First, trust is necessary. We must believe what God says is true. We must be willing to stake our lives on his promises. Second, Obedience is necessary. In any realm of life success depend on obedience to the word of an expert. God, if we my put it so, is the expert in life and real happiness depends on obedience to him.
3. To the offer of God there is limit. That limit is the duration of life. We never know when that limit will be reached. We speak easily about tomorrow, but tomorrow is never promised to us. God's offer must be accepted today; the trust and the obedience must be given today, because we cannot be sure that there will be a tomorrow for us.

We have the supreme offer of God, but it is only for perfect trust and full obedience, and it must be accepted now, or it may be too late.

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### **III. Conclusion:**

For the conclusion, let's look at the words to the song "Tomorrow" by the Winans.

Jesus said, "Here I stand  
Won't you please take my hand  
And you said, "I will tomorrow"  
Jesus said, I am He  
Who supplies all your needs?"  
And you said, "I know but tomorrow"  
Oh, tomorrow  
I'll give my life tomorrow

I thought about it today

Oh but it so much easier to say Tomorrow

Who promise you tomorrow?

Better choose the Lord today

For tomorrow very well be too late.