

HEBREWS 3:12-19

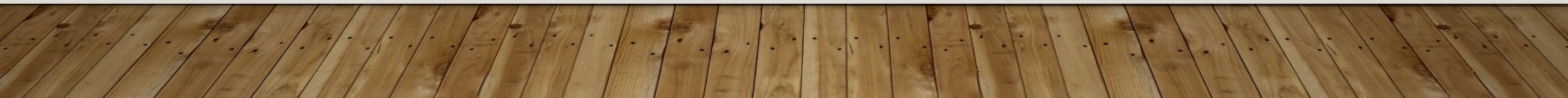
PERSEVERANCE IS SUSTAINED IN
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH



BELIEVERS MUST SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING THE FAITH OF ONE ANOTHER (3:12)

¹² *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.*

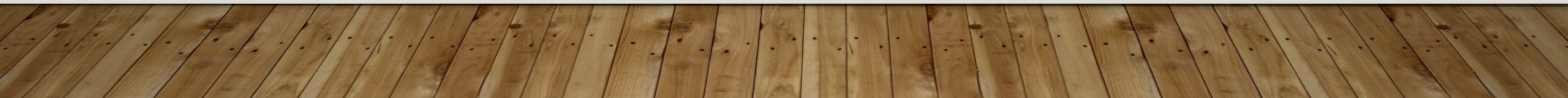
- “*Take care*” – the idea in light of the context is that of being on the lookout for those who are wandering and struggling
 - We are to keep our eyes open for fellow believers who have fallen into the slough of sin and selfishness
 - Our concern for the community of faith demands that we all work hard to keep the focus of our fellow warriors on Jesus and obedience as they fight the enemy on the battlefield of all of life
 - Galatians 6:1–2
- *lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart*
- An evil unbelieving heart is a disobedient heart
- We need to be on the lookout for straying sheep in the congregation
 - To know the word and His instruction, and possibly memorize some of its content, is not our only responsibility
 - The Lord’s people are to do what the Lord tells them to do
 - James 1:22
- All of us need to be affirming the faithful and challenging the wanderers



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leading you to fall away from the living God

- The writer of Hebrews acknowledges the connection we all share with one another
- Our spiritual bond as a congregation is something we are to affirm and protect
- I Corinthians 12:24b–26
- The warning given here is substantive and direct
 - Unbelief and disobedience lead to apostasy (“leading you to fall away”)
 - Each of us is to function as supporters of holiness and righteousness
 - The doctrine of eternal security is not meant to comfort the wayward
- Our “*living God*” is not a detached and disinterested being
- He is aware of all that happens in the lives of His people, and He is active in refining as well as purging and cleansing
 - Hebrews 10:31



BELIEVERS ARE VIGILANT ABOUT KEEPING ONE ANOTHER ON THE BATTLEFIELD ADVANCING THE FAITH (3:13)

- ¹³ *But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,”*
- We are commanded to exhort (come alongside another to encourage and admonish)
 - The substance of our encouragement is not our personal thoughts and feelings
 - We are to shine the light consistently on the will, and ways of the Lord recorded in the Bible – the whole Bible
- “every day, as long as it is called ‘today’”*
- Our concern for one another is to go beyond Sundays and small group meetings
 - This instruction applies to every member of the covenant community of the local church
 - *“as long as it is called ‘today’”* – drawing on the point presented in Psalm 95, *“today if you hear his voice”* - indicates correction must happen before God determines no more time will be given for repentance and faith
 - Biblically, the reality is that God’s patience is limited
 - Hebrews 12:15–17
 - We cannot turn a deaf ear to the call to repentance *that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*
 - We cannot turn a deaf ear to the call to repentance indefinitely
 - What should you do?
 - Stop making self-serving justifications
 - Humbly respond to the conviction with confession and repentance, trusting in God’s forgiveness and power to restore



BELIEVERS HELP ONE ANOTHER REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE END (HEBREWS 3:14)

- ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.*
- The justification of every believer is paid-in-full by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - Perseverance reveals if one's justification is genuine or not
 - Perseverance is not the work of retaining salvation
 - Perseverance is the work of God displaying the reality of salvation
 - “*original confidence*”
 - The way life in Jesus Christ begins is the way it continues
 - Colossians 2:6–7
 - Our first love is to be our enduring love, remembering we love God because He loved us first
 - Revelation 2:1–7
 - You are not on your own
 - Ask for help
 - Offer to help those in need



BELIEVERS LEARN FROM HISTORY THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT REPEATING THE PAST (3:15-18)

¹⁵ As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

- Psalm 95:7–8
- If your heart senses the probe and pursuit of God, it is foolish to ignore Him
- If you are a child of God by faith in Jesus, your redemption is done; your refinement is not

¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses?

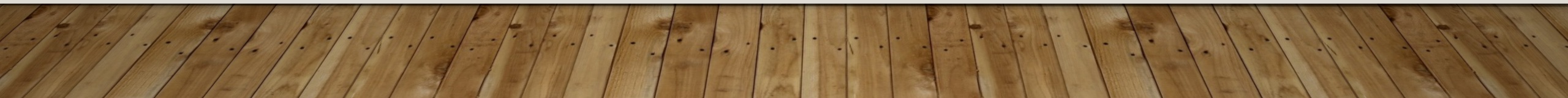
- If you know Jesus as the great and glorious Deliverer, rebellion is foolish

¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

- Turning from humbly walking with Jesus and His church reveals your prideful soul is damned

¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?

- If you live in disobedience, you will not be welcomed into the rest of the Lord
- We don't deserve or earn eternal rest, but our obedience or disobedience reveals who owns our heart



BELIEVERS WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL AND ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF SALVATION (3:19)

¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

- Unbelief made evident by disobedience reveals there is no true saving faith
- Those who do not obey do not have faith
- Perseverance is the fruit God gives to those trust God



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Why is it important to keep your eyes open for fellow believers overcome with sin and selfishness?
- What does falling away from the living God look like?
- How can you do a better job of exhorting faithfulness in the brothers and sisters daily?
- What does perseverance reveal? What does the lack of perseverance reveal?
- What is the role of the church in supporting perseverance?



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