



Adult Lifegroup Lesson *A Study of Hebrews*

Date: December 31, 2006

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 3, 4, and 5

Scripture Emphasis: Hebrews 3:6-5:3

Focus Point: **Lost or Saved?**

**MAIN POINT/Objective:** Salvation is a reality that produces assurance, and this assurance produces evidence.

*Thought for the Week*

We do not own Christ, He owns us.

**Introduction**

Last week we closed the lesson with the thought of how Jesus is superior to Moses. We said that Jesus is superior to Moses just as the builder/creator of the house is superior to the house (vs.3). If we look at these verses (Heb. 3:1-6) we can see also that Jesus is greater than Moses the same way a son over a house, the heir and owner, is greater than a servant of the house (vs. 5-6). This is identical to what we read in Hebrews 1:2, in which Jesus is also identified as the heir.

This week we are going to continue our discussion of Chapter 3 in conjunction with chapter 4, as we look at verses which many have used to say a Christian may lose their salvation. In considering the question “Saved or Lost?” we are going to see that believers have five things that make it impossible for them to be lost:

- 1) A Soft Heart and Firm Grip
- 2) Belief and Community
- 3) No Fear; Almost
- 4) Trust in the Word
- 5) Great High Priest

**Daily Reading and Questions:**

**MONDAY:** Read Hebrews 3.  
Emphasis Hebrews 3:6 and 14

*A Soft Heart and a Firm Grip*

**Thoughts to Consider (Discuss in Large Group)**

We saw last week that in the last part of verse 6, we who believe are also called His “house,” “if we hold fast.” Today we are going to look closely at verses 6 and 14, along with all of verses 7 through 19 of chapter 3, as we look at how Christians are people who have a soft heart towards and a firm grip on the things of God.

- As you read verses 6 and 14, what do you find as a common word that determines the understanding of what is being said? \_\_\_\_\_

**Thinking Together (Small Group Time)**

1. In Heb 3:6, is the condition – “if we hold fast to hope” – a condition for someone already being the house, or a condition to become the house? In other words which of the following does it say?
  - a. That a person will become a Christian if they hold fast to confidence and hope, or
  - b. “We are God’s house” if we hold fast to confidence and hope. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Now, looking at Heb. 3:14 from this perspective, does it support what we just said about verse 6?

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3. What therefore is the conclusion if a person does not fulfill the condition of these verses? As you read verse 7-19, what is the example given of someone who does not demonstrate that they have entered into a resting relationship with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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**TUESDAY:** Read Hebrews 3.  
Emphasis Hebrews 3:12-19

*Belief and Community*

**Thoughts to Consider (Large Group)**

We saw yesterday that the “ifs” in 3:6 and 14 were relative to conditions that should be evident as a result of a condition (salvation) that already exists, and that a Christian would be a person who has a soft heart for the things of God and a firm grip on the confidence of their assurance to the end. If a person does not hold fast then they probably never had a grip on salvation. So, if this the case, what are we falling away from in verse 3:12? What are your thoughts on this?

1. Can a person who is lost “fall away?” \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Can a person who is saved “fall away?” \_\_\_\_\_
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**Thinking Together (Small Group Time)**

Often when we consider a verse like verse 12 we, as believers, sit back in our seats and take comfort in that we see this having no application to us. Bad move.

- God’s word is written to whom? Give a verse to support your answer. \_\_\_\_\_
- What do we believers get from Heb. 3:13? What responsibility do we have, and what are your thoughts on just how well we do this? \_\_\_\_\_
- Have you ever considered the truth that we as Christians have a responsibility to encourage each other? Without this community there is more chance of us “falling away.”

**WEDNESDAY:** Read Hebrews 4.  
Emphasis Hebrews 4:1-11

*No Fearless; Almost*

**Thoughts to Consider (Large Group)**

Chapter 3 ended with the warning that it was unbelief that kept the people of Israel from entering into the promise land and the rest God had promised them. It was not their disobedience that prevented the Israelites from entering into God’s rest, but it was their unbelief. We saw in yesterday’s study that we believers must be an encouragement to each other, and following this thought of unbelief, the thing we most need to encourage each other in is to just believe God. Jesus tells us, “This is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He has sent” (John 6:29). He also says, “He who has my commandments and keeps them is he who loves me” (John 14:21). God wants us to just follow and trust Him because “without faith it is impossible to please God” (Heb. 11:6). As we enter into chapter 4 we are continuing this discussion on the “rest” that people can enter into with God through faith.

- What does the Scripture (4:1) say we should do as a result of the unbelief of the Israelites? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Did the Israelites hear the good news that we hear, and, if so, why were they rejected by God (4:2)?  
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**Thinking Together (Small Group Time)**

1. Is this saying we should live in fear? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does a person who professes to be a Christian move from a professing Christian to one of certainty? (2:1, 2:3, 3:1, 3:8, 3:12, 3:14, 4:1) \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Someone might say that we are teaching that a person must always live in constant fear of being lost. What are your thoughts? Can you support your thoughts with Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Considering the context of what is being said, what do you think is the point of verses 4 through 11?  
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**THURSDAY:** Read Hebrews 4.  
Emphasis Heb. 4:12-13

*Trust in the Word*

**Thoughts to Consider (Large Group)**

Yesterday we closed with verse 11 which basically says a person must be mindful to enter into the rest of salvation, in order that they will not suffer the same consequences of the Israelites in the wilderness. What is it that I must be consistent in putting my trust in? How do I believe God? In what do I place this belief?

- From the verses for today, Hebrews 4:12-13, how do we trust in God? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Thinking Together (Small Group Time)**

We always want to support our answers with Scripture.

- From the Scripture verses covered earlier this week, give one that indicates that the word of God is what we must believe and that it was what the Israelites did not believe. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**FRIDAY:** Read Hebrews 4.  
Emphasis Heb. 4:14-16

*Great High Priest*

**Thoughts to Consider (Large Group)**

In our text today we have one of those Old Testament categories for understanding who Jesus is and what He came to do, namely, the category of "High Priest." Jesus is greater than any high priest in the Old Testament because He understands us in ways that men cannot.

- What do we learn about how Jesus understands us in Heb. 4:14-16? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Where is Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Thinking Together (Small Group Time)**

We have seen in this week's study that are people who have a sensitive heart to the things of God, they hold on with assurance to the end, they are people of faith, and their faith is placed in God through His Scripture. With all of this true there looms the fact that we still sin, so what hope do we have of ever staying the course as people of faith? From the verses for today, express your thoughts. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Applications of the Scripture for this Week**

**Personal Application**

Everything we discussed this week hinges on one thing which is that we must be people of faith and our faith must be placed in His word.

- If you do not spend any time in God's word, commit now to spend a few minutes each day in the word this week.
- Take the lesson for next week and commit to someone in your group that you will show them your work next week. Be proactive on this. It is the essence of who you are. Look at someone right now and say, "Let's talk next week."

**Lifegroup Application**

As a group, discuss something that you can do this week that would be an encouragement to: 1) another Christian(s) and 2) a lost person.