


JESUS OVER EVERYTHING

H E B R E W S R E A D I N G G U I D E

WEEK 6



JESUS OVER EVERYTHING

WEEK 6
FEBRUARY 20, 2023



CHURCH IN THE SQUARE

©2023 CHURCH IN THE SQUARE
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

EVERY DAY ...

... A PASSAGE TO READ,

... SOME COMMENTS TO CONSIDER,

... THREE QUESTIONS TO ASK,

... A PRAYER TO PRAY.




WEEK 6

HEBREWS 3:12-19



DAY 1
HEBREWS 3:12
TAKE CARE
5

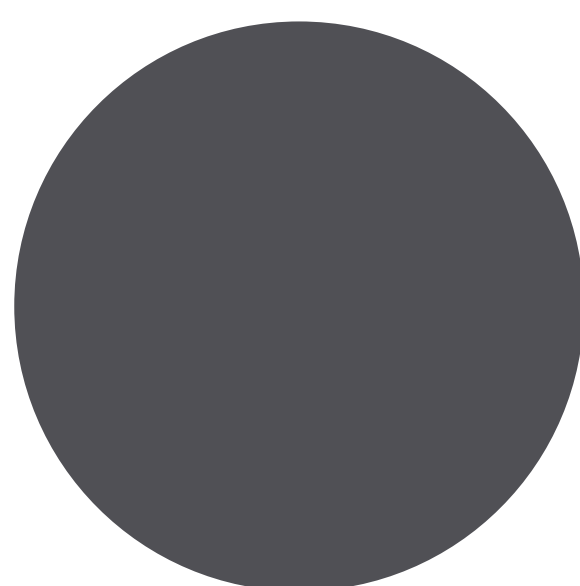
DAY 2
HEBREWS 3:13
EXHORT ONE ANOTHER
7



DAY 3
HEBREWS 3:14-15
CONFIDENCE TO THE END
9

DAY 4
HEBREWS 3:16-17
HEARD AND REBELLED
11

DAY 5
HEBREWS 3:18-19
BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF
13



DAY 1 TAKE CARE

First read Hebrews 3:12.

Still reflecting on lessons from Psalm 95, the preacher warns his readers about falling away from God (v.12b). He identifies two ways our hearts are hardened and both create distance with the Father. One is evil. The other is unbelief. Sin creates distance because God is holy (see Isaiah 59:1-2). And a lack of faith creates distance because, like any relationship, fellowship with God is about trust (see Proverbs 3:5-8).

In order to excavate the evil and unbelief in our hearts we're urged to ***"take care"*** (v.12a). It's a loving invitation--rather than a harsh command--to intentionally consider our interior lives. When we slow down ... and breathe ... and think ... we're able to discern. Specifically we can identify the birth place of spiritual distance. James explains that, ***"desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death"*** (James 1:15). Taking care to confess the infant intentions of our soul keeps them from maturing to evil and unbelief.

As we allow God's Spirit and his Word to reveal our hearts, our faith grows. Because the Father's ***"perfect love casts out fear"*** (1 John 4:18). In Christ, God doesn't reject, he redeems. He doesn't shame, he cleanses. He doesn't fall away, he draws close. So, take care.

DAY 1 TAKE CARE

1. What does this passage teach us about the character of God?
2. Slow down. Breathe. Think. What unrighteous desires have been persistent in your heart lately?
3. How does the gospel bring comfort and correction to those longings?

Heavenly Father ...

Help me to take care. I don't want distance between us. Thank you for showing me desires of _____ and _____ which I know can lead me away from you. Settle my heart in your truth and love today.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 2

EXHORT ONE ANOTHER

First read Hebrews 3:13.

We need each other to know ourselves. When our Creator looks at Adam and says, ***“It is not good that the man should be alone,”*** it’s as if he’s saying, *to be human is to be with other humans* (Genesis 2:18). Our design is a collective call to bear the image of God, together (Genesis 1:27). And in the same way our nature is bound to humankind, so our spiritual formation is intertwined with God’s people.

Dr. William Klein puts it wonderfully, *we need each other to become who we are.*

In the language of our passage, taking care is a “one another” project. The diligence and discernment required to be watchful over our interior lives is impossible without our brothers and sisters. That’s why Hebrews says, ***“exhort one another every day”*** (v.13a). Exhortation is about encouragement. We’re protected from ***“the deceitfulness of sin”*** when we do life with people who are willing to tell us the truth in love (v.13b).

Encouragement is not a one-sizes-fits-all gift. When we are deceived by shame, we need an exhortation of love. When we are deceived by entitlement, we need an exhortation of mercy. In many ways the gospel is a longform exhortation. It’s a daily reminder of the beauty and truth of God. Therefore we should daily exhort one another.

DAY 2

EXHORT ONE ANOTHER

1. What does God's design and desire for humanity teach us about his nature?
2. Who can you encourage this week? How can you encourage them?
3. How is the gospel helping you to see God's beauty and truth more clearly?

Heavenly Father ...

When my soul is weary and confused, speak the refreshment of your forgiveness and affection. When my brothers and sisters are burdened by the weight of this world, give me words to bless with strength and joy. Particularly I pray for _____ and _____. May their hearts be soft toward you.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 3

CONFIDENCE TO THE END

First read Hebrews 3:14-15.

The Christian story is communal. That's why the writer describes salvation as the common experience of ***"sharing in Christ"*** (v.14a). Together we share the joy of Christ (1:9), the inheritance of Christ (1:14), the family of Christ (2:11-13), the hope of Christ (2:8-9), and much more. This sharing is not simply in salvation. We share an identity, struggle, and journey.

And so we're encouraged to persist in faith, learning daily to ***"hold our original confidence firm to the end"*** (v.14b).

While at first blush this might seem like the writer is warning us to never doubt or else we'll lose our salvation, a deeper consideration reveals yet another grace of our "sharing in Christ." Paul tells the Philippians that, ***"he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus"*** (Philippians 1:6). Christ is firm to the end. The one who saves us is the one who names us, suffers with us, and walks with us.

That's the grace. That's the shared story. We will hold our original confidence because our confidence was never in ourselves. Faith in Christ is confidence to the end.



DAY 3 CONFIDENCE TO THE END

1. Why is Jesus worthy of your confidence
2. What causes your confidence to waiver?
3. How ought the cross of Christ give us lasting assurance?



Heavenly Father ...

Help me today to place my confidence in Jesus. His love. His character. His finished work. His promised return.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



DAY 4 HEARD AND REBELLED

First read Hebrews 3:16-17.

Rebellion is disobedience. But it's more than that. You see, when God gives instruction it's for his glory and our good. Rebellion, then, is hearing God speak but still thinking you know better.

Israel heard God. Twice the writer of Hebrews quotes the conditional statement from Psalm 95, ***“if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion”*** (vv.7,15). In other words, *if you hear God speak like Israel heard God speak, then don't do what they did. Don't rebel. Don't disobey. Don't think you know better than God.*

Instead, a series of rhetorical questions urges us to believe, trust, and hear God and resist the urge to feel superior (vv.16-17). The ones who heard and rebelled also disobeyed and died in the wilderness (see Exodus 3). It's costly to rebel. But it's also costly to obey. Because when God speaks, he doesn't give us all the information. *Does he?* That's because the real test of obedience isn't about doing what is right when we have all the answers. We never have all the answers. Obedience is about trusting the Lord when we still have questions.

You will probably never have all you want. But in Christ, you will always have more than you need. Because Jesus faithfully endured the wilderness for us, hearing and trusting his Father's voice (Matthew 4:1-11). He did not provoke God. He did not die. He heard and didn't rebel.

DAY 4 HEARD AND REBELLED

1. Why should we listen to God?
2. What's God saying to you this week? Do you trust what he is saying?
3. How does the gospel cultivate trust in your heart?

Heavenly Father ...

Help me to hear you. Sometimes it's hard to know when you're speaking and what you're saying, at least it's difficult to know the right questions to ask. And so help me trust you, even when I don't have all the information.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 5 BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF

First read Hebrews 3:18-19.

The theme of rest is drawn from a promise. When the exodus generation is led out of Egypt, they make their way ***“to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey”*** (Exodus 3:8). It's a home of peace and flourishing. However, along the way fear hardens hearts. Many want a new leader to take them back to captivity (Numbers 14:4).

Waiting makes them weary. Waiting whittles down trust.

When every sign tells us God has forgotten us, it's natural to look for options. It's easy to stop hoping and waiting. Israel didn't enter the rest of God ***“because of unbelief”*** (v.19b). For forty years they wandered the wilderness (a place of restlessness and languishing). Many of them died before reaching the Promised Land—including Moses (Deuteronomy 34:5).

Hebrews' author desires to save us from this fate. He wants us to ***“see that they were unable to enter”*** so that we *can* enter the rest of God (v.19a). Christ is our home of peace and flourishing (Ephesians 2:4). Yet until his return we wait, wander, and get weary. Like Israel, we're tempted to go back to our old way of living. Back to instant gratification. Back to centering self. Back to unbelief. So daily we ought to heed Jesus' words, inviting the weary to come to him and find rest (see Matthew 11:28).

Because of unbelief we are restless.
Because of Christ we are at rest.



DAY 5 BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF


1. What do you think it means that "Christ is our home of peace and flourishing"?
2. Why does unbelief make us tired?
3. How does faith refresh your soul?



Heavenly Father ...

(In stillness and silence, let your soul rest in Christ.)

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



JESUS OVER EVERYTHING

To receive updates about this reading guide and discover more
gospel resources to help you enjoy the truth and beauty of Jesus,
please visit **churchinthesquare.com**.



CHURCH IN THE **SQUARE**

©2023 CHURCH IN THE SQUARE
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.