**Hebrews Ch. 3 Sermon**

**Make Every Effort**

Review:

1. Jesus is awesome and is greater than anything in Judaism in such-and-such way.

2. Therefore, here is what you should do. (admonition)

The Greatness of Jesus:

1. Greater than all the prophets. Hebrews 1:1-3

2. Greater than the angels. Hebrews 1:4-14

3. Greater than Moses. Hebrews 3:1-5

4. Greater than Joshua Hebrews 4:1-10

5. Jesus the Great High Priest. Greater than Aaron. Hebrews 4:14-5:10

6. The Priesthood of Melchizedek (and of Jesus) greater than of Aaron Heb7:1-28

7. Jesus is greater than Abraham 7:1-9

8. The Old Covenant foreshadows the greater New Covenant Hebrews 8:1-13

9. The earthly Tabernacle foreshadows the greater heavenly Tabernacle Heb9:1-11.

10. The sacrifice of Jesus is greater than Mosaic sacrifices. Hebrews 9:12-10:18.

Admonitions:

Pay careful attention 2:1-4

Make every effort. 3:7-4:13

Move on to maturity Grow up 5:11-6:12

Draw near to God, do not shrink back. 10:19-39

Live by faith. 11:1-40

3:1 Fix your attention *katanoein* (consider, ponder, meditate on, concentrated gaze) on Jesus

Our apostle and high priest. Q: Why is he a great high priest?

Can you think of any better advice to give a Christian than this?

Heb 3:2-6

Why? if you looked at Moses, Jesus is so much greater than Moses.

How to stay faithful to the end? Fix your attention laser-beam-like on Jesus.

Hebrews 3:3 Jesus has greater honor than Moses (fighting words to the Jews!). Why? The builder/architect is more important than the building.

Moses was a household servant (3:5). Jesus owns the house (3:6).

Jesus 〉 Moses, angels, prophets

v. 5 **bearing witness**… Shadow: Moses Reality: Jesus

Deuteronomy 18:17-19 I will raise a prophet like you…

Jesus made Moses what he is. Moses is a picture of Jesus

v. 5 Moses was great, no doubt “faithful ***in*** all God’s house.” (from Numb 12:6-8) I speak to Moses face-to-face.

v. 6 But Jesus is faithful ***over*** God’s house

**Moses**

**Jesus**

**Pharaoh tried to kill him**

**Herod tried to kill him**

**Called by God to leave Egypt**

**Carried out of Egypt**

**Forty years in the wilderness to prepare for his ministry**

**Forty days in the wilderness to prepare for his ministry**

**Left his position with the king of Egypt to dwell with the Jews**

**Left the right hand of the Father to life with the Jews**

**Led Israel out of slavery in Egypt**

**Leads Spiritual Israel out of sin**

**Aaron prepared the way**

**John the Baptist prepared the way**

**Baptized Israel in the Red Sea in order to free them**

**Commands baptism in water for freedom from sin**

**Gave manna in the wilderness**

**(sort of)**

**Gives spiritual bread to all who hunger**

**Gave water to the people in the desert**

**Gives spiritual water: the Holy Spirit**

**Spoke to God on Mt. Sinai**

**Spoke to God on Mt. Hermon**

Moses brought the law, Jesus is the Law

Moses gave them bread, Jesus is the bread

Moses gave them water, Jesus is the water The reality is in Christ!!!

Moses was about Jesus.

3:6 Who is God’s household? We are if we hold to our confession to the end.

We are the true Israel. Phil 3:3 We are the circumcision.

**Q: What about those who do not hold to this confession to the end?**

The point: If they had to listen to Moses, how much more ought we to listen to Jesus.

**Exhortation #2** Heb 3:7-4:13 Do not harden your hearts (3:7) Do not turn away (3:12) **Do not fall short** (Hebrews 4:1). Make every effort (4:11) Do not fall in the desert as they did… Do not rest..

Read 3:7-12

There is an extended metaphor here. (using Psalm 95:7-11)

Being in Egypt = enslaved to sin

Leaving Egypt = being saved

Wandering in the wilderness = being a disciple

Entering Canaan/Promised Land = entering heaven our final rest.

[Also found in 1 Cor 10:6f Jude 5 Leaving Egypt, but later being destroyed.]

Numbers 21:5 “the rabble” Don’t be like them!!!!

Numbers 14:22-23 They saw my glory in leaving Egypt, but chose another leader. They shall not see the Promised Land! Not one of them.

A good start is not enough.

“A genuine faith is a persistent faith.” (just like James says that a genuine faith is a working faith)

Notice 3:9 these 40 years. Remember that for the immediate audience it has been almost exactly 40 years since the church began.

This section is very emotional. v. 11 They shall never enter…!!!

Creating a picture. Bodies scattered in the desert.

How do you think Moses felt as all those who crossed the Red Sea with him were scattered across the desert?

Can’t we learn from that?

This was their fellow-Jews.

3:12-15 See to it, brothers and sisters!!!

We need to see to one another. We need to help each other along.

give and receive encouragement from fellow-wanderers. *Paralakeo* = coming alongside to give help

Q: Who here has ever considered going back to Egypt? Q: Who here has ever needed some encouragement to keep going?

You are considering leaving Egypt. You need to keep walking.

You will need someone in this room to “encourage you every day.”

Q: Are you serious? Every day?

As long as it is called today.

Q: How often is it called today?

Illustration: Climbing Mt. Whitney.

v. 14 A VERY solemn warning! We will make it only if we keep going to the end.

Like was already said, a good start is not enough!

3:16-19

v. 16 Again: How do you think Moses felt as all those who crossed the Red Sea with him were scattered across the desert?

Why? v. 18-19 disobedience is unbelief. We must obey God!

Obedience is a sincere, deep, earnest desire to do what God says, and taking any disobedience very seriously.

Heb 4:1-2

4:1 Let us be careful (NIV) better: Fear this!!! We should have a healthy fear of falling short.

4:2 How sad. The message was of no value. Why? no faith. No obedience. The result: You will never enter my rest.

Heb 4:3-11 Greek: *katapausis* rest

4:6 The point: You here have not yet entered that rest!

4:7 The “Today” he is referring to is “These last days” (Hebrew writer

 is saying David was talking about us).

For us it is until the day we die. The opportunity still stands.

4:8 For if Joshua had given them rest (KJV if Jesus had given them rest)

The point: Although the Jews did, in fact, enter the Promised Land, this was not the TRUE Promised Land and they did not really have rest there. That is why David can say “Today if you hear his voice.” Because David’s people had not yet entered the REAL rest. Only a foreshadow of the true rest in heaven.

v. 9 But… There does remain a rest for us.

**Q: How many of you look forward to resting some day?**

Therefore do not rest….. Folks, your work is not finished. It is not time to rest on your laurels!

But… For me, when I am in a race, there is something about having a finish line.

But, we are not at the finish line. Let’s not act as thought we are. It is not time to rest.

4:9 **Q: What is our Sabbath-rest? Heaven!!!**

4:11 Don’t rest. In fact, **Make every effort** to enter that rest. You will not accidentally make it. It takes work. (Phil 2:12 work out [not for] your salvation) (note: We are not talking about works salvation. But we are talking about making it to heaven!)

Q: How can we assure ourselves we will enter that rest?

Memory verse: Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

* What is at stake? Everything!!!!
* They shall never enter my rest 3:11, 4:5
* We have come to share in Christ ***if we hold firmly to the end the confidence we had at first.*** 3:14
* They were not able to enter because of their unbelief 3:19
* Some… did not go in because of their disobedience 4:6
* So that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience 4:11
* Do you get the point?

Don’t stop, don’t rest, don’t give up, don’t look back, don’t rebel. “Give yourself no rest.” (Isaiah 62:6-7)

Heb 4:12-13 Let the word of God do its work. Listen up. Let it affect your thoughts (mind) and your attitudes (heart). Walk in the light of God’s word. He is talking about judgment here. [interesting that one of our favorite verses is really just a little parenthesis in the passage]

Summary:

Look at Jesus. Keep your eyes laser-focused on him. He is much greater than Moses.

Don’t turn back. Encourage one another. Stay faithful. Continue to obey.

Do not sit back on your laurels. Make every effort.

Let the Word of God do its work.