

Dependability

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>So we took a break from Hebrews for Christmas but now we are back!!!</p> <p>—So, what have we looked at so far in Hebrews: God speaks to us.</p> <p>— —God has a plan and that plan revolves around Jesus. We are in His plan and He wants us to be in relationship with Him through Jesus.</p> <p>— — —Jesus is God (this is His essential being) and Jesus is savior, mediator, sacrifice, High Priest, etc. (this is His official character).</p> <p>— — — —We are to serve in the kingdom of God and we serve by putting Christ first. When we do we honor God with our lives and when we put anything else first we dis-honor God.</p> <p>— — — — —When we are in a right relationship with God we have nothing to fear.</p> <p>— — — — — —We talked a while about our hearts and how we have hearts that are soft and moldable for God.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>Today we will talk about the dangers of evil.</p> <p>—We will look at how to combat evil, the hardening of heart, and the deceitfulness of sin.</p> <p>—We will look at what it means to be partakers of Christ.</p> <p>—We will see that we need to be dependable in our Christian walk, in our faith, and in our relationship with Christ.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 3:12–15 (NASB95): 12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.</p> <p>13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.</p> <p>14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,</p> <p>15 while it is said,</p> <p>“Today if you hear His voice,</p> <p>Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.”</p>	<p>Verse 12 reminds us where we left off in Hebrews; with the state of the heart.</p> <p>—We need to be aware of our own spiritual state but we also need to be aware of our fellow believers in Christ’s spiritual state too.</p> <p>— —The author uses word like “beware” and “take care” because there are those who go to church on a regular-ish basis that outwardly seem to be Christians but inwardly do not reflect their outward appearance.</p> <p>— — —So, what is the answer for those who seem to be Christians on the outside but are not on the inside?</p> <p>— — — —Real Christians. We are supposed to be taking care of one another.</p> <p>— — — — —We are to care for one another and that means knowing the spiritual state of each other.</p>
	<p>We don’t want to see brothers or sisters fall away for God.</p> <p>—Falling away from the living God happens because evil creeps in and produces an unbelieving heart.</p> <p>— —As we think back to the wilderness wondering of Israel; we can not help but think about how they allowed evil to cloud their judgement about God.</p> <p>— — —William Hendriksen wrote, “For Christians, therefore, the experience of the rebellious Israelites must serve as a warning that should not be taken lightly. Christians must thoroughly examine themselves and one another to see whether anyone has a sinful unbelieving heart.”</p> <p>— — — —A heart that is turned from God is a sinful heart. It is a wicked hardened heart.</p> <p>— — — — —We know that the book Hebrews was written to those Jewish Christians at the beginning of the church, and these Jewish Christians were struggling with staying with the church or returning to Judaism.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>What about us? We live in a world with so many things to believe in.</p> <p>—As political pressure, social pressure, and financial pressure start to press in on us believers more and more; there will be those among us that will question going back to the life we once live that was easier than the Christian life.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: Ephesians 4:20–24 (NASB95):</u> 20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.</p> <p>— — —Have you noticed anything worthwhile is through hard work and not the easy path?</p> <p>— — — —You want to be in shape? Work hard. You want a good marriage? Work hard at it. You want a nice house? Car? Work hard.</p> <p>— — — — —Satan and sin promise us good things easy but they never work out.</p>

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<p>13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.</p> <p>14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,</p> <p>15 while it is said,</p> <p>“Today if you hear His voice,</p> <p>Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.”</p>	<p>How do we “take care” so that none of us fall away?</p> <p>— Well, verse 13 helps us see how we take care.</p> <p>— — We must encourage one another, not in a fake way but in a real way.</p> <p>— — — We are all in this together. We are part of the family of God, we are part of the kingdom of God, and we are part of the temple of God.</p> <p>— — — — Andrew Murray wrote, “The church is one body; each one must live to care for those around him. Each member is entrusted by Christ to the love and care of his brethren, and is dependent on their help. Believers who are joined together in one house, in a neighborhood, in a church, are responsible for one another; they must take heed that there be not anyone the unbelief that falls away from God.”</p> <p>— — — — — We are to be encouraging and to help one another so we can be strong and dependable in our faith.</p> <p>— — — — — When questioned about the greatest commandment Jesus’ response was: <u>READ: Mark 12:30–31 (NASB95): 30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’</u></p> <p>31 “The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”</p>
	<p>If we only care about ourself, or in other words, we are selfish, our fellow believers and church members suffer, but we also suffer.</p> <p>— In being selfish we think that we will benefit from it but in all actuality we are hurting ourselves in the process.</p> <p>— — it is our right and our privilege to care for one another.</p> <p>— — — Murray wrote, “As each member humbly yields himself to be helped and to help, the safety ad the vigor of all will be secured. The communion of saints in all our Church circles must be proved in the cultivation of a practical ministering love and care for each other.”</p> <p>— — — — And how often should we do this? Once a year at the Christmas party right?</p> <p>— — — — — As long as it is call today we should do this.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>That means that this work of helping the church is urgent but it is also unending.</p> <p>— <u>READ: 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NASB95): 11</u></p> <p>Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.</p> <p>— — Today is a very interesting word for believers in Christ.</p> <p>— — — Today we are to care for fellow believers, today we are to take up our cross, today we are to die to ourselves, today we are to live in obedience to God, today we are to have faith in Christ, today we are to cultivate our relationship with Christ, and today we are to be renewed by God.</p> <p>— — — — We encourage one another as long as it is today because we don't want any to have a hardened heart and be deceived by sin.</p> <p>— — — — — Because sin is deceitful. It promises pleasure, happiness, ease, popularity, and more but it is all a lie.</p> <p>— — — — — — The world tells us not to worry about sin and to think little of our sin but in reality sin is very deceptive and powerful and the more we allow sin into our lives to more we will be unable to hear the voice of God.</p>

Scripture:	
<p>14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,</p> <p>15 while it is said,</p> <p>“Today if you hear His voice,</p> <p>Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.”</p>	<p>We have become partakers of Christ; meaning that Jesus took on flesh so that we could partake in Christ.</p> <p>—Murray wrote, “This precious word reminds us that our salvation consists in the possession of Himself, in the being one life with Him, in having Himself as our own.”</p> <p>— — Being a partaker of Christ means that we have Christ, we are in fellowship with Him, we are in a relationship with Him, He is our King, He is our Savior, He is our Mediator, and He is our everything.</p> <p>— — — This partaking of Christ should grow our faith and our understanding of Him should make our ways clearer, brighter, and we should treasure Him.</p> <p>— — — — Christ should be our leader and we should follow Him in His leading, He is our High Priest and we should go to Him to be in the presence of God, Christ gives life and we should live in Him, and we are His temple we should let Him live in us.</p> <p>— — — — — <u>READ: 2 Peter 1:2–4 (NASB95):</u> 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.</p> <p>4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.</p>

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<p>14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, 15 while it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.”</p>	<p>The last point that we are going to look at today is that of holding fast.</p> <p>— This word hold fast means, “hold firm, be solid, durable, valid, or guaranteed.</p> <p>— — holding fast means that it is something that one can depend on.</p> <p>— — — So, we have become partakers of Christ, if we are dependable, firm, solid, guaranteed in our faith, in our Christian walk, and in our relationship with Christ.</p> <p>— — — — Something that is durable will hold firm until the end.</p> <p>— — — — — So if we are durable we will remain firm until the end of our lives.</p> <p>— — — — — — <u>READ: Philippians 1:27 (NASB95):</u> 27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;</p>
	<p>Is your relationship with Christ dependable?</p> <p>— If your relationship with Christ was a car would you take in on a long trip?</p> <p>— If your faith was a watch, would you make it on time to places?</p> <p>— If your Christian walk was a potential relationship would the relationship last?</p> <p>— — God has called us to be dependable in our relationship with Him.</p> <p>— — — We are to be dependable until the end.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>God is a rock for us. He is the most dependable.</p> <p>— READ: Psalm 18:2 (NASB95): 2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.</p> <p>— READ: James 1:17 (NASB95): 17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.</p> <p>— — He calls us to be solid as well. We need to pursue dependability in our Christian walk, in our faith, and in our relationship with Christ.</p>
	<p>What is our practical application? How do we apply this sermon to our lives?</p> <p>— We need to beware of evil that leads to unbelieving hearts and leads to turning away from the living God.</p> <p>— — How do we do this? By being in community. A community that encourages one another and is looking out for each other everyday.</p> <p>— — — So, we need to be part of the change that causes our body that we are apart of to be like that.</p> <p>— — — — This means that we need to care about more people than just ourselves and our immediate family.</p> <p>— — — — — We who are believers are partakers in Christ and we need to live through Him and let Him live in us.</p> <p>— — — — — — This means we need to be dependable in our faith, in our relationship with Christ, and in our Christian walk.</p>
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