



An Overview of Hebrews 1-3

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God has something to say to about how we do life on this side of Heaven, and God will have something to say to about how we did life.

Hebrews 2:1 *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.*

Hebrews 3:12-14 *Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end*

The writer of Hebrews would say your assurance of salvation is *not* in performance but in a genuine belief in Christ His promises. Salvation did not remove the depravity of our heart, but it did counter it. Salvation gave us godly desires to fight against sinful desires. God's grace enables us to remain faithful, and our faithfulness gives assurance that we are truly in Christ. Our good works are not a means to pay God back or to earn or keep salvation. Our good works are a display of God's grace working in our lives.

Philippians 1:6 *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ*

Galatians 3:1-3 *O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? ² This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—³ Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?*

John 6:66-69 *From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" ⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

Following Christ does not mean we get it right all the time, but it does mean we address it when we get it wrong and correct it.

Hebrews 12:1-3 *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus

“It is ever the Holy Spirit’s work to turn our eyes away from self to Jesus; but Satan’s work is just the opposite of this, for he is constantly trying to make us regard ourselves instead of Christ. He insinuates, ‘Your sins are too great for pardon, you have no faith, you do not repent enough, you will never be able to continue unto the end, you have not the joy of his children, you have such a wavering hold of Jesus.’ All these are thoughts about self, and we shall never find comfort or assurance by looking within. But the Holy Spirit turns our eyes entirely away from self; he tells us that we are nothing, but that ‘Christ is all in all.’ Remember, therefore, it is not your hold of Christ that saves you – it is Christ. It is not your joy in Christ that saves you – it is Christ; it is not even faith in Christ that saves you, though that be the instrument – it is Christ’s blood and merits; therefore look not so much to your hand with which you art grasping Christ, but to Christ; look not to your hope, but to Jesus, the source of your hope; look not to your faith, but to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings; it is what Jesus is, not what we are, that gives rest to the soul. **If we would at once overcome Satan and have peace with God, it must be by ‘looking unto Jesus.’ Keep your eye simply on him; let his death, his sufferings, his merits, his glories, his intercession, be fresh upon your mind;** when you wake in the morning look to him; when you lie down at night look to him. Do not let your hopes or fears come between you and Jesus; follow hard after him, and he will never fail you!” C.H. Spurgeon 1834-1892

Hebrews 4:1-2 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

“Making God’s love contingent on our action is a sad but common misunderstanding in the church. Remember, a believer’s union is never in jeopardy. For God’s love can never be heightened by any act of ours, and cannot be lessened by anything in us. While **our sense of communion with God** may fluctuate, **his love does not grow and diminish.** The **wrath of God against the sin of saints was exhausted on the cross.**” John Owen

Our security for eternal life is in our identity in Christ, not in our behavior. However, our behavior is what gives us assurance or confidence that our faith has been placed in Christ

Salvation begins with Justification and includes Sanctification and Glorification. If salvation took us immediately into glorification, we would *not* struggle with sin. Because our sanctification process is life long, we have commands about forgiving one another, resisting temptation, confession and repentance when you fall into sin, and warnings about spiritually drifting and having a hard heart.