

The Family Of The Faithless!
Hebrews 3:7-12

Introduction:

1. Our Focus This Year Has Been & Continues To Be: “A Heritage Of Faith!”
 - In Hebrews 3:6, It Talks About The House Of Jesus Christ, “Whose House Are We, If We Hold Fast The Confidence And The Rejoicing Of The Hope Firm Unto The End!”
 - This Is A Description Of The Great Family That Every True Christian Is A Member Of!
 - It Is A House & A Family Of Faith!
2. The Passage That We Come To This Morning Challenges Each Of Us To Make Sure That We Are A Part Of This House – This Great Family Of Faith!
 - It Is Just One Of Several “Warning” Passages In Hebrews!
 - Warning Those Who Profess To Have Salvation To Make Certain That They Possess Salvation!
 - This Warning Is Both Important & Necessary, Because If You’re Not Sure About Your Eternal Destiny, Death Is Not The Time To Find Out What That Destiny Is!
3. Let’s Look At This Warning Together In Hebrews 3:7-12!
 - Read Text!
4. Verse 7 Begins With The Word “Wherefore”!
 - This Word Ties Our Passage This Morning With The Preceding Passage, Which Revealed That Christians Are Part Of The Household Of Jesus Christ!
 - It Ought To Encourage & Motivate You To Make Sure You Are Part Of The Household & Family Of Jesus Christ!
 - After All, When You Think About How Great The Lord Jesus Christ Is – Greater Than All The Prophets, Greater Than The Angels, Greater Than Death Itself & Even Greater Than God’s Faithful Servant, Moses – Why Wouldn’t You Want To Be Included In His Family?!
 - To Finish The Sentence That Started With The Word “Wherefore” You Need To Skip Over To Verse 12 Which States: “Take Heed, Brethren, Lest There Be In Any Of You An Evil Heart Of Unbelief, In Departing From The Living God!”
 - In Other Words, Make Absolutely Certain That You Are A Part Of The Family Of Faith & Not A Part Of The Family Of The Faithless, Like The Children Of Israel We Just Read About!
 - Because If You Are A Member Of The Family Of The Faithless, It Means That You Will “Depart” From The Living God!
 - This Word “Depart” Means To “Apostacize!”
5. The Purpose For Us Considering This Passage This Morning Is For You To Make Sure That You Are A Part Of The Family Of Faith!
 - How Do You Know You Are A Part Of The Family Of Faith?
 - **IE:** Well, How Do You Know You Are A Part Of Any Family?
 - There Are Certain Things You Have In Common As A Family! Certain Family Traits!
 - Same Last Name / Same Physical Characteristics / Same Temperaments / Same Relatives / Same House!
 - You Will Notice Some Very Obvious, Common Characteristics In Your Spiritual Family As Well!
 - Whether You Are A Part Of Christ’s Family Of Faith!
 - Or Whether You Are A Part Of The Devil’s Family Of The Faithless!
6. So, Consider With Me What Family You Are A Part Of!
 - And Make Sure You Are Part Of The “Family Of God” (As We Sang About Earlier!)
 - But To Do So, We Are Going To Look At It From A Different Perspective – The Perspective Of The Family Of The Faithless!
 - Verses 7-11 Provide Us With What The Family Of The Faithless Looks Like!
 - Because It Points Back To The Faithless Israelites!
 - And If You See In Your Heart & In Your Life Any Of These Family Traits, Beware!
 - Make Sure That These Characteristics Are Not Found In Your Life!

* First, We See That A Faithless Person Is:

1. ***Spiritually Unresponsive!***

- 3:7 - “Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice!”
 - Verses 7-11 Is A Quotation From Psalm 95:7-11, A Psalm David Wrote But Is Attributed To The Holy Spirit – A Clear Claim Of Inspiration!
 - These Verses Illustrate Through The Israelites The Danger Of Thinking That You Are A Part Of The Family Of Faith, But In Reality Are A Part Of The Family Of The Faithless!
 - **IE:** According To A Harris Poll, “Most Americans are optimistic about their long-term future -- they think they will go to heaven. Fully 84% of all adults say that they believe in the survival of the soul after death and, of these, three-quarters (76%) expect to go to heaven. This represents 64% of the total population. Only 2% of those who believe in life after death expect to go to hell, while 4% think they will go to purgatory!”
 - See, The Israelites Too Thought That They Were OK Because They Were Part Of Abraham’s Family – But In Reality, Many Of Them Were Not Included In The Household Of God Because Of Their Unbelief!
- One Characteristic Of The Faithless Israelites Is That They Were:
 - Spiritually Unresponsive!
 - That Is, When The Lord Spoke To Them On One Day, They Didn’t Think That It Was Important To Listen & Obey That Day!
 - They Were “Spiritual Procrastinators!”
- A Faithless Person Is Someone Who Keeps Putting Off Spiritual Things!
 - When You Hear Something From God’s Word Or From A Lesson Or Message & It Convicts You & You Know That Something In Your Life Needs To Change, Do You Put It Off Until Another Day?
 - Are You A “Spiritual Procrastinator”?
 - William Mason: “If We Put Off Repentance Another Day, We Have A Day More To Repent Of, And A Day Less To Repent In!”
 - Thomas Fuller: “You Cannot Repent Too Soon, Because You Do Not Know How Soon It May Be Too Late!”
 - Don’t Be A “Spiritual Procrastinator!” Don’t Be Spiritually Unresponsive To The Lord!
 - Because If You Are Spiritually Unresponsive, You Bear The Mark Of Someone Who Is A Part Of The Family Of The Faithless!
- If You Are A Genuine Christian – Part Of The Family Of Faith – You Will Be Spiritually Responsive Instead!
 - Make Sure You Are A Part Of The Family Of Faith!

* Second, We See That A Faithless Person Is:

2. ***Spiritually Rebellious!***

- Because When The Lord Says: “To day if ye will hear his voice!”
 - You Ignore His Voice Instead!
- Another Characteristic Of The Faithless Israelites Is That They Were:
 - Spiritually Rebellious!
 - **IE:** What Makes Someone Rebellious? They Don’t Listen, They Don’t Submit & They Don’t Obey Someone Who Is Their Authority!
 - Even Though They Had The Opportunity To Hear The Lord’s Voice & Even Though They Had Received A Call To Hear The Lord’s Voice, They Still Would Not Hear The Lord’s Voice! They Ignored Him! They Rebelled Against Him!
- A Faithless Person Is Someone Who Keeps Ignoring What The Lord Is Saying To Them!
 - You Can Ignore What The Lord Is Saying In Different Ways!
 - By Not Being Present When He Is Speaking!
 - By Being Asleep When He Is Speaking!
 - By Turning Away When He Is Speaking!
 - By Running Away When He Is Speaking!
 - And When You Ignore What The Lord Has To Say, It Reveals Your Rebellious Heart!
- If You Are Spiritually Rebellious, You Bear The Mark Of Someone Who Is A Part Of The

Family Of The Faithless!

- But, If You Are An Authentic Christian – Part Of The Family Of Faith – You Will Be Spiritually Reliable Instead!

- God Can Entrust His Word To You, Because He Knows That You Will Not Only Hear His Voice, But Will Obey His Voice As Well!

- Make Sure You Are A Part Of The Family Of Faith!

* Third, We See That A Faithless Person Is:

3. Spiritually Rigid!

- 3:8-9 - “Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years!”

- When You Do Hear The Voice Of The Lord, Let His Word Do Its Work In Your Heart!

- Do Not Let Your Heart Become So Calloused, That It Makes No Impact On Your Heart & On Your Life!

- **IE:** A Callous Is Skin That Has Become Tough - Like The Fingers Used To Play A Guitar - Hard To Make Impressions On It!

- The Faithless Israelites Were:

- Spiritually Rigid!

- Their Hearts Were Hardened!

- Zechariah 7:12 - “Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts!”

- When Did They Harden Their Hearts?

- Verse 8 Refers Back To Exodus 17:1-7, When The Israelites Were First Freed From Their Slavery & Bondage In Egypt!

- Remember How The Lord Rescued His People From Egypt?

- Through The 10 Plagues!

- Through The Red Sea Crossing!

- Through The Defeat Of The Egyptian Army!

- Through The Leading Through The Desert!

- And Yet, In Less Than 2 Years, “And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD? 3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? 4 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me. 5 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?”

- “Massah” = “Temptation”

- “Meribah” = “Provocation”

- A Faithless Person Is Someone Who Does Not Allow God’s Word & Work To Affect Their Heart & Their Lives!

- If You Are Spiritually Rigid, You Bear The Mark Of Someone Who Is A Part Of The Family Of The Faithless!

- But, If You Are A Real Christian – Part Of The Family Of Faith – You Will Be Spiritually Pliable Instead!

- Adelaide Pollard - “Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still!”

- Make Sure You Are A Part Of The Family Of Faith!

* Fourth, We See That A Faithless Person Is:

4. Spiritually Rambling!

- 3:10 - "Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways!"
 - This Verse Reveals God's Reaction To Those Who Are Faithless – He Is "Grieved" With Them!
 - This Word Is One Of The Most Severe Descriptions Of Disgust That Could Have Been Used!
 - It Has A Similar Meaning To What We Read In Revelation 3:16 - "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth!"
 - Why Was The Lord So "Grieved"?
 - Because: "They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways!"
- The Faithless Israelites Were:
 - Spiritual Ramblers / Wanderers!
 - "Err" = Wander Like Sheep!
 - Isaiah 53:6 - "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way!"
 - **IE:** Chasing Sheep Or Ducks - Where Do They Go? Anywhere They Can To Get Out Of Your Way! When The Lord Tries To Get Your Attention, Where Do You Go?
 - Their Hearts Were Wandering In A Greater Wilderness!
 - "Wanderers In Body, They Were Also Wanderers In Heart!" (Charles Spurgeon)
 - And They Didn't Know The Lord's Ways Because They Couldn't Find His Ways!
- A Faithless Person Is Someone Who Wanders Around, Never Getting Serious About Following The Way Of The Lord!
 - If You Are Spiritually Rambling, You Bear The Mark Of Someone Who Is A Part Of The Family Of The Faithless!
- But, If You Are A True Christian – Part Of The Family Of Faith – You Will Be A Follower Of The Lord, Not A Wanderer!
 - Make Sure You Are A Part Of The Family Of Faith!

* Fifth, We See That A Faithless Person Is:

5. Spiritually Restless!

- 3:11 - "So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest!"
 - The Lord Was Leading The Children Of Israel Out Of Egypt So That They Could Enter The Land Of Promise – Which Would Be A Land Of Rest!
 - "Rest" = "A Calming Of The Winds"
 - **IE:** From The Dust & Wind-Storms Of The Desert To The Clear & Fresh Air Of Their New Home! From Persecution To Peace!
 - But Because Of Their Unbelief & Their Constant Challenges To The Lord, The Lord Then Would Not Let Them Enter That Rest!
- And Because Of Their Unbelief & Persistent Disobedience:
 - The Faithless Israelites Were:
 - Spiritually Restless!
 - That Entire Generation That Was Freed From Egypt Would Die In The Wilderness, With 2 Notable Exceptions: Joshua & Caleb, Who Were Men Of Faith!
- A Faithless Person Is Someone Who Will Never Find Real Peace & Rest In This Life Or In Eternity!
 - "There Can Be No Rest To An Unbelieving Heart!"
 - If You Are Spiritually Restless In Your Heart, You Bear The Mark Of Someone Who Is A Part Of The Family Of The Faithless!
- But, If You Are A Sincere Christian – Part Of The Family Of Faith – You Will "Find Rest For Your Souls!" (Jeremiah 6:16)
 - Make Sure You Are A Part Of The Family Of Faith!

Conclusion:

1. "Wherefore – Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God!"

- Make Absolutely Certain That You Are Not Like The Israelites!
 - Who Were:
 - Spiritually Unresponsive!
 - Spiritually Rebellious!
 - Spiritually Rigid!
 - Spiritually Rambling!
 - Spiritually Restless!
 - Make Absolutely Certain That You Are Not A Part Of The “Family Of The Faithless!”
- 2. Are You A Part Of The Great Family Of Faith?
 - What Family Traits Do You Find In Your Heart & In Your Life?
 - Make Sure You Are A Part Of The Family Of Faith!

***Grace Baptist Church of Mohawk
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***