

Hebrews 3.12-14

The Substance of Belief

I. CONFIDENCE TO THE END

a. The purpose of this confidence

- i. Not to save us
- ii. But to give us peace and assurance
- iii. To be the anchor of our souls in times of trial
- iv. To give us the substance of our confession before men

b. The Basis of that Confidence

i. What it should not be

1. Not our act of public confession
2. Not our membership, involvement, support of a church
3. Not our good works
4. Not our family's religious history

- ii. What it should be
 - 1. Complete confidence in the person of Jesus Christ
 - 2. Complete confidence in the work of Jesus Christ
 - 3. Complete assurance that we are included IN that work BY that person

II. WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS

a. The content of that belief

- i. He is fully God, the second person of the Godhead

Philippians 2.5-11

- ii. He emptied Himself of His glory and became a man, fully man, the God-man
- iii. He lived a perfect life, completely obeying the Law of God.

Hebrews 4.15

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.

1. Never once violating a single prohibition of that law
 2. Always without exception obeying every single requirement of that perfect law
- iv. He lived that law on our behalf, and died the death we deserved in our place

2 Corinthians 5.21

For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- v. God accepted that payment for our sin, and proved it by raising Jesus from the dead

Acts 17.31

"because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

- vi. He has ascended into Heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for those who are His own

Romans 8.34

Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

- vii. He will one day return and take us to be with Him forever.

John 14.1-4

- viii. There is NO other hope of this salvation which we need. Jesus ALONE is the one

way to the Father. He ALONE is the way that we can know Him.

John 14.6-7

- b. The active agent of that belief

John 17.1-3

- i. It does not originate with us
- ii. It is the gift of God
- iii. Knowing God IS eternal life
- iv. It is the first evidence of a regenerated heart

Acts 16.14-15

- v. The first act of that regenerated heart is repentance, active belief in what God has shown you. - Consider just what that caused us to do
 - 1. Trusted Him as Savior
 - 2. Submitted to Him as Lord

3. Cast our full hope upon Him,
knowing that no matter what - Christ
Jesus was the purpose and aim of all our
days

c. What that means now

- i. Nothing has changed or ever will
 1. He is our only Hope
 2. we need a Savior
 3. He will save us because He promised
He would
 4. Our goodness Has NOTHING to do
with our salvation
- ii. We can remain steadfast because the
ground of our confidence is not anything
about us, but all about Him.
- iii. We can face anything, knowing that the
ONLY thing that matters is safe.

III. OUR RESPONSIBILITY

a. To the Truth

i. Continue to Believe it

1. Departing from God implies that we are part with Him in some fashion, but does not mean that we were His in truth.

1John 2.19

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

2. States just exactly WHO He is, the things that we believe about Jesus involve God. For He IS God
3. Implies our obligation -
4. to depart is evil.

a. We must press to continue believing

- b. We are CREATED for this -
- c. Unbelief is Sin, there is enough evidence for the person of God in creation alone to condemn every single one of us

Romans 1.18-23

- b. Our Responsibility toward one another
 - i. Exhort one another to remain faithful to God in Christ
 - ii. Remind to believe
 - iii. Encourage in the midst of the hardest things
 - iv. Urge action, expect compliance
 - v. Do not compromise the ground of your first belief
- c. Our responsibility to the World
 - i. Carry the message of the cross
 - ii. Live out your convictions
 - iii. Live for the glory of the risen Son