

## The People of His Pasture; Hebrews 3:12-19

- I. He is our God
  - A. We are a group of people who call ourselves Christians, those who follow Christ
  - B. We are the sheep that follow the Shepherd
    1. When the Shepherd says, "its time to move to a certain pasture," we ought to be on the move
    2. When the Shepherd says, "here is some still water" we ought to drink
  - C. But all too often, we as sheep, have different ideas
    1. We get the notion that we know better than the Shepherd
    2. We get the idea that what we have planned is better than what the Shepherd has planned
  - D. The book of Hebrews was written to Hebrew Christians during a time of persecution from even within their own race
  - E. We must remember who we are, A people of His Pasture
- II. Unbelieving Heart
  - A. Hebrews 3:12; Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.
  - B. Hebreos 3:12; Cuídense, hermanos, de que ninguno de ustedes tenga un corazón pecaminoso e incrédulo que los haga apartarse del Dios vivo.
  - C. "Take care" - watch out, take heed, be careful
  - D. "Brothers" - could be used to denote the writer's Hebrew roots, or it could be used to denote the writer's Christian connection
  - E. "Fall away" - literally, to depart from, to leave; also used as abandoning a cognitive position, conceived of as physically distancing oneself from it; we get the English word "apostasy" from this Greek word
    1. To literally depart from someplace, you have to be in that place first
    2. To abandon a position, you must have held that position at some point
    3. Luke 4:13; And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.
    4. Luke 4:13; Así que el diablo, habiendo agotado todo recurso de tentación, lo dejó hasta otra oportunidad.
    5. Luke 8:13; And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.
    6. Lucas 8:13; Los que están sobre las piedras son los que reciben la palabra con alegría cuando la oyen, pero no tienen raíz. Éstos creen por algún tiempo, pero se apartan cuando llega la prueba.
    7. 1 Timothy 4:1; Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,
    8. 1 Timoteo 4:1; El Espíritu dice claramente que, en los últimos tiempos, algunos abandonarán la fe para seguir a inspiraciones engañosas y doctrinas diabólicas.
    9. If the Spirit expressly says that some will depart from the faith, how can we come up with a teaching that you can't; that once you have accepted Jesus, you can never depart from the faith?
  - F. The unbelieving heart is what leads us to leave our Savior
  - G. Our text started with a quote from Psalm 95:7-11
    1. This refers to the event when the Israelites were sent in to spy out the land that God had promised them

2. Ten of the twelve give a bad report and the people cry out against Moses and Aaron
  - a) Numbers 14:6–9; 6 And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes 7 and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, “The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. 8 If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. 9 Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.”
  - b) Números 14:6–9; 6 Allí estaban también Josué hijo de Nun y Caleb hijo de Jefoné, los cuales habían participado en la exploración de la tierra. Ambos se rasgaron las vestiduras en señal de duelo 7 y le dijeron a toda la comunidad israelita: —La tierra que recorrimos y exploramos es increíblemente buena. 8 Si el Señor se agrada de nosotros, nos hará entrar en ella. ¡Nos va a dar una tierra donde abundan la leche y la miel! 9 Así que no se rebelen contra el Señor ni tengan miedo de la gente que habita en esa tierra. ¡Ya son pan comido! No tienen quién los proteja, porque el Señor está de parte nuestra. Así que, ¡no les tengan miedo!
3. The people rebel against God and want to stone Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb; but God responds to them
  - a) Numbers 14:10–12; 10 Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel. 11 And the Lord said to Moses, “How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? 12 I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.”
  - b) Números 14:10–12; 10 Pero como toda la comunidad hablaba de apedrearlos, la gloria del Señor se manifestó en la Tienda, frente a todos los israelitas. 11 Entonces el Señor le dijo a Moisés: —¿Hasta cuándo esta gente me seguirá menospreciando? ¿Hasta cuándo se negarán a creer en mí, a pesar de todas las maravillas que he hecho entre ellos? 12 Voy a enviarles una plaga que los destruya, pero de ti haré un pueblo más grande y fuerte que ellos.
  - c) Numbers 14:26–38; 26 And the Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 27 “How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have heard the grumblings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me. 28 Say to them, ‘As I live, declares the Lord, what you have said in my hearing I will do to you: 29 your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against me, 30 not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun. 31 But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected. 32 But as for you, your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness. 33 And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness. 34 According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know my displeasure.’ 35 I, the Lord, have spoken. Surely this will I do to all this wicked congregation who are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall come to a full end, and there

they shall die.” 36 And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing up a bad report about the land— 37 the men who brought up a bad report of the land—died by plague before the Lord. 38 Of those men who went to spy out the land, only Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive.

- d) Números 14:26–38; 26 El Señor les dijo a Moisés y a Aarón: 27 —¿Hasta cuándo ha de murmurar contra mí esta perversa comunidad? Ya he escuchado cómo se quejan contra mí los israelitas. 28 Así que díles de parte mía: “Juro por mí mismo, que haré que se les cumplan sus deseos. 29 Los cadáveres de todos ustedes quedarán tirados en este desierto. Ninguno de los censados mayores de veinte años, que murmuraron contra mí, 30 tomará posesión de la tierra que les prometí. Sólo entrarán en ella Caleb hijo de Jefone y Josué hijo de Nun. 31 También entrarán en la tierra los niños que ustedes dijeron que serían botín de guerra. Y serán ellos los que gocen de la tierra que ustedes rechazaron. 32 Pero los cadáveres de todos ustedes quedarán tirados en este desierto. 33 Durante cuarenta años los hijos de ustedes andarán errantes por el desierto. Cargarán con esta infidelidad, hasta que el último de ustedes caiga muerto en el desierto. 34 La exploración del país duró cuarenta días, así que ustedes sufrirán un año por cada día. Cuarenta años llevarán a costas su maldad, y sabrán lo que es tenerme por enemigo.” 35 Yo soy el Señor, y cumpliré al pie de la letra todo lo que anuncié contra esta perversa comunidad que se atrevió a desafiarme. En este desierto perecerán. ¡Morirán aquí mismo! 36 Los hombres que Moisés había enviado a explorar el país fueron los que, al volver, difundieron la falsa información de que la tierra era mala. Con esto hicieron que toda la comunidad murmurara. 37 Por eso los responsables de haber difundido este falso informe acerca de aquella tierra murieron delante del Señor, víctimas de una plaga. 38 De todos los hombres que fueron a explorar el país, sólo sobrevivieron Josué hijo de Nun y Caleb hijo de Jefone.
4. The unbelief of the Israelites (God’s covenant people) led to their deaths (for 10 of the spies, right then, for the rest it took 40 years of wandering in the desert)
  5. They were not able to enter God’s rest (the promised land)
    - a) Hebrews 4:7–11; 7 again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. 11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.
    - b) Hebreos 4:7–11; 7 Por eso, Dios volvió a fijar un día, que es «hoy», cuando mucho después declaró por medio de David lo que ya se ha mencionado: «Si ustedes oyen hoy su voz, no endurezcan el corazón.» 8 Si Josué les hubiera dado el reposo, Dios no habría hablado posteriormente de otro día. 9 Por consiguiente, queda todavía un reposo especial para el pueblo de Dios; 10 porque el que entra en el reposo de Dios descansa también de sus obras, así como Dios descansó de las suyas. 11 Esforcémonos, pues, por entrar en ese reposo, para que nadie caiga al seguir aquel ejemplo de desobediencia.
  6. Unbelief is also defined as mistrust
- H. Unlike the Israelites under Moses, we should trust in the promises of God for our salvation; anything else is an “unbelieving heart”

### III. Exhort One Another

- A. Hebrews 3:13a; But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,”
- B. Hebrews 3:13a; Más bien, mientras dure ese «hoy», anímense unos a otros cada día,
- C. “Exhort” - to earnestly support or encourage a response or action; to alleviate sorrow or distress; give emotional strength to
- D. I see this in direct contrast to a “distrusting heart”
- E. I reread Joshua and Caleb’s exhortation to Israel
  - 1. Numbers 14:9; Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.”
  - 2. Números 14:9; Así que no se rebelen contra el Señor ni tengan miedo de la gente que habita en esa tierra. ¡Ya son pan comido! No tienen quién los proteja, porque el Señor está de parte nuestra. Así que, ¡no les tengan miedo!
- F. Joshua and Caleb saw the distrust in Israel and rose up to counter it with a call of encouragement to trust the Almighty Father
- G. Acts 14:19–22; 19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. 20 But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. 21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.
- H. Hechos 14:19–22; 19 En eso llegaron de Antioquía y de Iconio unos judíos que hicieron cambiar de parecer a la multitud. Apedrearon a Pablo y lo arrastraron fuera de la ciudad, creyendo que estaba muerto. 20 Pero cuando lo rodearon los discípulos, él se levantó y volvió a entrar en la ciudad. Al día siguiente, partió para Derbe en compañía de Bernabé. 21 Después de anunciar las buenas nuevas en aquella ciudad y de hacer muchos discípulos, Pablo y Bernabé regresaron a Listra, a Iconio y a Antioquía, 22 fortaleciendo a los discípulos y animándolos a perseverar en la fe. «Es necesario pasar por muchas dificultades para entrar en el reino de Dios», les decían.
  - 1. I’m sure word of Paul’s stoning made the circuit and all the Christians in that area heard of it
  - 2. Maybe they needed some encouragement?
- I. Jude 3; Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.
- J. Judas 3; Queridos hermanos, he deseado intensamente escribirles acerca de la salvación que tenemos en común, y ahora siento la necesidad de hacerlo para rogarles que sigan luchando vigorosamente por la fe encomendada una vez por todas a los santos.
  - 1. Jude’s letter is focused on keeping Christians from an “unbelieving heart.”
  - 2. Keeping them from falling prey to the false teachers
- K. Hebrews 10:24–25; 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
- L. Hebrews 10:24–25; 24 Preocupémonos los unos por los otros, a fin de estimularnos al amor y a las buenas obras. 25 No dejemos de congregarnos, como acostumbran

hacerlo algunos, sino animémonos unos a otros, y con mayor razón ahora que vemos que aquel día se acerca.

M. When we see people whose faith is floundering, we must act!

N. We must encourage them to trust God and the promises He has made, and not become hardened

#### IV. Hardened

A. Hebrews 3:13b–14; 13b that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

B. Hebreos 3:13b–14; 13b para que ninguno de ustedes se endurezca por el engaño del pecado. 14 Hemos llegado a tener parte con Cristo, con tal que retengamos firme hasta el fin la confianza que tuvimos al principio.

C. “Hardened” - To be or become stubborn, conceived of as being or becoming hardened or inflexible

D. Acts 19:8–9; 8 And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. 9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.

E. Acts 19:8–9; 8 Pablo entró en la sinagoga y habló allí con toda valentía durante tres meses. Discutía acerca del reino de Dios, tratando de convencerlos, 9 pero algunos se negaron obstinadamente a creer, y ante la congregación hablaban mal del Camino. Así que Pablo se alejó de ellos y formó un grupo aparte con los discípulos; y a diario debatía en la escuela de Tirano.

1. Stubborn - having or showing dogged determination not to change one's attitude or position on something, especially in spite of good arguments or reasons to do so.

2. It seems we tend to show this quality more often during religious discussions than any other time

3. I see it a lot with political discussions

a) President Obama and the “latte-salute”

b) George Bush and the “dog-salute”

4. We should be able to logically look at the word of God, but sin is deceitful

F. Causing someone to believe and untruth

1. That is what sin is, a deception

2. Eve in the Garden

3. Genesis 3:1–6; 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

4. Genesis 3:1–6; 1 La serpiente era más astuta que todos los animales del campo que Dios el Señor había hecho, así que le preguntó a la mujer: — ¿Es verdad que Dios les dijo que no comieran de ningún árbol del jardín? 2 — Podemos comer del fruto de

todos los árboles—respondió la mujer—. 3 Pero, en cuanto al fruto del árbol que está en medio del jardín, Dios nos ha dicho: “No coman de ese árbol, ni lo toquen; de lo contrario, morirán.” 4 Pero la serpiente le dijo a la mujer: —¡No es cierto, no van a morir! 5 Dios sabe muy bien que, cuando coman de ese árbol, se les abrirán los ojos y llegarán a ser como Dios, conocedores del bien y del mal. 6 La mujer vio que el fruto del árbol era bueno para comer, y que tenía buen aspecto y era deseable para adquirir sabiduría, así que tomó de su fruto y comió. Luego le dio a su esposo, y también él comió.

- G. Sin tries to get us to believe that sin is okay
  - 1. Look around the world right now
  - 2. Lying is acceptable
  - 3. Fornication is acceptable
  - 4. Perversion is acceptable
- H. Don't be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin!
- I. Stand firm to the end
- J. “Confidence” - an assurance of mind or firm belief in the truth; especially it underlying integrity and stability
- K. If sin is deceitful, then we have to hold firm to the truth!
  - 1. Hebrews 11:1; Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
  - 2. Hebrews 11:1; Ahora bien, la fe es la garantía de lo que se espera, la certeza de lo que no se ve.
- L. We must hold this confidence, this assurance to the end!
  - 1. We can't start to mistrust God like the Israelites did at Massah when they went to spy out the land of Canaan
  - 2. “Firm” - not likely to fail or give way
- M. The definition of a Christian should look something like this; “A follower of Christ who is not likely to fail in trusting the promises of God”
- V. His People
  - A. We are the people of His Pasture
  - B. We should trust in Him and His promises
  - C. We should encourage and exhort one another daily
  - D. We should stand firm in The Truth!