

# Hebrews 2025 | Check Your Heart

**Bro. Kory Cunningham**  
**Hebrews 3:7-19**

If you were to ask me who my favorite comedian is it would probably be a tie between two guys. The first would probably be Nate Bargatze. I love that guy; he is super funny. The other guy is a guy named John Crist who a lot of you probably have heard of him. He's a Christian comedian and I've followed him for a long time and throughout his career. He is a super funny guy who does these little, short videos and he has this one that is called, "Check Your Heart." It's a little spoof that plays off Christian judgement, like when you see somebody doing something wrong and you're like... *girl needs to check her heart...* You're sort of calling her out but also being a little judgy in doing that. That is also something we say in the south a lot... *bro, you need to check your heart...* You need to watch what you're doing is what we're really saying. He came up with an entire rap song called, "Check Your Heart" and it is hilarious. Some of the funny things that he brings up are like if you're at Panera only for the Wi-Fi then you need to check your heart or if you have the Bible app on your phone but it's on page two in a folder then you need to check your heart. If you've followed his career for very long then you know that in 2020 the guy who told us to check our hearts forgot to check his heart. He went through a very public falling after he had gotten into some inappropriate relationships. All of this came out and it rocked the Christian community because he was a Christian comedian who was very funny and very visible. The headlines were throwing him under the bus and calling him out. It was a very dark period in his life. He had to quit entertainment and basically went into hiding for a while. It was just kind of ironic that the guy who told us all to check our hearts and who put on comedy shows and told everyone about Jesus would actually leave with a hard heart. He would leave those shows not checking his own heart and his own heart led him away from the Lord and into doing something that he probably never imagined doing. I just want that to be a real warning for us because today we're going to talk about the reality that we need to check our hearts. That is the title for today's

sermon, "Check Your Heart." And the reason you need to check your heart is because your heart can cause you to check out. So we're going to check our hearts because if we don't it can cause us to check out.

We are going to read together starting in verse 12, but the sermon will go back and start with verse 7 and go through verse 19.

**Scripture:**

**Hebrews 3:12-14 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. 13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," 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.**

The preacher gives us this solemn warning- check your heart because you might check out and we don't want anyone to check out; we want you to make sure you stay in and continue down the path that you're on. He is going to use this illustration of the Israelite people and specifically the Exodus people. If you remember last week we talked about how Jesus is greater than Moses. Usually, Moses is the one lifted up... *hey, you love Moses; Jesus is better...* Now he's going to use the Exodus people, the Moses people to say... *Hey, Moses people, they were in it but then left it and that might be you too so you might have an unbelieving heart just like they had unbelieving hearts so be watchful and be careful because some of you are here but you're not really one of us...* So it is a solemn warning for us and let's see where this warning comes from.

The first thing we are going to say is this- do not harden your hearts. The preacher is going to go back to Psalm 95. This preacher loves the psalms; he quotes them all the time. He is going to use Psalm 95 to tell the people something. Remember, he has just said that we are God's house if we continue. Now he is saying... *but some of us might not continue... Wait, some of us might not continue?... Yeah, let's get into that discussion of why some of you won't continue. It's because you actually have an evil unbelieving heart that is leading you away from God rather than to God...*

He is going to give this illustration of their forefathers, the people in the Exodus. Verse 7 says this, "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says..." I want you to notice that for just a second. Notice what the preacher just did. He says, "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says..." and next he is going to quote Psalm 95, an Old Testament passage that originally spoke to the people of Israel thousands of years before these Hebrew people. So now the preacher is talking to people 2,000 years ago saying... *Hey, the Holy Spirit says, not SAID- past tense- but SAYS- present tense...* Why is that important? It tells us a lot about God's Word. See, God's Word, when it's written and it's spoken, it's not just talking to people back then. The Holy Spirit, through the Word, is speaking right now. So this psalm, Psalm 95, was about the Exodus people then about those Hebrew people but it's also right now about us. The Holy Spirit, as we read this psalm, is speaking to YOU and he is speaking to ME. Therefore, we need to listen. This isn't history. This is right now revelation of what God is telling you.

So, what does the Holy Spirit say to us right now? Here is what he says, "Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, 9 where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. 10 Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' 11 As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'"

The command is this- TODAY. Notice the urgency there. When is today? It's right now. It's not tomorrow; it's not next week. It's not... *hey, write this on your to-do list and sometime this week figure it out...* It's right now. The urgency is this morning and right here today. God says if you hear his heart do not harden your heart. Do you know what that tells me? There is a real reality that you could right now hear the Word of God and not respond to the Word of God. Right now you can hear the Word of God and be hardened to it. That is the warning. Just because we hear the Word doesn't mean we're doing the Word. Just because we hear from God doesn't mean we're one of God's people. That is a little scary, right? You all came to hear from God because you're God's people. Well, maybe some of you aren't. How do you know if you're God's people or not? God's people hear the Word of God and they respond to the Word of God. We are going to see that all throughout this passage. If you are one of God's people then

you hear and respond. If you're not one of God's people then you hear and you just go on. You don't respond. You're hard. Sin is going to deceive you. It's going to trick you. It's going to lead you to actually walk away from the Lord not towards the Lord. The command is this- hear and respond. Don't be like the people in the rebellion.

Now, who were the people in the rebellion? Well, we're going to see that they were the Israelites who followed Moses out of slavery. Do you remember that Old Testament story? God's people go into Egypt, they become plentiful, the Pharaoh captures them, he enslaves them, and they were in slavery but God sends a redeemer to rescue them by blood. After they're rescued out of slavery they head to the promise land but they spend 40 years in the wilderness because they won't love God. They won't obey God. Their hearts continually go astray from him. So we see this reality that it's possible to start well and not finish well. That is the big story of these Israelite people. You can leave Egypt but not make it to the promise land. You can actually just make it to the wilderness. You think you're in Christ. You think you're in there but you're actually not there. You're in something else.

So there is this warning that is coming out to us. Let's follow that warning. Let's just look at the rebellion. I think he's going back to Exodus 17 so I just want to read what God says about the people in the wilderness. Here is what it says starting in verse 2, "Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink.'" And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will 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 quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

They are wandering through the wilderness. They are given manna every single morning. God is providing for every single one of their needs. He is constantly providing for them. His presence is there. They have a tabernacle. They have a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day. They see God's presence. They are following God's presence. They are seeing his many miraculous miracles. They saw him drown the armies. He is clearly their God and yet here is a moment where they have a need and their need is not getting met. They're now thirsty and the very first thing they do is begin to quarrel and begin to blame God. They blame Moses... *Moses, why did you even bring us out? We had it so good in Egypt. Why did you bring us here to die of thirst?*... They're about to stone Moses, their redeemer, who brought them out and who is taking them to the promise land but they have this need that isn't getting met and here is their question- is God even with us?

We can look back at them and see how sad that is, but how many of us are the same? The God who has provided for us for so long and we've seen so many miracles but the moment we think he's not hearing us or not answering us or the moment something goes wrong we quarrel, we test, we argue, and we wonder where God is. We don't think he's for us anymore. So these are a people that, for 40 years saw God, tested God and saw God always come through and always provide and yet they still did not believe him so God is provoked and he is going to actually send them into judgement. I want you to see the judgment that God sends them into. Numbers chapter 14 is a reference to the judgement. When God says they shall not enter his rest, this is what the preacher is pulling from. Here is what the Word says in verse 21, "But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord, 22 none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, 23 shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it."

God is judging these that came out and I just want you to see how profound this is. Six hundred thousand men came out of the exodus and are now wandering in the wilderness. If you add it up it's probably two to three million people. And what happens? They all came out but not all of them go into the promised land. Not all of them actually make it. And what

is the problem? It's because many of them-actually most of them- never truly left Egypt. They never truly came and followed the Lord. They followed something else. They wanted something else. They came to something else and eventually it showed because they had an evil, unbelieving heart that led them away. They actually despised God rather than love God. And here is the reality- the same can be true for us. Some of us can be here in this place among God's people but not actually be the people of God. That is the scary thing of the exodus! Not everybody with God's people WAS God's people. Not everybody here with God's people are actually God's people. The warning is for us to check our own hearts so that we may not also have an unbelieving heart.

Notice next how he is going to connect the story in the past, the Exodus event, with their current moment right now. He's going to tell us to check our hearts so that we don't check out. Read with me in verse 12, "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God." So here is this example of Old Testament people and a lot of them didn't make it because they had an evil, unbelieving heart that despised the Lord rather than love the Lord even though they saw all that the Lord did. They were with the people but they weren't the people so what is the application for these Hebrews that the preacher is preaching to? It might be you also! You might be in the same boat! You might be around the people of God but not actually the people of God because your heart despises the Lord instead of loves the Lord. That is scary because it also can be true of us right now. You could be a person that actually doesn't believe rather than believes and that despises rather than loves.

So, how do we know? Well, we have to do what the text says. It says to check our hearts. He says, "take care" and that means to watch out, to look, to examine, and to get stethoscope out and look at your heart. Look at your heart. Do the heart test. Ask, how is my heart? What is going on inside because the danger is this, "lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart." In other words, you have to watch out because you could actually have a heart that is evil and unbelieving. Now, I know what you're thinking... *I don't have an evil heart. Hold on! I might not have a perfect heart or a good heart but I'm not evil. I know of evil people like Hitler or Putin. They are evil. They have evil hearts but not me. I don't*

*have an EVIL heart. It might be a little bit off but not evil...* So, let's just think about the heart for just a second. Do you know what the Old Testament actually says about our hearts? Jeremiah 17 says our hearts before Christ does the work of taking out our heart and giving us a new heart, our unredeemed hearts, are desperately wicked. That is your heart before Christ; it's desperately wicked. It's a mystery how wicked our hearts actually are. Kavanaugh says our hearts are idol making factors. They just pump out idols that we go and worship.

The truth is if you're not in Christ you absolutely can have an evil, unbelieving heart. Think about Ezekiel chapter 36. What is the message? God is going to take your heart of stone out and give you a heart of flesh. What is a heart of stone? It's hard! It doesn't respond to God. It's a heart of complete unbelief. So what do we need? We need a heart of flesh that responds. So if you hear the Word and never respond to the Word then there is a chance you have a stone heart. If you hear the Word and respond to the Word then it probably means you have a heart of flesh, a heart that can feel, a heart that is convicted, a heart that repents, a heart that confesses, a heart that trusts, and a heart that loves. So check your heart. Do you have an evil, unbelieving heart?

Notice what an unbelieving heart does. It leads you away from the living God. So if you remain a hard heart, a sinful heart, a wicked heart that is away from the Lord then it will eventually lead you further away from the Lord. See, the truth is we are led by our hearts. We are people want things and love things and we go after that which we love. We make decisions based on our hearts. We chase after our loves so here is the reality- your heart can either lead you to God or it can lead you away from God. That is what your heart is capable of. Your heart is that decision maker and the will of who you are to the Hebrew people. That is your heart; it's your decision maker and it can lead you towards God or away from God so you need to check your heart to make sure it's leading you in the right direction.

So, let's just think a little bit about the heart itself and what Jesus would say about our hearts. I think Jesus gives us three important things about our hearts. First, the heart follows treasure. Notice what he says in Matthew chapter 6, verse 21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart

will be also." Do you know what Jesus is saying there? Whatever you set as your highest value, whatever you prize the most, whatever is number one in your life, whatever is lord, whatever is god, that is the thing that you're going to love and that's the thing your whole life is going to go after. You have to ask this question- what is my treasure? What is the number one in my life? For some of us it is actually ourselves. You are your own highest value so everything about your life is about you. Or, maybe for you your highest value is your family. Do you know what that means? That means a good thing has become a god thing and when good things become god things they become very bad things. For some of us, politics is the number one thing, or country is the number one thing. Do you know what that means? It means good things become bad things because they become idols. They don't become the good gifts that God has given us. So we have to be careful where our treasure is because what we need to do is treasure Christ most. Treasure Christ above all! Consider him, set him above everything else because when you treasure Christ the most your heart will follow. Your heart will love the things he loves and hate the things he hates. Your passions and your desires will be bent towards Christ and Christ's kingdom and your heart will lead you to God rather than away from God. As we examine our hearts, as we check our hearts the first question is this- what is your greatest treasure? Is it truly God or is it something else because we are supposed to treasure Christ above all.

The second is that sin comes from the heart. Notice what it says in Matthew chapter 15, verse 19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander." Where does sin come from? It comes from the world, it comes from culture, and it comes from the crazy people, right? That's where sin comes from. We are a victim of sin, right? No, Jesus says sin comes from your heart. Sin is an inside thing that works outwardly. So how do we battle sin? We battle it in our heart. We don't just battle action but we battle root. There is fruit, that is action, but there is root and that is the heart. We have to fight at the right place and that is in our hearts. We do battle in our hearts because that is where sin comes from.

Next, our hearts are the thing we're supposed to love God the most with. We're commanded it. Notice what it says in Matthew chapter 22, verse 37, "And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart



and with all your soul and with all your mind.”” So not only does sin come from the heart but your heart is also the part of you that is supposed to be oriented towards God the most. The greatest command is to love the Lord with all your heart.

So the heart is a big deal. That’s why we’re checking the heart because it can lead you to God or it can lead you away from God. So I just want us to think about three ways that we can daily check our hearts and not just hear and walk away but hear and respond. I want to give you three things we can do. First, when you hear preaching respond to it. As Jesus’ people, every seven days we come together for preaching and worship. What did this preacher say to the Hebrew people? He said “the Holy Spirit says” not that he said it long ago but he SAYS right now, today, if you hear it, don’t harden your heart. So when you hear preaching what are you supposed to do? The Word of God that is preached over you by the power of the Holy Spirit, you are supposed to respond to it. Something is supposed to happen. You either lean into Christ more or you lean out of sin more. Something is supposed to happen in your heart when you hear the preaching of God’s Word because the Word of God is not void. It goes out and it does its work. So the question is this- do you have a heart that is allowing the Word to till and bring about change or are you just good with your life and you don’t really care what is said because you’re going to go out and do your own thing? That is a hard heart.

The second thing might be a little bit strange but the second way that we can really help cultivate our hearts is to sing to God in worship. You’re like... *Wait, where did you get this? Why are we talking about singing to God and hard hearts?...* Because if you notice the passage that the preacher is quoting it is Psalm 95 and it’s amazing because if you turn to Psalm 95 in your Bibles, this passage that he’s talking about and preaching to us to make sure we hear and don’t harden our hearts says this in the first verse, “Oh come, let us sing to the LORD” Then a few verses down it says this, “Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” Why would that be in a passage about worship? Because I think there is a connection between singing and having a heart that is ready to hear from the Lord. There is a connection between not singing and having a hard heart. So if during worship you never sing it could be a hard heart. And do you know what one of the best things for a hard heart is? It’s to sing. Do

you know what singing has a way of doing? It has a way of thawing a hard, dead heart. It has a way of making it start beating. When you see the words on the screen that are declaring what God has done and what the gospel is and when you look and think and process then you begin to just start singing them back because there is just something about singing with the vocal chords and the vibration of your body that wakes up a cold heart and it causes it to feel something. That is why we sing! Singing isn't something we do just because we have a 70 minute service and we need to fill the time because we can't preach that long. No, that's not where Christian singing came from. It came from God saying come into my house and sing! This is a command just like do not murder is. God is telling us to do this so if we don't do this then we are in disobedience to God. I know some of you don't like to sing. God doesn't care. I'm just being honest; God doesn't care. He says to sing and singing isn't to make you like singing, it's to make you like God. That's the point of singing! I'm terrible at singing! I'm probably the worst singer (only second to my dad) in the whole church! We can all vouch for that- he is number one and gets the prize there! But do you know what both of us do? We belt it out. It's not about HOW you sing; it's about WHY you sing. You're singing to awaken your heart to respond to God.

So the second way is by singing, but the third way we do that is by reading and responding daily to God's Word. This is a practice that you have to do if you're going to check your heart. You have to read your Bible and respond to your Bible daily. Every single day you need to read your Bible and respond to it. Why do we have to do this daily? Because your heart can get hard! It's really easy actually. Sin is deceitful, sin is scary, and sin is coming for you so you need to daily read and respond to the Word of God. I love what Dwight L. Moody says. He says, "The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible." Let that sink in for a minute. The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible. Are you in the Bible? Are you reading and responding? That is what it means to hear and not be harden and hear cultivate. You have to actually hear it, read it, think about it, process it, and pray over it but if you're not ever reading your Bible then it's probably because sin is keeping you away from it and the way to get rid of sin is to get in it. Get in the Word of God and let it speak over you.

We are checking our hearts first by making sure we are not just hearing and not doing but rather hearing and responding. Something is going on in your heart- it feels, it moves, it does, it confesses, and it repents. You are walking with Jesus through your heart. Then the second thing we do is check THEIR hearts. Who is the 'they' there? It's your brothers and sisters. It's your spouse, your kids, your friends, your family, and the church. You check the hearts of other people too because they can also check out. You have friends that have checked out. You have friends that have walked away. Do you know what your friends need? They need you to check their hearts. Notice what he says in verse 13, "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "Today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." That's what you do. Check your heart but also exhort others. Exhort your wife, exhort your husband, and exhort your kids. Encourage them, plead with them, beg them, tell them, and pray for them. Exhort one another every single day because today is the only day we have. There is not tomorrow; tomorrow may never come. Today is what we have. So what do we do? We exhort each other. If you know somebody that is going through something then exhort them, encourage them, pray for them, and ask them how they're doing... *Hey, man, how's it going? How's your walk? How are you praying? How are you treating your wife? Man, what's going on in your heart? What's going on in your life? I want to be there for you and if something is off then I want to go to war with you. I want to fight with you.*

We should exhort one another. Why do we exhort one another? Notice, what it says, "that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." I've got news for you that you probably already know. Sin is very deceitful. Sin is scary because it's a liar and it can do so much damage. Sin is this power all the way from the Garden of Eden that lied to our parents, that lied to the people in the exodus, and that lies to us right now just like it lied to the Hebrew people and it leads us away from God. It hardens our very hearts.

So here is the problem with sin; there are three things. Number one, sin lies. That's the first problem with sin. Sin lies. Sin is a LIAR. It's the deceitfulness of sin. I just want you to know that sin is often lying to you. Right now sin is lying to some of you and here is what sin is saying... *Bro isn't talking to you. This is for somebody else. Yeah, he's not talking about*

*that thing that you're struggling with. He's not talking about YOUR sin. He's talking about HER sin... And here is the thing. The Holy Spirit IS talking to her but he's talking to you too. Sin is so deceitful. It is so manipulative. That is what sin does. Sin lies. Sin says... hey, you want to be happy? Here's happiness! Go get it... And when you get the happiness it doesn't make you happy. It actually makes you miserable... Hey, you want pleasure? I've got plenty. Go get it... Then you grab onto the pleasure and it turns into fraud... Hey, you want this? You want that? You want success? You want satisfaction? You want joy? I've got all the things that God promises but I've got ways that are not God's ways. Take these and you'll have them all... That is what sin does.*

I want you to notice what James says about sin. I think it's insightful. James chapter 1, verse 14 says this, "But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire." Sin is lying and it comes after you. The biblical language says it's luring you.

My boy G is crazy about fishing right now. He LOVES it. He is all in on fishing and that is all he wants to do. So we have lure after lure after lure. He's been watching YouTube videos on the best lures and how to use the lures. The point of a lure is so that the fisherman can take this bait through the water and make it look like a fish or a frog. The lure looks like a frog and smells like a frog. It's usually a crazy color but the fish don't know that. The fish look at this lure and thinks it's a frog and it wants to eat the frog. The fish is hungry so it comes up and bites the frog but it's not actually a frog. It's actually a lure. Do you know what the whole point of all lure is? It's to hide the hook. As soon as the fish bites the lure the fisherman can snag it and all of a sudden the frog becomes a hook. Now the fish is on the hook. The fish is captured. Now the fish is enslaved and it's being reeled in and that is what sin does to you. It lures you; it entices you and it puts out what you want.

Do you know why social media is so dangerous? Because when you scroll through social media it's watching you and getting to know everything about you. It knows your age. It knows your gender. Do you know what else it knows? It knows what you like. It knows what you want. It knows your heart because it's reading every single move that you make and the whole point to that is so that it can take ads and sell you exactly what you

want. That's the whole point. That is how social media makes money. That is why it's free to you. You are being used and sold for someone to advertise just to you. This is why on my wife's Facebook feed there are no golf polos and mine is filled with them. Facebook knows I like them and it's feeding those advertisements to me to try and get me to buy more. Do you know what social media has been clever at capturing? It's what Satan has been doing all along. Since the beginning of time Satan has been watching you, looking at you, and collecting all the data on what you love, what your eyes go after, and what the shiny thing is that you want the most and then sin and Satan have a way of delivering those things exactly to you. And then we go for it, we grab it, we eat it, and it's a hook and then we're reeled in. It's a lie. It's deceitful. Any way that we're trying to find things away from God's way is always going to be a lie.

We have to know that number one sin is a liar and number two sin hardens. Sin doesn't leave us the same; it actually does something to us. It hardens us. The deceitfulness of sin hardens you. It damages you. It's like a callous. Some of you try to play guitar and it hurts the first week. It's painful. Your fingers are screaming the first week. They may even bleed a little bit. They hurt and you have no idea how anyone who plays guitar can do it but the more you play you don't feel it after a while. There is no pain whatsoever. Why? The strings haven't changed; you have. You now have callouses on your fingers. You don't feel the same. That is how sin works. It's shocking the first time. It's a little bit shocking the second time but by the fiftieth time it's completely normal. You don't feel it even more. You're numb to it. You don't even care about it and you just keep doing it. That is what sin does. Sin damages and sin hardens. Do you know why sin wants to harden? Because what you need-conviction- means feeling something! To be convicted you have to feel and what Satan wants is for sin to absolutely destroy your feelers so you have no conviction. There is no plowing and no water gets into your heart; it just stays hard. It's a stone and what God wants to do is break up the stone. That is what God is doing and for some of you it's happening right now, today, in the preaching of God's Word, God is breaking up the stones.

Number three, sin leads you away from God. Sin lies, it hardens, and it leads you away from God. Notice the warning- a hard heart can lead you away from the Lord! It can lead you to walk away from the Lord. So what

do you do? You plead with yourself; you check on yourself and you check on your neighbors. You check on those that you love. You check your heart so that you don't check out and you check on your brother's and sister's hearts so they don't check out. I know this is messy and I've seen it happen a lot of different ways. I've chased after with guys and begged and pleaded with them to turn from whatever they were doing. They didn't and they ruined their lives. But do you know what else I've seen? I've seen guys repent, confess, change, and turn and full stop to following Jesus. It's great. We don't know how it's going to turn out but we do you know what we need to do? We need to go tell. We need to go plead. We need to go exhort others so that we check their hearts also because here is the truth- those who come back are those who share in Christ's salvation.

Notice what it says in verse 14, here is the crescendo, "For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end." So sin hardens and it might lead you astray but how do you know if you're the people who go away or stay? What is the difference? The people who stay are the people of Jesus. Notice what he says, "we have come to share in Christ." It doesn't say WE WILL come if we make it to the end. No, we HAVE come if we make it to the end. What is the difference? It's the doctrine of preservation of the saints. If you are truly in Christ you'll make it to the end. That is why that line says, "we have come to share in Christ." It's the perfect tense in the Greek. It means something happened to you in the past that is now affecting your present and it will continue all the way to the future. You've been saved by Christ but here is the reality- if you've been saved then right now you are being saved and in the future you will be saved. That is what is going on in sanctification and glorification because it comes from true justification. So how do you you've been justified? How do you know you've been saved? Are you being saved right now? Are you hearing and responding to the Word of God now? Because it is the ones who hold on that have truly been saved. The ones who let go never were.

What is the illustration here? It's the people of the exodus. They left. He goes right back into the warning- hey this might be you! He might be talking to you. Here is the warning again in verse 15, "As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." 16 For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left

Egypt led by Moses? 17 And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief." Why does he go back to the exodus people? He's trying to say this.. *Hey, church, everyone in the exodus left Egypt. All of them did but most of them died in the wilderness and they never got to the promise land...* Do you know what that tells us? They left Egypt but they never actually got God. They got something in the middle and I'm afraid for some of us...we've left Egypt, we've left sin, and we've repented but we've grabbed onto something else. We repented and grabbed moralism. We repented and grabbed religion. We repented and grabbed politics. We repented and grabbed something else and that is our lord and god. We're following and continuing and God is shouting... *HEY! You don't have me yet because you're chasing idols! You're still chasing the world! You're still dead in your sins! Look at the things you're doing. You don't have me yet...* And you are hearing it but you're hard to it and you're going to die in the desert. You're not going to make it in the end because you never truly came out of Egypt. You never truly followed God. You never truly had a salvation that actually saved your soul because if you did then you would do work right now with Christ all throughout the wilderness until we make it home.

So what's the difference? How do you know you're one of the people of God? How do you know you're in that share with Christ that is going to hold on? You're hearing and responding. If you're not one of the people of Christ then you hear and you just keep going. You hear and you harden your heart. How do you know you're in Christ? You hear and respond! When you hear, when you look at the Bible and read a verse that you're not in line with, what do you do? You confess, you repent, you change, and you move. What do you do when you hear a sermon or hear a friend that is giving you exhortation? You hear it and you heed it. You lean into Christ and lean out of sin. You are walking towards Jesus. You hear and respond. If you don't know Christ then you only hear and you never obey. You don't actually love God you despise him though you hear his very Word.

Maybe that's you. Maybe you are right here. One of the scariest things about the exodus is that a lot of people started off well but they didn't finish well. That is one of the warnings to the Hebrews. You can start well but not finish well and I want you to start well and finish well. What does that mean? It means you have to pay attention to the middle right here. You have to check your heart so that you don't check out. You have to fight with sin so that it doesn't overtake you. You have to fight that unbelieving heart so that it believes and so that you know you share in Christ.

I just want to point out one word in the text that we haven't gotten to yet. It's the word, "today." What does he mean by today? Notice it says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts..." We are supposed to exhort each other every day as it is still today as it says in verse 13. Then he ends with it again in verse 15, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts..." Three times we are told today is the day and here is what I want to point out. That word is scary. Do you know what that word means? It means we only have today. That is all we're promised. Tomorrow may never come. Tomorrow is not promised to you so don't think you'll take care of it tomorrow. No, today is the day of salvation. Today is the day to repent. Today is the day to get right with the Lord. Today is the day! Right now! So today is really scary because we only have today; that's it! but on the other hand today is also full of grace because today says we still have today. The Lord is giving you right now. I just want to be honest with you- you don't deserve right now. You deserve hell right now forever and so do I. You don't deserve a chance today. You don't deserve a chance right now but the Lord in his grace, mercy, and kindness gives us today! He gives us today to hear and to respond, to hear and to come, to hear and repent. He gives this as a gift. There isn't tomorrow. It is right now today. So what do you need to do today?

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