

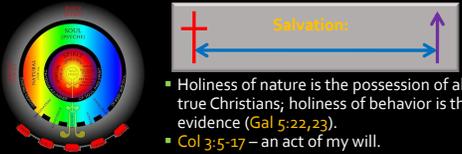
A HARDENED HEART 02.23.09

Hebrews 2:14-3:19

SO GREAT A SALVATION

C. Jesus' Work as Author of Salvation (10-13)

- Sanctified (v.11) – "made holy"
 - "so great a salvation" is the work of God in the death and resurrection of His Son – a work that will make us whole once again by Him being joined to us through faith alone.
 - Whole in spirit (justification); whole in soul (mind, will, emotions – sanctification); whole in body (glorification)



- Holiness of nature is the possession of all true Christians; holiness of behavior is the evidence (Gal 5:22,23).
- Col 3:5-17 – an act of my will.

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- In Chapter 1, Jesus is God who came in flesh, to deliver a better covenant.
- In Chapter 2, we see the covenant establishes the believer as joint-heirs with Christ, brothers called to Glory.
- In Chapter 3, the writer, expands on the nature of Messiah with a strong warning (#2).
- He writes to two audiences:
 - First to believing Jews who are struggling (1-6);
 - And then to the non-committed Jews who have heard the Gospel (7-19).

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▫ vv. 2:14-18 – "to make propitiation"

Expiation	Propitiation
a sacrifice that satisfies the legal requirements	a sacrifice that satisfies what God's character requirements
satisfies the just consequence of death for sin (justice)	satisfies the just offense and wrath of God toward the violation of His character of holiness
forensic satisfaction	personal satisfaction
legal, judicial, penal, mechanical	relational, personal
focuses on remedial, restititional action of God	focuses on restorative result of God's action in Christ
death of Christ makes amends for objective guilt of man's transgression of the Law	death of Christ removes the disfavor of God toward men because of sin
looks back at "redemption"	looks forward to "reconciliation"

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▫ vv. 2:14-18 – "to make propitiation"

- Which is it, propitiation or expiation?
 - These are two important concepts that provide the transition between redemption and reconciliation.
 - They should not be separated or divorced into an either/or exclusivism, but be balanced in a both/and synthesis.
 - Jesus Christ is the expiatory sacrifice and the propitiatory satisfaction.

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I. The Superiority of the Person of Christ (1:1-4:16)

- A. Christ is Superior to the Prophets (1:1-4)
- B. Christ is Superior to the Angels (1:5-2:18)
- C. Christ is Superior to Moses (3:1-6)
 1. Another title for Jesus: *Apostle*
 - Notice the five titles for Jesus so far:
 - Son (1:2), First-born (1:6), Lord (2:3), High Priest (2:17), and now: Apostle (3:1)
 - This signifies a delicate shift from a well-known Jewish-Christian description (*High Priest and brothers*) to a distinctively Christian description (*Apostle* and "of a heavenly calling"—Eph 1:3; 2:6)

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- Why the shift?
 - Moses is portrayed as a servant *in* (v. 5)
 - Jesus is portrayed as a Son *over* (v. 6)
 - Son versus servant:
 - A servant is constantly doing something for the master of the house.
 - A son, though he might do things for his father, is at rest when it comes to "doing things for the Master." (He sat down...v. 13)
 - What "house" is referenced here?
 - The people of God (Israel) and the building itself.
 - What's the importance?
 - The Builder of a house is more worthy of honor than the house which He builds.
 - Jesus – builder of all things – is far superior to Moses.

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- I. The Superiority of the Person of Christ (1:1-4:16)
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 - C. Christ is Superior to Moses (3:1-6)
 - D. Christ is the Supreme Object of Faith (3:7-4:16)
 - The Catastrophe of Unbelief.
 - **Warning #2:** Having a hardened and unbelieving Heart (12-13).
 - The drift from Truth (first warning in 2:1-4) will lead to a hardened and unbelieving heart.

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Avoiding a Hardened Heart. (vv 3:12-15)

1. Be aware – be alert. ("Take care")
 - 1 Peter 1:13 – gird your minds for action.
 - 1 Peter 5:8-9 – be on the alert!
2. Avoid an unbelieving heart.
 - How? By confessing your sins immediately.
 - Unconfessed sins lead to the hardening of our hearts. (v. 13)
 - 1 John 1:9 – if we confess our sins...
3. Abide in Him.
 - 1 John 3:6 – *Abiding* is everything of Him, nothing of me!
 - How? By abiding in His word:
 - John 8:31,32 – if you abide in My word...

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Avoiding a Hardened Heart.

4. Find a place of *real* encouragement. (*parakaleo*)
 - A place where people are serious about speaking the truth in love.
 - The word "Comforter" in John 14:16 and "Advocate" in 1 John 2:1 come from the same root.
 - Eph 4:15 – speak the truth in love
5. Develop an attitude of perseverance.
 - Romans 5:3-5; 15:4-5 – perseverance leads to hope.
6. DO IT NOW—TODAY!
 - The longer you wait, the harder your heart will become.
 - "If" (v. 6 and 14) – descriptive, not conditional!
 - If you keep driving west, you'll be in Portland tomorrow...
 - You'll be in Portland tomorrow, if you keep driving west...

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- Matthew 13 – the four soil types.
 1. The obtuse heart. (v. 19)
 2. The over-eager heart. (v. 20-21)
 3. The occupied heart. (v. 22)
 4. The open heart. (v. 23)
 - Which soil type is yours currently?
 - How does one get "open heart" soil?





Heb 3:13