

PROTECTION FROM UNBELIEF 031609

(Hebrews 4:12-4:16)

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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)
 - D. Christ is the Supreme Object of Faith (3:7-4:16)
 - Finding true *biblical* rest.
 1. Rest begins with Truth.
 2. We must believe the Truth.
 3. We must *faith* the Belief.

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Protection from Unbelief (4:12-4:16)

- Protection from the subtlety of the temptation to self-dependence.
- If I am to avoid season of unbelief in my life (which could quite possibly lead to a complete falling away), there are four things in which the writer of Hebrews encourages us to be active:

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1. Maintain an active diet on the written Word (v.12)
 - Why? – The objective nature of the written Word keeps my thinking correct. (*orthopraxy* follows *orthodoxy*)
 - Orthodoxy – “right thinking” (from *orthos* (right, true, straight) + *doxa* (related to *dokein*, “thinking”))
 - Orthopraxy – right conduct.
 - 2 Timothy 3:12-17 – Protection from apostasy
 - Psalm 19:7-14 – His precepts are right.
 - Philosophy and psychology give partial insights, based on human experience, but they fall far short of the Word.
 - Scripture is the only reliable objective guide we have to learn how to function properly in a broken world.
 - It is *living* (relevant to my immediate issues) and *active* (working deep in the inner man – the real me).

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2. Open fellowship with God (v.13)
 - He is complete aware of who we really are and what we really think and desire.
 - John 4:24 – Spirit and Truth
 - His *active Word* reveals our core problems and teaches *the Solution* (Truth).
 - His *active Presence* reveals where my thoughts and desires are and constantly woos me back to Him (Spirit).
 - John 15:4 – “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.”
 - Those who abide in Him cannot sin (1 John 3:6)

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3. Constant Confession (v.14-15)
 - We have a High Priest who is completely understanding and sympathetic to our weakness and moments of unbelief.
 - “passed through the heavens” – means that He has gone all the way to being available to us right now through His resurrection.
 - We must constantly bring things to Him as our Mercy Seat (OT symbol of Jesus as our High Priest).
 - Mercy – remission of deserved judgment.
 - 1 John 1:9; Psa 32:3 – confession is key to maintaining life.
 - Why? – Seeing my sin laid bare before me and others humbles my stubborn pride.
 - Sin hardens our hearts and erodes belief – confession is a plow!
 - Confession drives me back to Him as my *sympathetic* High Priest

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4. Intimacy with Jesus (v.16)

- Let us therefore draw near with confidence!
- **Matthew 11:28-30** – Come to Me!
 - How often do we go to a friend, a family member, even our pastor?
 - Jesus says come to Him!
- This is all possible because of His amazing grace.
 - Grace – the supply of undeserved blessing.
 - Grace isn't just the door – it is every moment.
 - We often think we only need grace when we mess up or fall short or sin...
 - **Romans 5:2** – grace is the very reality of our position in Christ.

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Summary

- Steps to protection from unbelief and the subtle temptation to self-dependence:
 1. Maintain an active diet on the written Word.
 2. Maintain open fellowship with God.
 3. Have constant confession.
 4. Develop intimacy with Jesus.