“Encourage One Another”

Intro: In the third chapter of Hebrews, which we continue to study this morning, the appeal has come to us that we _______ _________ our hearts against the truth of the Jesus but that we would hear the truth and receive Him as the Christ for the saving of our soul. This cry is like that of the commentator of years gone by, Adam Clarke, who so often exhorted the reader saying, “Take care for ______ ________!"

A. With God having sent His Son to suffer the cross on our behalf, having done all for our salvation, it is now ____ ____ ____ to choose whether or not ____ _______ in the Jesus of Nazareth, that He is the Son of God, receiving Him as the Savior of our soul.

B. As we heard the _______ _______ from the very heart of God through the Author as he wrote saying, 3:7-8, “Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you ______ His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me. As in the day of trial in the wilderness,” so do we this morning hear the identical appeal repeated in verses 12-19. This immediate repetition emphasizes the importance of the issue. We must hear God and ______ _______ our hearts to the truth of His Son Jesus. This is of vital importance!

I. We are warned to ______ _______ for our soul.

A. Here, having heard the truth of Jesus, having had our spiritual gaze cast upon Him, we are called to reflect upon ourselves, to consider where we stand in relationship to Jesus. ____ ___ _______ in Him?

B. Let us _________ that it is the falling away from the living God by rejecting the truth of His Son that reveals that one has an evil unbelieving heart? Let us _________ our own hearts! Do we receive the truth of Jesus by placing faith in Him or are hardening our hearts against Him?

II. We are exhorted to take ____ ______ our ____________ soul.

A. We are instructed to care for our Christian sibling’s ____ by ________ them.

1. Encourage (parakaleo). Para means “_______ to the side of” and kaleo means “to ______ out or upon.” It is to call to another so as to aid, help, comfort, exhort and encourage, and it has in view the idea of doing so ______ strong ________.

B. Richard Phillips writes, “This is an excellent instruction for us today. We are to ______ a watchful guard over our own hearts and come along side others in the church to ________ them to do likewise.”
C. We must care for the brethren protecting them from the great __________ of sin!

III. Here is the sure sign of our __________: we know we have become partakers of Christ ___ we ______ fast in the faith of ________ until the end.

A. We are hereby called to examine our hearts to see if we are of the faith, or hardened toward God. And so are we called to encourage the brethren in this same thing. And here is the ______ that reveals where we now stand: we have become partakers of Christ ___ we have heard God's voice and believed, continuously ______ ______ to the truth of the Gospel of ________.

IV. We are called to ______ ______ the truth we have heard from the Voice of God concerning His Son Jesus being the ________.

A. Precious soul, ______ ______ ________ the voice of God? Have you heard Him by His Spirit through this, His Written Word? Have you heard the gospel of Jesus? Wait no longer to believe for today is the day of salvation, lest if you hear His voice, and in refusing to __________ in Him ______ you harden your heart against Him just like the Hebrew generation of the Exodus!

B. The disobedient faithless never enter into the rest (_______________) of God.

Closing Exhortation: This is of paramount importance! __________ in Christ followed by obedience (the evidence of true faith) must be decided and acted upon _________!

A. Today is the day of ___________ – this is the moment to turn in faith believing in Christ ____________, the Saving Son of God!

Dear one, today if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart as those who wandered the wilderness the rest of their life and who never entered into the rest of the Lord. Today is the day of salvation! ____________ upon the Lord Jesus Christ and demonstrate your faith through undying obedience to Him, and His ________ will be yours.

And, for those of us who have entered His rest, let us examine ourselves to see if we are of the faith, and as we find ourselves obediently of the faith let us then, while it is still called today, ________________ one another. This is the Word of the Lord – hear the voice of God today. ______ ______ for your soul and the soul of your brother!

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