Talmid Shorts 03/26/18

Dr. Eddie Ildefonso

Today Is the Day of Salvation

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Hebrews 3:7-19

Hebrews 3:7-19 (NASB)

- ⁷ Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,
- ⁸DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,
- ⁹ WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED *Me* BY TESTING *Me* AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS."
- ¹⁰ "THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS';
- ¹¹AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST."'
- ¹² Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.
- ¹³ But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,
- ¹⁵ while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."
- ¹⁶ For who provoked *Him* when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses?
- ¹⁷ And with whom was He angry 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 not able to enter because of unbelief."

Procrastination can be a big problem: Important tasks are neglected, and the benefits of finished work never come to pass. Even worse, though, procrastinating in spiritual matters can be disastrous.

Every person is going to spend eternity somewhere. The destination is determined in this lifetime by a choice to either accept or reject Jesus' offer of forgiveness. But eternity seems distant, and there is so much to enjoy in this life, so some people feel that they can delay this decision until later. They assume, *I'll just wait until I'm closer to death. Then I'll ask Jesus to save me*.

The problems with this reasoning are obvious. First of all, there is no guarantee that you will have any warning before death. Second, by spending a lifetime rejecting Christ's offer, you run the risk of developing a hardened heart. Hebrews 3:13 says, "Encourage one another ... so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

Hebrews 3:13 (NASB)

¹³ "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

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Saying no to God frequently throughout your life may result in being unable to say yes when death comes knocking at the door. In fact, you may not even be interested in Christ's offer anymore.

There is great danger in abusing the grace of God. All people who are not protected by salvation in Jesus Christ will face the terrifying reality of judgment, as they stand before God without a Savior. (See Hebrews 10:26-27.)

Hebrews 10:26-27 (NASB)

 26 "For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

²⁷ but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES."

By putting off a decision for Christ, you not only lose the immediate blessings of a deeply personal relationship with God now; you also risk future separation from Him for all eternity. Don't procrastinate! Come to Christ today: Acknowledge your sin, ask His forgiveness, and trust Him as your Savior.