



CHRIST

REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

Biblical Preaching & Reverent Worship

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The Peril of Unbelief

Hebrews 3:12

‘Study to show thyself approved unto God...’ – 2 Timothy 2:15
The importance of reading and learning God’s word is a vital part of both growing and also experiencing the blessing of belonging to God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ.

This truth is one of the purposes why we wish to offer you these sermon notes which are to be used while listening to the sermon.

If you have any further questions relating to the sermon, sermon notes or would like to learn more about the ministry of Christ Reformed Baptist Church, please do not hesitate to contact

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INTRODUCTION

Today we will be considering different truths related to the damage caused by the deceitfulness of sin resulting in the evil of unbelief and thus a departure from the living God.

HOW THEN ARE WE GOING TO CONSIDER THIS TEXT?

Two Main Headings: (1) The exhortation opened & made personal
(2) The Peril of Unbelief unfolded

I. The Exhortation opened & made personal

- (a) **The exhortation opened: 1 Cor.10:12** “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth **take heed** lest he fall.”

John Owen “He that walks in the midst of snares and serpents, and goes on confidently, without consideration of his danger, as if his paths were all smooth and safe, will one time or other be entangled or bitten. Blind confidence in a course of profession, as if the whole of it were a road without danger, is a **RUINING PRINCIPLE.**”

- (b) **To brethren: Luke 8:21** “And he (Jesus) answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.”

Root causes of indifference toward one another’s spiritual state:

1. Self-Pride 2. Rat-Race 3. Too Messy

- (c) **An Evil Heart of Unbelief: “of unbelief”** (G571: ἀπιστία apistía, ap-is-tee'-ah) is a ‘genitive of cause’ which is “denoting the principal and efficient cause rendering the heart so evil as that it should ‘depart from the living God’.

Two categories of unbelief:

FIRST: Negative Unbelief - This is true and describes those who have never been granted the *means of faith*, such as the preaching of the gospel and are as such, unbelievers. (1 Co.14:23)

SECOND: “Privative “to deprive” unbelief”. This is true of those who have had the *means of faith* given to them in the preaching of the gospel.

(a) Typ. #01_“refusing to believe when it is required by the gospel”
The root of this kind of unbelief is the original depravity of our natures, which has no spiritual ability toward righteousness and indeed hates God. This is proven in passages such as: (Rom.5:7-19; Mrk.7:21-23, Ps.143:2, 2 Chro.6:36, etc.)

Other contributors: Prejudices – Love of Sin – Willful Ignorance.

(b) Typ. #02 “forfeit faith after it has been received”.

Titus 1:16 “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”

This sort of false profession, or form of unbelief, when dealt with in Scripture is frequently warned against and is considered more serious than the first kind (refusing to believe).

2 Pet.2:20,21 “20For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21**For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness**, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”

Two elements that make Typ.#02 uniquely fearful:

1. Lack of Recoverability.
2. Coldness of Conscience

> It is the second type of person and the unbelief they exhibit that is being warned against by the writer. The consistent rejection of the truth of the gospel and its claims after it has been received and professed.

Dr. Paul Robert Martin “For selfish reasons such professors do not repudiate the gospel outwardly; however inwardly, “they yield no obedience unto it either”. They possess evil hearts of unbelief, and

instead of departing from sin, they gradually, more and more depart from the living God, all the while maintaining an outward profession!

CLOSING THOUGHTS AND APPLICATION:

1 Tim 4:1-2 “1Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2Speaking lies in hypocrisy; **having their conscience seared with a hot iron;**”

Deut. 4:9 “take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons...”