

The Letter To The Hebrews Why We Must Hold Fast To Our Hope Hebrews 3:6b-11

Cling to the Word about Jesus!	Because then you will avoid punishment, God has proven it's true, Jesus won back our destiny, He frees us from the fear of death, and He helps us when we are tempted	Therefore fix your eyes on Jesus — who will faithfully help you overcome temptation	You are saved if you hold fast your hope in Christ	And do not let your hope in Christ weaken Therefore do not harden your heart as Israel did and was not saved
1:1—2:1	2:2-18	3:1-6a	3:6b	3:7-11

How can we know that we are God's house — God's saved people? (3:6b)

We can tell that we are part of God's saved people IF we are holding fast to our hope.

So assurance of salvation is not mostly a matter of looking at a past decision; it's a matter of looking at our hearts now.

What does it mean to hold fast to our hope? (3:6b)

- **Hope** means a rock-solid certainty that your future is amazing. This refers to being in the new heavens and earth with all the redeemed worshipping Jesus Christ (3:1; 13:14)
- **Confidence** means you can be certain the new heavens and earth will be real — because God has given you evidence in history, and in your own experience.
- **Boasting** means delighting, rejoicing, looking forward to this hope more than to anything else.

But some of his readers were not holding fast their confidence and boasting in their hope; and didn't think there was any problem with their salvation. That might be true of us as well.

How does he warn them — and us? (3:7-11)

Even though God had done wonderful things for Israel — because of their sinful hearts He swore that they would not enter his rest.

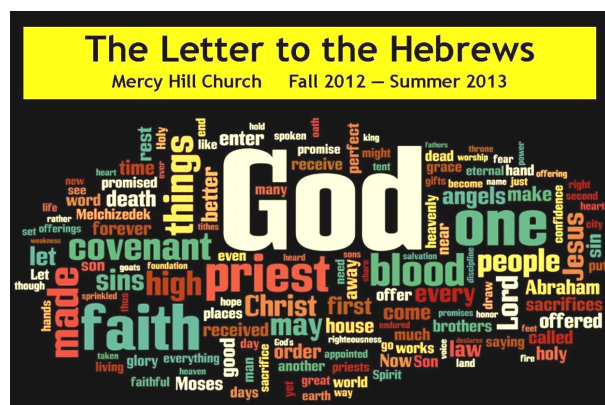
If we are not holding fast to our hope, we might not be saved. And if we continue in this state, we might not enter God's rest.

What can we do?

Understand that God can change your heart (Heb 13:20-21)

Come to Jesus as you are, confessing your sin, pleading for His help (Heb 4:16)

Pray over God's Word until you feel Jesus changing your heart (Rom 10:17).



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

In the past, what has been the basis of your assurance of salvation? How did you know you were saved?

Does it make sense that we know we are saved because we are holding fast to our confidence and our boasting in our hope of the new heavens and earth? Why or why not?

On a scale of 1 (low) and 10 (high) how strongly are you holding to your confidence and boasting in your hope?

Are you battling things that make you forget about your hope, or things that replace your hope?

Do you agree that if we are not holding fast to our hope — and if we do nothing about this — then we can't know we are saved? Why or why not?

What steps can you take to strengthen your hope in Christ?

What questions did Sunday's message raise in your mind?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

