

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 15, 2014

Christ is Superior to Moses
Hebrews 3:13

The author saw Christ as superior to the prophets (Hebrews 1:1-4).

The author of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the angels (Hebrews 1:5-2:18). The author of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to Moses (Hebrews 3:1-4:13).

Christ, as an example of faithfulness, is superior to Moses (Hebrews 3:1-6).

Christ's superior example of faithfulness led the author to warn his readers against the sin of unbelief (Hebrews 3:7-4:13).

After the author had focused on Israel's past failure in Hebrews 3:7-11, he then, in light of Israel's past failure, exhorted his readers (Hebrews 3:12-13).

The author exhorted his readers to make sure that they had the right kind of heart (Hebrews 3:12).

The author exhorted his readers to encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13).

The word "but" sets the positive exhortation of verse 13 against the negative warning of verse 12 suggesting that an important remedy to the danger of an evil unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God is mutual encouragement.

The word "encourage"(PARAKALEO) is made up of the verb "to call" (KALEO) with a Greek preposition (PARA) that intensifies the verb.

The word "encourage"(PARAKALEO) therefore means in this context "to call urgently" or in other words to beg, to entreat, to exhort.

Our encouragement of one another should not be viewed simply as an activity that is to be practiced only at our formal gatherings but rather as a daily activity that is to be practiced whenever we are with Christians.

Whatever the author meant by his use of the word "today" it should be clear that he meant to communicate a sense of "urgency" by his use of that term.

May God give us the grace to encourage one another while it is still called "today" so that none of us will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.