

# The Church:

## God's Plan for Our Sanctification & Security

**Hebrews 3:12-14**

“12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. 14 For, we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.”

- In His sovereignty, God has ordained that:
  - Believers will be sanctified (growing in righteousness)
  - Believers will persevere (are kept eternally secure)
  - There is an appointed means by which He accomplishes these things, namely the Church

- Believers will be sanctified (growing in righteousness)
  - Romans 8:28-29
    - You were predestined to grow in Christ-likeness
  - Hebrews 10:11-14
    - The one who made you perfect (justified you) is making you holy (sanctifying you)
  - 1 Peter 1:1-2
    - You were chosen (through the sanctifying work of the Spirit) for obedience to Jesus
  - Philippians 1:3-6
    - The Lord plans to finish what He started

- Believers will persevere (are kept eternally secure)
  - Jeremiah 32:38-40
    - God made a covenant promise that He would turn you to Him & that He would never let you go
  - Romans 8:29-30
    - No drop-outs between Justification & Glorification
    - A future reality accomplished in the past tense
  - 1 Peter 1:3-5
    - You are being kept *by the power of God* for a salvation not yet revealed
  - John 10:25-30

Survival rate is 100% for those rescued by Jesus

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# The Church: God's Plan for Our Sanctification & Security

- As Christ's Church, we share in:
  - A Heavenly Calling
  - A Deceptive Danger
  - A Family Obligation

- A Heavenly Calling
  - See to it (take care) *brothers*... (Heb 3:12)
  - Therefore, holy *brothers*, who share in the *heavenly calling*... (Heb 3:1)

The prevailing bond and familial relationship among Christians is directly connected to the heavenly calling that we share...

- A Heavenly Calling

- We are called into communion (family) with God (Hebrews 2:10-14)
- We are called into communion (family) with each other (Hebrews 3:1; 12)
- We are called to hold onto the hope of which we boast (Hebrews 3:6)

The reality of our adoption as children of God can't be separated from the reality that we are now brothers and sisters, united in God's family by the hope of what Christ accomplished on our behalf.

- A Heavenly Calling
  - We are God's house (Hebrews 3:1-6)
  - God's house is the **church** (1 Tim 3:14-15)
    - The pillar and foundation of truth
    - The people and how they conduct themselves
  - Not just an individual experience, but a corporate reality (1 Peter 2:4-10)

To confess faith in Christ is to declare that you are one of the living stones, gathered by God and built into a spiritual house – the Church

- A Deceptive Danger

Our sin wages a constant battle against us,  
intending to deceive us and harden our  
hearts in unbelief (Heb 3:12-14)

- A Deceptive Danger
  - Why is this so dangerous?
  - Because no-one is exempt from this  
(Heb 3:7-19)
  - Because you're blind to it  
(Jer 17:5-10, Heb 3:13)

- A Deceptive Danger

- What does this look like?
  - A sinful, unbelieving heart (vs 12)
  - A hard heart (vs 13)
  - Turning away (vs 12)

- A Deceptive Danger

- Signs of trouble

- You rarely, if ever, interact with other believers in a context where you're exhorting one-another.
- When you gather, you stick to superficial conversations (the weather, the Huskers, work) but scarcely get beneath the surface
- You think this warning doesn't apply to you
- You aren't seeing to or exhorting anyone
- You aren't being seen to or exhorted by anyone.

- A Family Obligation
  - See to it (take care/make sure) vs 12
  - That no one is embracing sin
  - That no one is walking away in unbelief
  - An active responsibility  
(not passive and not merely reactive)

- A Family Obligation

- Encourage (exhort) one another (vs 13)
  - With words!
  - Daily! (vs 13)
  - Why?
    - To protect against hardening hearts (13)
    - To help each other persevere and hold onto the hope we had at first (vs 14)

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- How do we do this?
  - Not just Sundays
  - Small Groups
  - The orientation of our lifestyle
  - Life on Life Discipleship

- Implications
  - As we understand the high calling and privilege of being the God-ordained means of sanctification and perseverance of the saints, we should grow in excitement and move toward each other in love.
  - This understanding should elevate the seriousness of everything we do together... our responsibility to one another should destroy our crippling tendency to be cheap and superficial and petty and should, at the same time, cause us to consider each other's soul care to be of first importance.

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