**The Necessity of Encouragement**

December 31, 2023 | Hebrews 3:12–14 | Pastor Taylor Bradbury

**The authenticity of our relationship with Christ will be confirmed by our holding onto Christ.**

**Hebrews 3**

**12**Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. **13**But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **14**For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

1. **Personal Vigilance (12)**

Keep your heart with all vigilance,

 for from it flow the springs of life. (Proverbs 4:23)

1. **Mutual Encouragement (13)**

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29)

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (Romans 12:10)

**3. Gospel Tenacity (14)**

It is perseverance that tests and proves and demonstrates the fact that we are truly joined to Christ...and we persevere with our 'original' confidence, namely, the very message of the gospel that saved us in the first place (Richard Phillips)

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