

SKEPTICS AMONG YOU

HEBREWS 3:12-19

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: “At the root of all unbelief is sin. Lack of faith in God’s Word is never purely an intellectual thing. At its basis is the love of sin.” Kenneth S. Wuest, Word Studies in the New Testament, Volume II: Hebrews, p. 82. A good question for the skeptic is “Have you come to a place in your spiritual journey that you know for certain that you have eternal life, or is that something you are still working on?”

NEED YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT. God hates unbelief the most of all sins. It is the only sin that will send one to hell since from unbelief springs all sin. But by the encouragement that comes to the skeptic when you share the gospel with him, his minutest of faith can overcome the giant of unbelief. (**Hebrews 3:12, 13a, fn 3:12-14, John 6:28, 29, fn 6:28, 29, John 3:18, fn 3:18, I John 3:23, fn 3:23, Romans 10:11-5, fn 10:15, John 1:12, 13, fn 1:12, 13**) *How will you share with your friends who are skeptics?*

HAVE BEEN DECEIVED. Sin is deceptive and tricky in that it has addictive entrapments and its entanglements are not easily broken. However, with simple confession, the bondage of unbelief and its slavery can be emancipated. (**Hebrews 3:13b, Hebrews 3:7, 8, fn 3:7-15, Hebrews 12:1-4, fn 12:1-4, Genesis 4:1-7, fn 4:7, John 8:31-36, fn 8:34, 35, I John 1:9, fn 1:9[2nd]**) *How is the skeptic’s belief that church attendance guarantees salvation tricky and deceptive?*

DON’T HAVE GOD’S REST. When you “hear” God’s voice and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ and the message of His cross, you are born again and *have* God’s rest. To the degree that you are allowing the Holy Spirit to control your life, you will *experience* that rest that you already have been given as a gift and benefit of your salvation; and you will be convinced that you have eternal life. (**Hebrews 3:14-19, fn 3:15-19, Romans 1:16, 17, fn 1:17, I Corinthians 1:18-24, fn 1:19, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 4:11, fn 4:11**) *How do you experience God’s rest?*

As you daily study the truths about Jesus, in what ways is the presence of the Holy Spirit revealing to you God’s majesty and glory?