

"We are the Church" Sermon Series / Hebrews 3:12-15/ Pt. 15

"Healthy Churches Preserve Together" | February 15th, 2026

Review:

The sermon explored the vital doctrine of perseverance and preservation within the body of Christ, drawing from Hebrews 3:12-15. We examined how healthy churches don't just survive individually, but preserve and persevere together through mutual encouragement, accountability, and unwavering faith in Christ.

This message challenged us to understand that becoming a healthier church isn't about numbers or programs, but about being a people who are more Biblically grounded, God-fearing, and committed to living life together in authentic community. The implications for our spiritual life are profound: we cannot walk this Christian journey alone, and God has ordained the local church as the primary means by which we guard one another from falling away and encourage one another toward Christlikeness.

Key Takeaways:

- Guard yourself against the sin of unbelief by recognizing that the heart governs the mind, and what we love can blind us to truth. We must diligently protect our hearts from hardening, remembering that while we believe in Christ, we still battle daily unbelief in various areas of our lives.
- Urge one another towards godly living because tomorrow is not promised. God designed us to live in community, and one of His ordained means of keeping us faithful is through other believers speaking truth into our lives. Your presence and prayers for one another are gifts that strengthen the entire body.
- Hold fast to the grace, mercy, and power of our common Savior, knowing that if we truly share in Christ, He will carry us to the end. Our perseverance isn't based on our strength or effort, but on Christ's finished work and His promise to complete what He began in us.

Practical Applications: What This Means For You (Choose At Least Two)

Personal:

- Identify one area where unbelief is creeping into your life. Confess it to God and ask Him to strengthen your faith.
- Set aside 10 minutes each day to pray specifically for others in your small group or church.

Community:

- Reach out to someone in the church you haven't seen recently. Send an encouraging text, make a phone call, or meet for coffee.
- Ask someone you trust for permission to speak truth into your life when they see you drifting.
- Invite someone to church or to this small group who needs Christian community.

Questions for Reflection:

1. What stood out to you most from this sermon? Why?

2. In the sermon, Bro. Tony distinguished between "preserving" and "persevering." How would you explain the difference? Why are both important for church community?

3. Read 1 John 2:19 again. How does this verse help us understand the difference between someone who falls away temporarily versus someone who was never truly saved?

4. The sermon emphasized guarding our hearts against unbelief. What are some practical ways unbelief shows up in your daily life, even as a believer?

5. How does being part of a local church body help protect you from spiritual deception or drift? Have you experienced this personally?

6. George Muller prayed for 52 years for one friend's salvation. What does his example teach us about the balance between God's sovereignty in salvation and our responsibility to persevere in prayer and witness?

Memory Verse: Philippians 1:6

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Prayer Focus for This Week:

- **Protection** from hardened hearts and unbelief within your group and church
- **Boldness** to speak truth and encouragement into each other's lives
- **Gratitude** for the security we have in Christ and His promise to preserve us
- **Specific needs** shared by group members during discussion
- **Those who have drifted** from the faith or the church—that God would draw them back
- **Your pastor and church leaders** as they shepherd the congregation