

WHY IS IT SO HARD?

1. Text: Hebrews 3:12-15
2. What is so hard in the title above? The enduring commitment to be loyal and dedicated to the truth of God and to live according to that truth.
3. It is so hard for three reasons. Here they are.

I. **It Is Hard To Escape What We Are Supposed To Leave Behind.**

1. "The real difficulty in changing any enterprise lies not in developing new ideas, but in escaping from old ones." (John Maynard Keynes)
2. That is often true. We bring much baggage with us. And it's hard to discard. So much denominational tradition hangs on.
3. Acts 15:1-2 is a classic example. Jewish brethren couldn't give up their Judaism. Critical moment in church.
4. Galatians 5:4 Those attempting to be justified by the law were fallen from grace.
5. Apply: church of Christ, pastor, worship.

II. **It Is Hard To Keep Out An Influx Of Wrong Teaching.**

1. Once in the faith, we are not isolated and insulated from the world around us. Communications constantly bombard with false ideas. Friends, family, co-workers, and others want to share their ideas.
2. The New Testament warns constantly of this problem.
3. I John 4:1 Many false prophets have gone out into the world; test them.
4. II Peter 2:1-2 There will be false prophets among you.
5. I Timothy 4:2 Some will depart from the faith, giving heed to doctrines of devils.
6. II Timothy 4:3 The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but will turn their ears from the truth.
7. II Corinthians 11:13-15 False teachers appear to be ministers of righteousness.
8. Acts 20:29-30 I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after them.
9. Galatians 1:6-9 There are those who would trouble you, pervert the gospel, and preach another one.
10. Acts 13:6-10 Bar-Jesus withstood Paul seeking to turn the proconsul away from the truth.
11. Apply:

III. **It Is Hard To Avoid Creating Our Own Man-made Traditions.**

1. With any group there is always the danger of establishing long held opinions as God's truth.
2. Matthew 15:3,6. You transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition. You made it of no effect.
3. Colossians 2:8 Beware of the traditions of men.
4. We in the church today have no more right to make laws where God did not than the scribes and Pharisees in Christ's day.
5. Keystone question to ask: Is this God-given truth or man-made tradition?
6. Remember we have no creed but the Scripture to defend or define what we are and do.

Conclusion:

