

## LEST ANY OF YOU BE HARDENED

**Hebrews 3: 12: Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13: But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.**

A hardened conscience is frightening to think about. When I first began playing the guitar it hurt my fingers to press the strings to make chords. But as I practiced callouses formed on my fingers. In time I could play for hours without hurting at all. It is the same with a sinner. The little child's conscience is tender. He is sickened with remorse at the least offense against father or mother. But as years pass the more he practices sin the more his conscience grows harder. It becomes easier to sin and easier to suppress a guilty conscience. Unless God intervenes in irresistible grace creating in him a new heart, in time his conscience becomes so calloused that he is incapable of being disturbed even at the vilest evil. The professing believer who is able to push aside rebuke he hears in the preaching of the gospel while ignoring his conscience is hardening his heart. He grows more and more hardened until at last his unbelief proves that God never created a new heart within him. Knowing this deceitfulness of sin, brethren, let us continually take heed that we do not harden our hearts at even the least rebuke we hear in the preaching of the gospel. At the very first prick of conscience, let us turn to Christ like a little child and confess our sins, asking Christ to direct our steps and to keep us from the evil.