

“Consider Christ Jesus”

Hebrews 3:1-6

INTRO:

How difficult was it for first century Jewish people to embrace their Messiah and understand God’s unfolding plan of redemption? From an early age they had learned about Moses, the servant of the LORD who led their people out of Egypt. Every year they observed the Passover and rehearsed what God did through Moses to deliver them from slavery. Now they met Jesus, the Son of God and their promised Messiah who came to save them and deliver them from their sin. How does Jesus Christ relate to Moses? What do we do with Jesus and with Moses?

In answer to these questions, the writer of **Hebrews** turns the spotlight on the Lord Jesus and compares Him to Moses. He commands us to **“consider”** Christ Jesus. The word means to **“focus your eyes on,” “to give careful attention to.”** The writer wants us to look carefully at the Lord Jesus and see some specific things. Along the way, he compares the Lord Jesus to Moses, to help us understand how all of this works in God’s purpose.

I. Who the Lord Jesus Is (v. 1)

II. The Son and Moses (v. 2-6)

I. Who the Lord Jesus Is (v. 1)

A. **Chapters 1 and 2** of this letter to the Hebrews were all about who Jesus is. The writer hooks on to this truth with the word **“therefore.”** He will command his original readers to look closely at who Jesus is, but before he does, he wants them to understand who they are in Christ. **(Hebrews 3:1)**

“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.”

1. They are **“holy brethren.”** What makes them holy? Why are they brethren? He told them in **2:11**.

“For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.”

2. They were holy because the Lord Jesus Christ in His dying for us set us apart as God’s unique possession. He also made them acceptable to God through putting away their sin. Finally, the Lord Jesus made them members of God’s forever family.

3. They were **“partakers of the heavenly calling.” (3:1a)** They who are holy brethren are in this position because God called us and we responded by faith. These privileges the Law of Moses could never provide for them.

B. These folk who enjoyed great blessing because of what our Lord had done must ***“consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.”*** (3:1b) *“focus your eyes upon and look closely at Christ Jesus.”*

1. The Lord Jesus was the ***“Apostle of our confession.”*** The word *apostle* means *“sent one.”* In the wisdom and plan of God, He sent the Lord Jesus into to the world to accomplish our redemption. When He was born at Bethlehem, He was on a mission.

2. He is also ***“the High Priest of our confession.”*** The writer expanded on this whole idea of Jesus our High Priest in the chapters ahead in this letter. So, we will not say much here except, that under the Law of Moses only Aaron and his descendants could be a high priest, but our High Priest is eternal and ever lives to stand before God for us.

II. The Son and Moses (v. 2-6)

A. The rest of this paragraph is given to a comparison between the Lord Jesus Christ and Moses. Both the Son and Moses were faithful. **(Hebrews 3:1-2)**

“Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.”

1. Not only did Jesus do all of these things for the Hebrew believers and us and thus deserves all the honor and glory that we can give Him, He also was completely faithful to God the Father who sent Him to carry out this mission to redeem us.

2. Jesus said in **John 6: 38-40**: ***“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”***

It was because of our Lord Jesus Christ’s faithfulness that we are even saved.

B. Remember these folks grew up honoring Moses, the servant of the LORD. What do we do about Moses? Does our Lord Jesus push Moses right off the stage of honor? No, ***“[Jesus] was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.”*** (Hebrews 3:2)

This is really a quote from **Numbers 12:7**. Moses was faithful to serve God and to obey Him in all that God asked him to do. Moses was very important and deserves to be honored.

C. What is God’s house here? As we read these verses, we may be under the impression that the house is a building. Actually, God is talking in figurative terms about His people. The Old Testament saints were God’s people too.

D. Both the Son and Moses were faithful, but they were faithful in different ways; ***“For this One [Christ] has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.”*** (Hebrews 3:3-4).

Jesus is worthy of much more glory than Moses because Moses did not build the house, Jesus did. The God’s people are God’s people because He made them and called them out from the multitude.

1. Moses did not create the nation of Israel; God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) created it when He called Abraham. **(2)** While Moses brought the Law to the people, he did not write it. God did. **(3)** Moses was the instrument through which the miracles were done, but God did the miracles. The Jewish people often overlooked that fact and assigned too great a place to Moses in this process.

2. The people of God down through the ages have always existed, not because man made them nor because of the talents and abilities of God’s leaders. They always existed because God made them and sustained them!

E. There is also a contrast between the roles that Moses and Jesus filled in God’s plan. Moses was a servant in the house. Jesus is the Son over the house. He is God the Son for whom the people of God exist!

F. Finally, (3:6) ***“But Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope.”***

We are God’s household, God’s family. Don’t let go of who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

This applied to these converted Hebrews because they needed to be reminded that Moses, although a very great man in God’s sight, was not God the Son. He was not the Messiah. They must understand that Jesus is God and Moses was a very faithful servant of God.

This applies to us as believers today because we must remember who Jesus was and is and who we are because of Him. He is God the Son over the people of God. We are God’s heavenly brothers and sisters and partakers of God’s call from heaven.

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