

Scripture Readings: Deut. 5:1-12 & Hebrews 3:1 – 4:11

Singing: 394:1-3 – 140:1 –384:1-5 – 69:1-3, 7 – 72:1-4

Intro: Hebrews is God's letter of encouragement to young believers!

A. Spirit used various approaches to strengthen them to endure

1. Precise doctrine teaching
2. Encouraging reminders of God's promises and gift in Christ Jesus
3. Five fierce warnings (2:1-4 – 3:7-14 – 5:11-6:20 – 10:19-39 – 12:18-29)

B. Second warning targets doubts triggering temptation to return to Judaism

1. Doubts and faith will always be part of the believers
 - a. doubt is not the opposite of a believer but of faith of a believer
2. Main purpose of Heb. 3:1- 4:11 is to strengthen faith: *How?*
 - a. consider the superiority of Jesus Christ over Moses (vs. 1-6)
 - b. consider the many missing out entering God's rest (7-19; 4:1-13)

CALL TO CONSIDER JESUS CHRIST (1)

- I. Who are called to do so particularly? II. Why does Holy Spirit exhort this?
III. What are we to consider in Jesus?

I. Who are called to do so?

A. Though everyone is to this, God's saints are addressed to this particularly

1. The *holy brethren* (Eph. 3:14-15)
2. The *partakers of the heavenly calling* (Acts 16:14)
 - For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate (...) moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called. (Rom. 8:29)
 - But ye are a chosen generation (...) that ye should show forth the praise of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)
 - God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor. 1:9)

B. How will I know that I am a *partaker of this heavenly calling*?

- Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them (Matt. 7:20)
- The elect (...) attain the assurance of their eternal and unchangeable election, not by inquisitively prying into the secret and deep things of God, but by observing in themselves, with a spiritual joy and holy pleasures, the infallible fruits of election pointed out in the Word of God. (Canons I, 12; also, V, rejection 5)

- C. What are the Biblical evidences of being a partaker of the heavenly calling?
1. **an enlightened heart:** The entrance of Thy Word giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple (Ps. 119;130)
 - a. knowledge of yourself as an unworthy and undesirable sinner
 - b. knowledge of your helplessness and hopelessness
 - c. knowledge of Jesus Christ as the Lord our Righteousness
 - d. knowledge of God's method of salvation: the just shall live by faith.
 2. a **willing heart:** Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power (Ps. 110:3)
 - a. the willingness to *entrust ourselves* to Jesus Christ (consent of faith)
 - One shall say, I am the LORD'S; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and surname himself by the name of Israel. (Is. 44:5)
 - I will make mention of thy righteousness, even thine only (Ps. 71:16)
 - In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness (Ps. 31:1)
 - b. Examine: *the object of faith determines the value of your trust*
 - Cursed be the man that **trusteth in man** - Blessed is the man that **trusteth in the LORD** (Jer. 17:5, 7)
 - saving faith does not *save because we believe* but because of ***what we believe or upon Whom we trust***
 3. an **affectionate heart:** *Thou art fairer than the children of men. Kiss me with the kisses of Thy mouth, for thy love is better than wine. Draw me, and we will run after thee. I will delight myself in thy statutes. Lord, thou knowest all things, Thou knowest I love thee; (Ps. 45; Song 1:2-4; Ps. 119:16; John 21:17)*

Concluding observation:

- A. Partakers of the heavenly calling remain 'poor and needy in themselves'

I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord. (Zeph. 3:12)
- B. Therefore heed God's direction: *Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus: **Do this in remembrance of Me.***