

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 2:9-18; 4:11-16; 7:23-28
Singing: 226:1-3 – 240:1-3 – 419:2-3 – 115:1-4

CALL TO CONSIDER JESUS CHRIST (2)

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

II. WHY DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT EXHORT THEM TO DO THIS?

A. They all face pressure to *return to Judaism and legalism* as way of salvation

1. This great & subtle temptation is perennial

2. How did Holy Spirit urge them to resist looking *away* from Jesus Christ?

a. by reminding them *they were His house* (vs. 6)

b. by urging them *to hold fast to Christ* (7-19)

- unbelief will keep them 'out of the rest in Christ' like Israel was kept out of Canaan (3:12, 4:1)

- unbelief is not only harmful to us; it is provoking to God (9-11)

B. To strengthen faith is God's great intention: *how?*

III. WHAT ARE SUCH CALLED TO CONSIDER (REMEMBER)?

A. Consider defined as *attentively ponder*

1. The Apostle Jesus Christ: The Messenger and the Message of God

a. He is message of God's love: *unconditional – free – sovereign*

b. He is answer of God's wisdom: *in Him God can embrace unholy sinner*

c. He is the message of *God's willingness to pardon – restore*

2. The High Priest Jesus Christ

a. Only He can *reconcile us with God – satisfy all God's demands* (2:17 – 5:9 – 6:19-20 – 7:24-8:2 – 9:28 – 10:12-14 – 19-23)

- He down His life to make reconciliation for the sins of His people
- He is the sin and trespass offering: *alone acceptable to God*

b. Consider Him as *the ONLY One able to save you to the uttermost*

B. Consider Him How is the *same yesterday, today, and forever* (Hebr. 13:8)

1. Consider *how* He was and *how* He is now and forever!

2. Only considering Him is saving

a. though self-knowledge is needed, it is not saving!

b. Christ-knowledge leading to faith in Him is saving!

Come and See: *This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them!*

Do I love God and Christ or do I not?

If I do not love Him, what have I to do to go unto His table? If God is an enemy to me and I yet an enemy to God, wherefore should I go and bring down wrath upon myself?

But if I love Him, why should I be so dismayed because I am a sinner, since the Lord is willing freely to bestow all things that are here provided upon those who love Him.

So, you must ask yourself: O my soul do you love the Lord Jesus? Do you indeed love the Lord Jesus? For there are many who are mistaken and think they love Him, but they do not. Can you therefore appeal to God and say, "Lord, Thou knowest all things, Thou knowest that I love Thee. I do not indeed love Thee as much as others do, nor as much as I myself desire to do, and that is my grief and sorrow; but yet I love Thee, and that is my peace and comfort. And I have these evidences of my love that makes me say, "Lord, I love Thee, for I hate that which is a grief unto Thee, and that because it grieves Thee. Lord, I love Thee, for I am grieved at Thy absence, and rejoice at Thy presence. Lord, I love Thee, for I love any who are like Thee, who bear Thy image, and Thy stamp upon their hearts. O my Lord, I love Thee, for I love the place and duties where Thou art wont to warm Thy people's hearts; but if Thou are not there, I cannot take up contentedly with them unless I see Thee. Lord, I do humbly say that I love Thee, for I dare not deny but that I am grieved when Thou are dishonored by myself or others; though I grieve for this less than I should, because I love Thee less than I ought. Lord, I love Thee, for I desire to have a heart that should be willing to part with all for Thee, things sinful in themselves at all times and things lawful when Thou callest me to it. Once more, I humbly say that I love Thee, for I would have a heart to love and long.

From *The Lord's Supper* by Thomas Doolittle