

INTRODUCTION

Earlier this week, I thought about what we need from the sermon this week.

-I knew that we need the main thing that we need all the time: to have our hearts pointed to Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

-I thought we need an exhortation regarding the several new members now received into the congregation

-About that: the will of the congregation expressed by their raising no objections, so now considered members: Frank Yu, Maggie Yu, Nathan McCarron, Jocelyn McCarron, Journey Ow

-We also need to master some lines from the book of Hebrews about the continuing nature of the sabbath day, where the Bible says,

Hebrews 4:9 There remains therefore a ~~rest~~ sabbath-keeping for the people of God.

I didn't want to take that line out of context, and tell you just to trust me that it means what I say it means, and it should be used how I say it should, just because I say so. When I looked at the whole passage, what do you suppose I found?

-It starts with lines pointing our hearts to Christ Jesus as our Savior and Lord

-It contains appropriate exhortation for us as a congregation receiving new members!

So, that's where we are going today and probably for the next few weeks.

-We start with Christ Jesus

-We progress through exhortation for the congregation receiving new members

-We end up mastering lines that help us very much with the sabbath commandment

TEXT

Hebrews 3:1-6 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; 2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. 3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. 4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. 5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; 6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

BODY

I. Consider Christ Jesus

A. The apostle

1. the one sent by God the Father
2. the one who is the official representative of the Father
3. the one who speaks the word of the Father
4. the one whose being sent by the Father is proven by miracles, chief among them His being raised from the dead

B. The high priest

1. the one who serves as the Mediator between man, who has sinned, and God, who is holy
2. the one who has offered sacrifice for us
 - a) as the OT priests offered the blood of lambs and bulls and goats
 - b) so Christ Jesus has offered Himself, the once-and-for all perfect sacrifice, shedding His own blood on the cross
3. the one who intercedes for us

C. The one you have professed or confessed

1. G3671 *homologia* - a saying the same with
2. He is the one of the Christian profession
3. He is the one we ourselves have professed
 - a) each of us individually
 - b) all of us corporately

D. The one more worthy of honor even than Moses

1. Moses as faithful in God's house; Christ Jesus as faithful in building the house
2. Moses as a faithful servant in God's house; Christ as a faithful son over His own house
3. I am not going to make much of this, reckoning it to be very needful to some, but not particularly needed by us at this time

Consider Christ Jesus

II. Remember Our Blessed State in Christ Jesus

A. Those who are holy

1. set apart from the world unto God
2. through faith in Christ Jesus
3. by what Christ Jesus has done for us
 - a) on the cross, and
 - b) in our hearts by His Spirit

B. The brethren

1. through faith in Christ Jesus, we are adopted as sons with Him
2. so we are His brothers
3. and we are brothers and sisters with each other

C. Partakers of the heavenly calling

1. we have heard the gospel
2. we also have had the gospel made effectual in us by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit
 - a) repentance unto life has been granted to us
 - b) saving faith has been wrought in us

D. Those who profess Christ

1. the world either
 - a) denies Christ altogether
 - b) or it professes Him in some ways, but denies Him in others
2. but we are in the blessed state of being those who truly profess Christ
 - a) we say it with our lips
 - b) we show it with our lives

E. The very house of Christ

1. considered as a building
2. considered as a household

Consider Christ Jesus

Remember our blessed state in Christ Jesus

III. Hold Fast to Christ Jesus (Hebrews 3:6b)

- A. I say this to you five new members, and to you who have been members for longer
- B. You have started well
 - 1. professing faith in Christ
 - 2. being baptized
 - 3. joining the membership of the church
- C. (It may be that some of you are ready to do the same, and should go ahead)
 - 1. if you believe in Christ, but have not said so, begin now to say so
 - 2. if you already are repenting of sin in the name of Christ, but have not been baptized, then tell us that you need to be baptized
 - 3. if you already are baptized, but are not yet considered a member of the congregation, tell us that you desire church membership
- D. Now hold fast to Christ unto the end
 - 1. our hope is in Christ
 - a) hope being an aspect of faith
 - b) hope being that aspect of faith that looks forward to those good things that are promised in the gospel, but that we have not yet received
 - 2. holding fast to that hope, we continue in confidence
 - a) especially as to what we have to say
 - 3. holding fast to that hope, we continue rejoicing
 - a) especially when we are suffering
 - 4. ironically, holding fast to hope in Christ includes the conviction that it is not ultimately our holding to Him that keeps us, but His holding to us that keeps us

CONCLUSION

This congregation is in a state of tremendous blessedness

-which we are enjoying greatly

-for which we are very thankful to Christ Jesus our Lord

But we know from the scriptures and from our own sad experiences that a congregation can fall from such a state.

-we could lose the love for each other that we have now

-we could lose the purity of doctrine and holiness of lifestyle that we have now

-we could lose the fundamental truths of the gospel that we have now

-we could lose the zeal for the Lord and His church that we have now

-we could even become so bad in these ways that we could lose the very congregation that we have now

Let us not lose the state of blessedness our Lord Jesus has given us! In order that we not lose it:

Consider Christ Jesus

Remember our blessed state in Christ Jesus

Hold fast to Christ Jesus

Jeremiah - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 148

Alex - Scripture Reading - Numbers 12:1-8

Nathan - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - John 10:27-28

Ava - Prelude - your choice

Allison - "All Creatures of My God and King" - attached sheet - Andrew lead

Bella - Trinity 81 "A Mighty Fortress" - Alvin lead

Allison - Trinity 175 "Man of Sorrows"

Next week:

Call to Worship and Scripture Reading from Psalm 95

Trinity 19 “O Come...” (Psalm 95)