

Hebrews 3.5

For The Sake of That Which Follows

Faithful Servant - cares for the things entrusted to him as a steward. Moses (representative here of the law and nation of Israel) was a steward of God for the sake of the testimony that which followed after... and that something is the Glory of the Risen Christ

I. THE LAW WAS FOR CHRIST

a. Moral Law

- i. Displayed the character of God
- ii. showed our need of Christ

Galatians 3.19-24

b. Ceremonial (Levitical) Law

- i. Established the MANNER of atonement

Hebrews 9.16-22

- ii. Prepared the hearts of man for the Messiah
 - a. Longing for final deliverance
 - b. Looking to the priest to stand between
 - c. Listening to the prophet to speak for God

c. Civil Law

- i. Established the principle of separation

Deut 7.1-4

Exodus 23.31-33

- ii. Showed the distinction between those who were of God and those who were not

Lev 19.19

Numbers 15.37-40

- iii. Created the longing for union by those who were outside

II. ISRAEL ITSELF WAS FOR CHRIST

There is rich irony here, for the One whose coming defined their reason for existence they rejected and still reject. But nonetheless, they succeeded in fulfilling their mission. For in the practicality of life, ie: how this was lived out by the people and the traditions that grew up in Israel, they pointed to the coming Christ and gave testimony of Someone Else for the sake of something else - Christ, Messiah, Jesus.

- a. Memorials - what God had done was to be remembered for the sake of those who were to follow after. This prepared them to expect God to deliver them.

Ex 13.3-10

Josh 4.1-7

- b. Teaching - What God had commanded was to be carefully taught so that the generations that follow would know their God. This is a mirror of the law, the very air we breathe is to be that of God and His Law.

Deuteronomy 11.1-7; 18-21

- i. Instructions
- ii. Commands
- iii. Explanations
- iv. Corrections

- c. Testimony of promise - the whole culture looked forward to the redemption promised, the coming of Messiah. It was the flavor of the people, always looking, always waiting.

- i. Even their rebellions and the subsequent punishments created this longing

Judges 3.7-11

- ii. Their songs, their traditions... the hidden part of the Passover bread, the Passover itself... their feasts and celebrations all carried the hint and promise of this longing which is their ethnic flavor

III. THE CHURCH IS FOR CHRIST

- a. Evangelism - the activity of sharing the good news of Christ to bring others into the Kingdom of God, so that they too might know the God of truth and glorify Christ.

Matthew 28-.18-20

- b. Preservation of the Law of God. No matter what the culture does around us, the church should be the place where God's law is honored. We, who carry the name of Jesus written in our very souls, should love that which God commands.
- c. Praise/Testimony - as we testify of the goodness of God towards us, we encourage others,

prepare hearts, and magnify the Christ who IS the greatest testimony of the goodness of God.

- d. The Outward/Other focus of the Christian life. The whole flavor of the Christian life is focused on others
 - i. Yes we are made up of individuals - but we are commanded to focus on others rather than self. Even our command to gather is for others.
 - ii. All are important, but the total, the whole, is far more than the simple sum of the parts.
 - iii. We are part of something much larger than ourselves. A single board does not make the building; and a disjointed pile of lumber does not make a home.

IV. THE FAMILY IS FOR CHRIST

- a. The commands have always been to teach our children, to prepare them for Christ

Ephesians 6.1-4

- b. Abraham was chosen so that he might teach his children to love God. All of the promises of God to him were focused on the generations that were to come after
- c. Fathers - the real power of our lives is the impact that we are permitted to make on the generations that come after.
 - i. Testimony of our words
 - Teaching
 - Talking
 - Correcting
 - Rebuking
 - ii. Testimony of our daily practice
 - Our personal devotion
 - Practical obedience to God's law
 - The strength of our marriage

- The manner in which we deal with trials, conflict, disappointments, successes...

iii. Testimony of the total of our lives