

Hebrews 3:1-6

Intro: The rest of the chapter is built on these six verses. In order to understand what the author is saying, you have to understand what 1st century Jews thought of Moses. Moses was probably the most esteemed person above all others. God protected him as a baby and personally provided for his burial at death. Between was miracle after miracle, God spoke to him face to face, Moses was so associated with the law of God so that his writings were called the law of Moses. Some Jews thought that Moses was greater than angels. God spoke to the prophets in visions, but spoke to Moses Face to face. From the author's perspective, he tries to help them understand there is no going back to Moses, because Jesus is greater in His office, His work, and His person

VII. Jesus Is Greater Than Moses – vs 1-6

A. Jesus' Superior Office: As Apostle and High Priest - vs 1

1. Therefore - referring back to something previously written

a. consider

- i. *katanoéō* - to think up to *down* to a *conclusion*; consider *exactly*, *attentively* (*decisively*); to *concentrate* by fixing one's thinking; "'to perceive *clearly*' (*kata*, intensive), 'to understand *fully*, consider *closely*'"
- ii. means *extending* beliefs to their *necessary conclusions* (life-applications).

b. Christ Jesus,

i. Who is He

ii. What is His will

iii. 1Jo 5:1-5 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

2. Holy Brethren Are Fellow Believers - vs 1b

a. holy brethren,

i. both Peter and Paul refer to Jews as brethren - Acts 2:29; 13:38 even though they were referring to unsaved Jews

ii. These are holy brethren, spiritual in nature - Heb 2:11

b. partakers of the heavenly calling,

i. *metochos*

- participant, a sharer; an associate:--fellow, partaker, partner.

- is used of believers *actively sharing* in *Christ's life* which results in *radical transformation*.

ii. heavenly calling

- *epouránios* - heavenly, referring to heaven's influence on a particular situation (person).

- is stronger than its simple root, the prefix (*epi*) focusing on the *appropriate impact* (*influence*) *heaven* has on those walking in faith ("God's inworked *persuasion*").

- *kaléō*, "to call, summon" – *calling*; used of *God inviting all people* to receive His gift of salvation, with all the blessings that go with it

iii. Heavenly people

- they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. - Heb 11:16
- But you have come to the heavenly Jerusalem, - Heb 12:22
- who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places - Eph 1:3; made us sit together in the heavenly places - 2:6

iv. Being heavenly people, we should let go of earthly things

- for them - holding on to Moses and the law
- for us - do we hold on to religious rituals, legalistic thinking, and earthly symbols when we have spiritual reality - true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; - Joh 4:23
 - is unnecessary and pointless
 - can be spiritually harmful - keeps us from experiencing the fullness of our new relationship with God

3. Why Keep Your Eyes On Christ - vs 1c-d

a. all of us are far from discovering all of His glories, all that He is

- Paul had not reached the full depths of knowing Christ - Phil 3:10-12
- A possible reason why so many Christians are spiritually weak, worried, fearful
- Jesus said - "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. - Mt 11:29
- How many Christians can say they actually enjoy Christ and their relationship with Him

b. Christ an Apostle

- Moses could be considered an OT apostle
- apóstolos* - someone sent (commissioned), focusing on their authority as extending from the sender (note the prefix, *apo*); *apostle*.
- Characteristics of an apostle
 - has the rights, power, and authority of the ruler who sent them
 - speaks on behalf of the one who sent them
- Christ came in the power of God, - Jo 10:18
 - with all of God's grace - Jo 1:14
 - with all of God's love - Eph 3:19
 - with all of God's mercy - Eph 2:4
 - with all of God's justice - Jo 5:30
 - to speak what God wanted communicated - Jo 8:28, 38; 12:49

c. Christ the High Priest

- Moses was not a priest, never mind the high priest
- Christ is superior in that He had two offices, Moses had one
- We will deal more with His high priestly office in chapters 4-5
- As priest, He brings God to man and man to God

B. Jesus' Superior Works: As Builder - vs 2-4

1. Almost everything important connected to God is, to a Jew, connected with Moses

a. therefore the author deals gently with the topic

b. he starts with the resemblance of the two

i. Moses was faithful

- Nu 12:7-8a Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face,
- it took 40 years to make Moses useful, -included killing an Egyptian
- then God used him for 40 years, -though He faltered several times

–striking the rock the 2nd time

ii. Jesus was Faithful

- Jo 7:18 "..... but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.
- Jo 8:29 "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."
- Jo 17:4 "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

2. Trustworthy in His House

- a. ***pistós*** – faithful (loyal to faith; fullness of faith), describing the full fidelity of believing the faith God imparts.
- b. ***oikos*** - a house, a dwelling
 - i. refers to people, not a building or dwelling place in this context
 - ii. OT believers were God's household, Moses was a faithful steward in that household
 - iii. Christ was also faithful in His house, the church - **Eph 2:19; 1 Pe 2:4-5**
 - iv. Moses was faithful to an earthly household, Christ to a spiritual (heavenly) household - Jo 17:4 (see above)
- c. We are to be faithful with that which God has entrusted us - 1 Co 4:2
 - i. spiritual gifts - 1 Pe 4:10-11 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ
 - ii. Responsibilities to witness - Jonah; Acts 1:8
 - iii. Our life - 1 Co 6:20; Ro 14:8

3. Why Christ is Greater

- a. He who built the house has more honor than the house.
 - i. Moses was part of the house
 - ii. Jesus made the house whether Israel or the Church and continues to add to it as people believe
- b. For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses,
 - i. because of who He is, the builder - For every house is built by someone,
 - ii. because of who He is - God - but He who built all things is God.
- c. to hold on to external forms of Judaism or Moses is to hold onto the symbols or instrument of reality, to hold onto Jesus is to hold on to reality

C. Jesus' Superior Person: As Son - vs 5-6

- 1. Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant
 - a. ***therápōn*** – an attendant (minister) giving "willing service" ("attendant") *voluntarily* serves, like a friend does in a tender, noble way (used only in [Heb 3:5](#)). Moses is called a faithful ("willing servant") of "the house (people) of God."
 - b. a term of dignity and freedom, not of servility
 - c. but even the highest ranking servant is still a servant
 - i. in Ex 35-40, there are 22 references to Moses' obedience
 - ii. in Ex 40 alone, there are 8 references to Moses' obedience
 - iii. But he was not a son
- 2. but Christ as a Son
 - a. Joh 8:35 "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.
 - b. there is a great difference between a son and a servant

3. To Accept Moses is to Accept Jesus - vs 5b

a. Moses' faithfulness was a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward,

i. Judaism did not and does not understand that Moses was a testimony of things to come - De 18:15,18-19; Ac 3:22; 7:37 "For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.

ii. The OT without the NT is incomplete, it is the shadow without the substance

iii. Heb 10:1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

b. If a person truly accepts the shadow. They would also accept the substance when it becomes known

i. Joh 5:46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

ii. But the opposite is also true - Joh 5:47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

c. but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are

i. Eph 2:22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

ii. The Church is not a building, We are the church,

4. The Mark of True Believers - vs 6b

a. if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

i. doesn't mean we are saved if we hang on to the end

ii. Our continuance is the proof of the reality of our salvation - 1Jo 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

b. Jesus' words

i. Joh 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

ii. Joh 6:39 "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.

Application:

First: test yourself, are you a real born again Christian?

2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.

Second: when we know that we are in Christ, we should keep our eyes on Him. All we need is Him. We are complete in Him.

Heb 12:2-3 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.