

Jesus (Nothing Greater)

Hebrews 3:1

I am going to start by reading a passage of scripture in Hebrews but will explain where we will start and end shortly thereafter. But I like to give context but also get you thinking for weeks to come.

Hebrews 3:1-6

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. Who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses – as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God). Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

We have spent the few weeks prior unpacking that Jesus is far superior to angels, and where Jesus is, for those that don't know by now that is at the right hand of God. We have unpacked what Jesus has done, both in life, death, and in the resurrection. Like we stated a few weeks back the book of Hebrews is the theology of Jesus. I would not state, like many, that the book of Hebrews is solely about the High Priesthood of Jesus, but that it is really the human capability of understanding the theology of Jesus. Truth is, that there will be many things we won't understand, and Hebrews gives us our best shot on earth at an attempt.

Here the Author does a few things, First, he is solely addressing the reader. The Author does not make any connection between himself or those whom he is writing too, it is just "therefore, holy brothers" in this sort of calling them out with a reminder of who they are. Second, The Author though goes into a quick dive into this comparison Jesus to Moses. Seems odd, right? We mentioned a High Priest why would it not be Aaron? Or even Abraham, who was called a "Friend of God."

Isaiah 41:8

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

But The Author chose to compare Jesus to Moses. The purpose is because in the Jewish religious culture Moses is the peak of all people. I mean come on it is Moses. Peter knew who Moses was at the transfiguration with Jesus, and Peter was just a fisherman.

Mark 9:2-5

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

So, it is clear that Moses is not some unknown person, but that he is so important that a fisherman would know the name of Moses. This is not to say fishermen lacked intelligent but that their expertise is not in the Torah. That is because in typical traditions Moses is supreme example of perfection. Think about it, you do not believe Jesus to be the Messiah, well who is the next perfect one in line? Moses. Led the nation for 80 years, saved them from Egypt. What about David? Well in this context, No Moses, no David.

But anyways I must warn you, that I wanted to get your brain going on this because we won't get to Moses till maybe next week or at the end today, pending time. I know throw some stones and we go about, but I am trying to keep fairly short because of our business meeting later. So for now, understand that Jesus > Moses.

So, with that, let us move towards our first verse.

Hebrews 3:1

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,

We know that “*therefore*” is a transition between the previous two chapters and into the next section. So, we will move past that portion and begin to dig into verse 1 really quick. The author uses the words, “*holy brother, you who share in a heavenly calling.*” What that means is this, we are *called* but not in the sense of earthly status, we are called in a heavenly manner.

Christians, let us go over a basic ideology, our calling is not by man but by God. We are to obey the call because it comes from God. Not from anyone else. Not you, nor me, Pastor Jeremy, your boss, or your spouse. This call is from God, the creator of ALL.

This is important so I will repeat myself because it is crucial we understand this. Christians, we are all called but understand that this call does not come from man, but from God.

Even notice how Jesus speaks on this calling at the very end of His time on earth, as He is lifted up. When He is speaking as the resurrected Christ.

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Author continues from the call to that of consider. We spoke on this idea of considering a few months back, but to give you a reminder, “to ponder” “give attentively” but in this context, we are to ponder and attentively weigh the dignity, excellency and the authority of Jesus. We are to behold the name of Jesus Christ

Arthur W. Pink says this:

To “consider” Christ means to behold Him, not simply by a passing glance or giving to Him an occasional thought, but by the heart being fully occupied with Him. “Set me as a seal upon thine heart.” (Song 8:6), is His call to us.

We cannot go about and just occasionally think on the name of Jesus Christ. We will continue to repeat this concept of “considering Jesus” into the ground because it will continue to keep coming up. But let this serve as a reminder that we are to always think on the name of Jesus, always. Is it possible to always think on the name? as humans, no. But to give weight to the process and the attempt to always think on Jesus is far greater than giving weight to your sinful thoughts instead of Jesus.

John Piper says this:

The danger is constantly in our way that we will stop considering Jesus and become more interested in other things and drift away from the Word and perhaps never return and prove that we were never truly partakers of the heavenly calling. So, Hebrews calls us (Christians!) again and again to “Consider Jesus.”

It is interesting because of how easy it is to just think sinful thoughts. We tell ourselves; it is okay. We tell ourselves that these little slips us won’t hurt our salvation. That God still loves me, even while I was still a sinner, right? So, what’s the harm in this? .

Romans 6:1-4

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

We do not sin more because grace abounds, Church! “We know!” but I ask, do we? Do we know that we no longer sin because Christ died? Do we know that our thoughts are just as sinful as our hands and feet? Yet we keep forgetting that even Jesus washed those clean. Do we not yet grasp that our thoughts get us into more sin than our hands and feet?

Matthew 5:28

But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Church, this is why “considering” Jesus is so important. Because it gives weight to our soul for when we sin. Yes, it will cry out, “why?!” but because we know the truth and when we think on Jesus we go from “why?!” to “Lord, forgive me and guide me back to you. Heal me from this sin that enslaves me. Remind me Lord that I am your bondservant. I am not no longer a slave to this (fill in the blank) sin, God. Bring me back to you.”

Romans 6:6

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

But knowing all that we just said is why the next section of Hebrews 3:1 *“great apostle and high priest of our confession”* is so important. Because Jesus was not only sent to redeem us for the Glory of God but also that He was sent by God to give us the Great News of the Glory, Merciful and Graceful God. He was the first Apostle and great Apostle.

Arthur W. Pink

He (Jesus) was the first apostle, the twelve being appointed by Him. His apostolic jurisdiction was more extensive than others; Peter was an apostle of the circumcision. Paul of the Gentiles; but Christ preached both to them that were nigh and to them that were far off.

And scripture tells us the same:

Romans 15:8

Christ the Hope of the Jews and Gentiles. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs.

John 20:21

Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'

But catch this, the Author of Hebrews call Jesus the Apostle and High Priest, encompassing the entire Gospel of Jesus in just two words! If you want to get technical it basically states that, titles are parallel designations, which view the accomplishment of Jesus in terms of the divine authorization for his word and work. (William Lane)

So not only was Jesus sent to give us the Great News, but that His mission was also to be our High Priest, to hear our confessions. Much like the High Priest would at the Day of Atonement would hear the confessions of the Israelite Nation. But now, Jesus is the High Priest for ALL nations.

He is the one who stands the trial for us! He is the one who steps in on the day of our judgement and says, “No, they do not go to the lake of fire but instead they can be at your feet Father, because I paid that price! I paid that price!” And in that moment Jesus opens up his hands and reveals his feet to the Father and shows the cost. The cost of what it took to pay the wrath of God. To show that God paid His own wrath...God paid His own wrath, with His Son.

Hebrews 2:17

Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Galatians 1:4

Who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Romans 5:9

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

I'll say it again. God paid His own wrath, God paid His own wrath so that we may be at His feet giving glory to Him. When all God could have done was snap his fingers and we are fixed, or we are all dead. Instead God honored his word back in Genesis 3, and gave up His son as a sacrifice to step on the snake with His heel.

I want to make a point here, that the author uses the word "holy" right before brothers, but we all know that we become holy only through Jesus Christ. I bring this up after what I said because to be called Holy is because we are made holy by Jesus but that it means that Jesus is not ashamed of us. Jesus is not ashamed of us.

You need to let that sink in because the truth is, we are ashamed of Him. And before you automatically assume I am not talking to you, take a second and ask yourself was your thought just now on Christ or against me?

But this idea, it is a lot like what we talked about our Wednesday Night Study group when we talked about the difference between the wrath of man and the wrath of God. We clearly know the wrath of God is far greater than the wrath of man. But the difference is that we believe that the wrath of God comes only at judgement, and so we put it off like a raincoat in the summer. But wrath of man, well we will wear those jackets year-round because to us it seems immediate and effective. And as humans, we fear the immediate unknown. We fear what we do not know, but more so if the unknown is happening right now. Will this person reject me? But let me remind you of something, and be fair, when I say "you", I really mean "we."

Matthew 10:28

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

We do not need to fear man, for man has no power here. He may take your flesh and potentially your life, but God can take or give it all from either of you.

Philippians 1:21

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain

Church, remember whom you serve. Remember whom you serve. Jesus Christ, the First Apostle sent by God. Jesus Christ, our High Priest, given to us by God to atone for our sins. Both of these roles indicate two things, Jesus is not ashamed of you. In fact, He loved you enough to come down in human form.

Church, let us not be ashamed of the Lord our God, the savior of our soul. The Great Redeemer. We can never truly exhaust this concept of "considering Jesus" or that He is our high priest, and truth be told Church, this will come up again and again and again in the book of Hebrews. So, if you are ready for one thing, it is this. "Consider" the name of our Lord, Jesus. Says His name. Meditate on His name.

John Piper says this about verse 1

In other words, this "heavenly calling" relates to the two great needs that we have: a word from God and a way to God. It's a heavenly calling, which means it is a word from heaven, a word from God. And it's a calling, which means it is meant to show us the way home to God. Christians are people who have been

gripped by this calling. The word of God broke through our resistance and took hold of us with the truth and love of Christ and reconciled us to God and is now leading us home to heaven. This means that Christians are people of great hope. God has spoken from heaven, and made a way to heaven, and we have believed, and our hope and confidence are firm.

As Piper mentioned that our hope and confidence is firm in Jesus Christ, and you may sit there and think, “dude, when are you going to stop with the hope stuff, we get it. Hope in Jesus. Got it! Great!”

I tell you this, when you have lost all hope, and I mean lost all. The nightmares have won, and you have lost. You’re done. But then Christ comes, and the nightmares have lost. The feeling of hopelessness is gone but this feeling of hopeful is present to where you can sleep in the middle of a hurricane on a boat.

In that concept and that idea, The Hope in Christ is all you want to talk about.

You see, Christ broke through our resistance and took hold of us...Christ broke through and took hold of us. We saw that in Piper’s quote. Christ broke through. That is what we are talking about!

What does that image look like to you?

What is not allowing Christ to break through that resistance and take hold of you from speaking his name?

You may sit here before and say, “nothing, I just don’t have time.” But yet you have time to other things. Watch tv? Watch baseball? Take a nap? Play video games? But what about the other things you do, the ones you hide from us, your family, the church? You have time do those things. You even think you are hiding them from God.

Church, I am not up here to condemn you. No, that is far from my job because I am far from perfect. With the past I have had, probably one of the worst. But the point being is that even I have to ask myself, is “what I am doing or about to do worthy of the name of Jesus?”

Because if not, then you must admit that “I am an apostle of sin, not of Christ”. I am not a “holy” brother but an enemy of God. Church, come back to Christ, and confess to the Great High Priest, the one who will stand, unashamed of your sins, before the Most High and Glorious God. Be one that He sends out and speaks the name of Jesus. Let us go and remind the world of the name of Jesus.

In Burma, present-day also known as Myanmar, is a stone, a memorial stone. On that stone is the name Adoniram Judson and his missionary legacy to the people of Burma. Why do I bring this up? Judson’s work was very effective. His bible, and dictionary is still used today throughout the churches that meet in secret. He is titled as one of the first and greatest American Baptist Missionaries of all time. Not even William Carey’s work is used in India today. But the point is, when the Political government swayed and denounced Christianity, they decided that this memorial stone needs to go. That the work of Judson and the Gospel of Jesus needs to leave Burma. So, they attempted to bulldoze it and throw the pieces into the river. But this stone was much bigger than a what we vision, this thing was huge. So, since the government could not destroy the stone, they buried the stone. And so even to this day, it has been buried. *side note, a great point out that many cannot even destroy a stone*

But recently an Author, of Judson Biography, went to Myanmar and met an elderly man there, who watched the stone get buried. It is important to know that because the Elderly man knew the tale of the Judson's, and he told the Author, "When the government yet again sways, come and dig up that stone." What the Elderly was saying by repeating "come dig up that stone" to the visitor was that the nation of Myanmar needs to remember what her former self, Burma, knew... that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Was not about the stone as it was what the stone represents. The Elderly man knew that his nation needs Jesus Christ.

Church we are called to spread the news across the world. To those oppressed, and those blessed. Gospel is for everyone; it is not a decision you or I get to make of whom deserves the Gospel. Just ask Jonah. We are called by God to spread the Great News of Jesus Christ.

But first, we have to answer that call in our heart that we been ignoring for so long. But aside your sin, put aside your selfishness. Jesus is calling, and He will take you as you are. So, pick up that phone.

Let's pray.