

## Hebrews 3:1-6

“Consider Christ Jesus”

As we enter into Ch 3 I would remind you that though there is immeasurable insight and application for you and me to be found throughout this particular epistle its primary target audience was to the Jewish believing community. You recall that this letter was written during a time of transition (if you will) Christ had come, He had fulfilled all of the “types” and foreshadowing’s found in the law and the prophets and now that the substance was made manifest there was no more need to operate in the shadows. That is, the old covenant of law had been fulfilled in Christ and a new covenant of grace was being dispensed *through* Christ. There was no more need for the religious rituals of Judaism, no more need for animal sacrifice, the Lamb of God had (once for all) taken away the sin of the world and now the need was to simply look *to* Him and trust *in* Him for the remission, that is the forgiveness of your sin. and In looking *to* Him, being identified *with* Him by faith is to have His righteousness imputed to you, you being washed clean, being made white like snow in the sight of the Father.

But we realize that even as not everyone is a believer today, not everyone was a believer then either. There were all kinds of Jewish families who didn’t believe in Jesus, they still adhered to the temple rites and traditions. and If you came to Christ you were disowned, you were dis-fellowshipped, you couldn’t buy or sell, Jewish believers were being tested, they were being tortured, their families were suffering and being stretched, and because of that there were those who were contemplating a return to the tradition. and So the writer to the Hebrews seeks to intervene, to encourage them, to exhort them to cling to and continue on *in* Christ.

He’s been demonstrating the superiority of Christ (so incredibly I might add) over anything or anyone else. He’s greater than the prophets, He’s greater than the angels, fully God, yet fully man, made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, that He might taste death (as it were) for everyone. and We took the time last week to examine the necessary nature of Christ as being not only fully God, but also fully Man. and That if either aspect of His nature is in anyway diminished or in anyway reduced He is in fact unable to save us. It’s that critical, we need the righteousness of God because we’ve all sinned and fall short of the glory of God, nothing less than the perfect righteousness of God Himself is able to hit the mark of righteousness that God will recognize as acceptable. Yet God can’t save man apart from a Man who’s able meet that mark, just as the blood of bulls and goats can’t save a man, it takes man to stand in the gap on behalf of man. and So if Jesus isn’t fully Man, He can’t stand in the gap for you and me as our kinsmen redeemer. Not to mention He can’t receive the promise that God has made to man to place all things under His feet in the world to come whereby He will rule and reign with a rod of iron in perfect righteousness. So Jesus has to be fully God, but He has to be fully Man.

So Jesus has been compared to the prophets, He outshines them all, He's been evaluated in the light of the angelic hosts, He exceeds them exceedingly. But there's one more, one whom was considered (in the minds of most Jews) to be the greatest person to ever walk the face of the earth, and though Abraham was the father of faith, the pride of Israel lie in what? The law... God gave His holy law to the nation of Israel, and He gave His law to Israel through who? Through Moses, Moses is "the man" in the eyes of Israel, if there's anyone to be looked up to, to be adhered, and held in the utmost of respect and admiration it's Moses. and Though the writer won't minimize the work of God through Moses, He'll magnify the work of God through Christ exceedingly above and beyond the work of God through Moses.

He's saying don't meander back to Moses; cling desperately to Christ, the work of God through Christ was infinitely greater than *anything* accomplished through Moses.

Vs1

"Therefore" which as we've stated before is a word that will often take us from information to application, we look back at what's been said and in light of that take to heart what's being said. Because of who Christ is (our faithful High Priest, partaker of flesh and blood) and what He's done, (tasted death and made propitiation or reconciliation *for* us, gives aid *to* us), "holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus."

We're going to spend a little time here today here in this 1<sup>st</sup> Vs. There is so much bound up in even these 3 words, "Consider Christ Jesus." But note 1<sup>st</sup> of all who he's addressing; he says, "Therefore *holy brethren*," he immediately qualifies those to whom he is addressing this exhortation in identifying them as holy brethren. He's talking to believers, the word "holy" speaking of being separate, that is set apart. How is it that one is made holy? How is it that one is set apart to the plan and the purpose of God? Through faith in Jesus Christ There's nothing of intrinsic value in us, in us, that is in our flesh there is no good thing that dwells. It's Christ *in* you, Christ in me that is the hope of glory; we are set apart, made holy in Christ.

"Brethren" we're apart of the family of God, we talked about this last week, both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one. God is our Father, Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, but by His work on our behalf we're brought into the family of God as by adoption, being purchased by the shedding of His blood on our behalf. Therefore He's not ashamed of His association with us, to call us His brethren. and Once again I might underscore the fact that He's fairest of 10,000's, the sovereign/holy/Creator God of the universe, why would I *ever* be ashamed of Him? But many are the reasons that He could be ashamed of me... Yet He's not, oh 1 day He may be. Jesus said, "*For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.*" Luke 9:26

The bible teaches that there will actually be those who are ashamed at His appearing, hanging their head low (as it were) because of how they've led their lives in Christ; having been ashamed of their association with Him, sought to lead "secret service" Christian lives, didn't want anyone to really know that they were His. Jesus says that if we're ashamed of Him, and of His words, then when He returns He'll be ashamed of us. I pray that God would work in us (not an obnoxiousness) but a beautifully balanced boldness, that we not be ashamed of our association with Jesus Christ our Savior, our Redeemer, our Friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Notice not only are we "holy brethren" but we're also, "partakers of the heavenly calling." Again this takes us back to Vs 14 of Ch 2. Jesus partook of flesh and blood; He partook of the earthly things, that we might partake, that is partner with Him in the heavenly things. That's what this word; "partakers" literally speaks of, a "partnership." It's the word used in Luke 5:7 when Jesus was still in the throws of the beginning of His earthly ministry and He was about to call a few fishermen to forsake all and follow Him. and You remember He was on the beach teaching and the crowd began to press in on Him. and So he got into the little boat of a man named Simon (Peter) and when they'd went out into the water He sat down to teach the people. and When He ceased teaching He told Simon to let down His nets for a catch. Simon was all, "Hey we've fished all night and caught nothing, nevertheless at Your word I will." and We read that there was such an overwhelming amount of fish to be found in the nets that they began to break. Vs 7 says...

*"So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink."* Luke 5:7 That word "partners" those who profited along with Peter there in that Vs is the same word we read of here in being "partakers" of the heavenly calling. Jesus is going to share with us the rewards of His service, of His faithfulness; we are partners in the heavenly calling.

Therefore, "*Consider* the Apostle, and the High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus." Now if you're anything like me when you hear the word, "Apostle" probably the 1<sup>st</sup> person to pop in your mind isn't, "Jesus." We're familiar with the apostle Paul, or the apostle John, or Peter, Matthew or James, but we don't generally call "Jesus" to mind. Yet truly He *is* the quintessential Apostle. What is an Apostle? Well, technically it's a delegate right? It's an ambassador, one sent forth (a messenger) with a message and the authority of the One who sent him backing him fully. Now if that doesn't describe Jesus I don't know what does. Sent forth, from the Father, not to do His own will but the will of Him who sent Him. He was a messenger, He had a message, a message of repentance toward God and faith in Him, He had the full authority of the Father at His disposal, backing Him, filling Him, flowing through Him. He said, "*For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*" John 6:38 Jesus Christ is the "apostle" *and* the *High Priest* of our confession.

Now we just skimmed the surface of this last time, and we're not going to much deeper this time because there will be a significant amount of time delegated to the "High Priestly" service of Jesus a little later on. But Jesus is our High Priest, who was the High Priest? Well, not only did He represent God to the people, but He represented the people to God, right? There were all kinds of priests under the Mosaic law, but there was only 1 High Priest. and This was the guy who on that great day of the year, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Would enter in past the veil (in the tabernacle) into the Holy of Holies, the nation of Israel awaiting eagerly, anticipating the outcome outside the tent. Because this is the day that He would enter into the Holy of Holies with the blood of the sin offering in order that atonement might be made, not only for himself, but for the whole nation. and Should the priest return from outside the tabernacle (if there was sin in his life he'd be struck dead in the presence of God) the people would erupt in worship, and have a great celebration, God had received the sacrifice and their sins had been forgiven. The High Priest had stood in the gap on behalf of the people, and the sacrifice was received, the people forgiven. Again a perfect picture of the High Priestly service of Jesus Christ on our behalf. He entered in to the Holy of Holies, not with the blood of bulls or goats but with the precious blood He'd spilled on our behalf. He stood in the gap on our behalf; God received His sacrifice, mankind forgiven by faith in Him.

Now, the exhortation here is to *consider* the Apostle, and the High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus. What does it mean, "The High Priest, *of our confession*."? What is a confession? Well, to confess something is to consent to it, it's to agree with it, it's to acknowledge it's rightful place. Of course Jesus said, "*Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.*" Matt 10:32 We're familiar with Rom 10:9 "...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." It is imperative to your salvation that you consent (not only from your head, but from your heart) to who Jesus is, it's essential that you agree with who Jesus is, that you acknowledge Him in His rightful place; the sovereign Son of God who laid down His sinless life for the sin of the world.

We well know that this "confession" goes well beyond a verbal assent whereby we acquiesce to a certain philosophy or set of ideals. But it's a confession that involves the totality of who I am, a lifestyle.

My life, by the way I lead it, the things I say, the things I do, that which I'm apart of or not apart of should readily confess, that is display the reality of Christ in my life. You see I can say whatever I want verbally, but what I display in my life...now that's reality isn't it? We're to *confess* Christ, submit to Him, acknowledge Him, surrender to Him, giving Him His rightful place of Lordship over our lives. Jesus said, "...*why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?*" Luke 6:46 Our confession of Him should be a concession to Him regarding all that we are.

Now, *consider* Him whom you *confess*. and Again this word, “Consider” is one of those words that absolutely chalked full. What does it mean to “consider” Jesus, and to what end are we to consider Him? Well as you may imagine the word goes well beyond a casual glance, it lends itself more to the idea of a stargazer. Paying attention for prolonged periods of time to pick up on the most subtle of details, it’s a word that speaks of giving faithful attention, of perceiving thoroughly with the mind. We’ve been speaking recently regarding meditating, contemplating, musing through and allowing the word of God to make that transition from head knowledge to heart application. That’s we’re talking about in the idea of *considering* Jesus, thinking about Him, meditating upon Him, so as to gain understanding *of* Him. You see as you *consider* Him, as you contemplate Him, as you begin to understand Him, His commitment to you, His concern for you, His love for you, His faithfulness to the Father on behalf of you, that will translate into you being encouraged in *your* faithfulness to Him, you’ll be strengthened in your fortitude, your follow through, your commitment to Him.

Who has humbled themselves for the sake of another (namely you and me) like Jesus has? Who has suffered for the sake of another (namely you and me) like Jesus has? Who has displayed, love, compassion, care and concern for me like Jesus has? Consider the love of God in sending His only begotten Son for you, for me. It was a message of such importance, so critical in it’s nature that God sent His own Son to deliver it. Consider the love of God in that He cares for you so much that He put the ultimate Mediator between you and Himself, placing His own Son between Himself and sinful man. Gaze upon Him, think about Him, give attention to Him...

Vs2

So here comes the comparison between Moses, and the man Christ Jesus. God appointed Moses, and Moses was faithful in all His house (speaking of the congregation of the Lord.) Remember when Aaron and Miriam were giving Moses some grief because he’d married an Ethiopian woman? and God called them out on the carpet. He said, “*Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?*” Num 12:6-8 How did God represent Moses? As faithful, 1 Cor 4:2, “*Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.*” Certainly Moses was faithful. He was appointed by God, sent by God (an apostle in that sense of the word) given authority by God, and was faithful *to* God and His call upon his life.

But as to where Moses' faithfulness faltered, the faithfulness of Jesus was perfect. Moses misrepresented God when he struck the rock when he was told to speak to the rock. Jesus never misrepresented God, He was faithful to Him (that is the Father) who appointed Him. Remember Jesus said, *"The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."* John 8:29 Never misrepresent Him, am *always* faithful to Him. Now, what's the meter, or the merit by which the Lord will judge us at the bema seat (that is the judgment seat) of Christ. Not regarding salvation (that's free in Christ) but regarding your rewards? Faithfulness. Remember He said that on that day He'd say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."* Matt 25:21

God desires that we be faithful to Him, to direction, to His correction in our lives. There was never a time when Jesus wasn't faithful to the Father, that should encourage you in His role in your life. Because that means that you can count on the fact that there will *never be a time* when He'll be unfaithful to you, He'll never leave you nor forsake you, He'll always be there for you. Whatever your need may be, Jesus is the "becoming" one. He will become for you the deep need of your heart. If you're tired and weary regarding the struggles and strains of this world Jesus says, *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* Matt 11:28 Jesus will "rest" you, (and we'll talk more about the rest of God over the next couple of weeks). Thirsting for more than what this world has to offer? Jesus said, *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."* John 7:37-38 If you're hurting He's the God of all comfort, lonely; He's the friend that sticks closer than a brother. Need insight or understanding, He's the wonderful counselor, in need of healing emotionally, or spiritually, perhaps physically, He is the Lord our healer, the Great Physician, "is there anything too hard for Me, says the Lord?" He's the faithful One, the becoming One, the meeter of your deepest need. God help us that we be faithful to Him, to the Lord and His will done His way in our lives.

Now as for the comparison, that's it. Jesus was faithful to God and His people as Moses was faithful to God and His people, the rest is contrast.

Vs3-4

What we're going to be getting at here is this. There is a major difference between Jesus and Moses, there were things comparable, yes. Both sent, both deliverers, both appointed by God, both faithful to God. But as to where Moses was a *laborer in* the house, Jesus is *Lord over* the house. "For this One..(that is Jesus) has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses." No one would deny that if there were ever a man who received glory from God in the presence of the people it was Moses. Of course we're reminded of the literal glory, the glow that shone from Moses' face as the result of his having spent time in His presence, in fellowship with the Lord upon the Mt (Ex 34). God glorified him in the sense of justifying him before Aaron and Miriam (as we sighted earlier).

When the sons of Korah accused him of having a monopoly on the ministry thinking that he was the only man God could use. Once again (Num 16) God vindicated him by causing the earth to open and swallow his accusers alive taking them down into the pit. Moses was counted worthy of glory, but this “One” speaking of Jesus has been counted worthy of “more glory” than Moses.

There they were at the baptism of Jesus, and after John had baptized Him as Jesus came up out of the water we read that the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. “*And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’*” Matt 3:17 An open declaration from God in Heaven regarding the status of Jesus, His Son. One day Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a Mt and we read where He was transfigured before them. (Moses *reflected* the glory of God, Jesus *shared* and *showed* the glory of God). and While He was transfigured before them, there stood Elijah and (who else) Moses, and they were discussing what was to come regarding the cross. Peter didn’t know what to say; so he said, “*Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah*” Mark 9:5 Hey they were all there together, apparently on par with one another, and so Peter says, “Let’s make 3 tabernacles, 1 for each of ya.” and We read, “*And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!’*” Mark 9:7 Translation: “Don’t be placing Moses or Elijah on par with My Son, hear and take heed to Him, the law and the prophets point to and are fulfilled *in Him*.” Worthy of more glory than Moses.

Of course we consider the glory with which God glorified Jesus at the resurrection, not allowing His holy One to see corruption, raising Him from the dead, glorifying Him, magnifying Him more than any other. Giving Him the name that’s above every name that at His name every knee should bow and every tongue should confess to the glory of the Father that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Vs5-6

What does this mean, “if we hold fast the confidence and rejoicing of hope firm to the end.”? We’ll touch on that next time. What I want you to see for now is the contrast between Moses as a servant, and Jesus as a *Son*. Moses was the creature, Jesus is the Creator. There is a definite distinction between a *servant in* the house and a *Son over* the house. Moses “ministered in the shadows.” That is his ministry was a foreshadowing, it was for a testimony of those things which would afterward be spoken, that is it was given as a witness. It testified concerning things to come, his ministry was a foreshadowing. The ministry of Christ was that of *substance*, it was the fulfillment of that which Moses foreshadowed. Moses ministered in shadows, Christ brought the gospel of the grace of God fully and finally to the light. For the law came through Moses but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ

So Moses a servant *in* the house, Christ the Son *over* the house, whose house *we are*, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. and Of course the general idea there is that of abiding in Christ. But you are the very house of God, by His Spirit God dwells in you. Paul said, “*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*” Eph 2:19-22 Peter spoke of us as “living stones” being built up a spiritual house. I guess the question is what kind of home is our heart for the Lord to dwell in? Cluttered in carnality, messed up by materialism, or properly prioritized, swept clean by the Spirit of God, holy, for the Lord your God is holy? Consider Christ Jesus, and grieve not the Spirit. If there’s some order that needs restored in your life today, let the Lord restore it, if there’s some garbage that needs taken out of your life, out of your heart, be washed clean by the word of God as by the Spirit of God today. If you’ve never given your life to Christ, why not let the blood of Jesus wash over you, making you brand new today? He partook of flesh and blood, that He might taste death for everyone, that in Him we might be partakers (that is partners with Him) in the heavenly calling. Consider carefully the Apostle and the High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.

#### Prayer Points:

Lord may we come to know You more and more through the study and intake of Your word. Not just knowing about You, but truly knowing You, being transformed more and more into the likeness *of* You. Teach us to truly “consider” You, the Apostle, and High Priest of our confession. You’ve come to us, represented the Father *to* us, delivered us from sin and death and what can we say? Lord just have Your way in us, may we be faithful to You, even as You are faithful to us, strengthen us, we fall so short. Thank You for Your grace

If you need that fresh cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ to wash over you and make you brand new, I want to encourage you to be open to the Lord even now. He wants to meet your deepest need, that need of forgiveness, the release of your sin debt, He’s paid the price, newness of life awaits. Confess with your mouth, and believe in Your heart that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead for payment in full for your sin, and you’ll be saved.