

A Perspective Converting And Life Changing Consideration

Of the many things that the Holy Spirit of Truth accomplishes with the epistle to the Hebrews -- one of them is specifically the revelation of Christ's ministry on our behalf in heaven...or, in eternity.

The premise of its presentation of the gospel of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ actually begins there. He.1:1-2 tells us at the very outset: "God -- who at sundry times and in divers manners [I.e. in many different periods of the history of fallen humanity -- and in many different ways and means] spake in time past [Or, having directly communicated -- in former days and times] unto the fathers [From among the masses of fallen sinners that make up the entire history of fallen humanity -- unto those chosen to be the patriarchs of the faith -- God in particular spoke] by [or, lit. "in"] the prophets [I.e. in their Holy Spirit inspired sayings and writings -- hath God spoken] (2) hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son [Although there is a significance -- as to the when that the expression "these last days" makes -- the stress of the difference between then and now is hereby said to be the source of God's direct speaking and communication. He declares that it is now] by [or, once again -- lit. "in"] His Son [I.e. Gods eternal, only begotten Son] -- whom He hath appointed heir of all things [Or, whom He hath fixed -- set -- purposed -- predestined -- to be the heir of all things. The idea of "sonship" easily passes into that of "heirship". In speaking of us -- for whom Christ represents: Gal.4:7 says: "*Wherefore thou art no more a bond-slave -- but a son! And if a son -- then an heir of God through Christ!*"] by whom also He made the worlds!" [Or, lit. by whom also He made the "ages"! This includes all the facets of eternity that literally encompass our present age of sin and death! None are left out. The Son -- as seen in the Lord Jesus Christ -- truly is almighty creator God!]]

The eternal person of the Son of God in the Lord Jesus Christ is exalted by the Holy Spirit so much throughout the epistle of the Hebrews. And, the first two chapters declare the Savior Son of man to be none other than the eternal Son of God!

He.1:3 tells us that this same person who purged our sins and "*sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high*" -- is the "*brightness of (lit.) glory -- and the express image of His person -- and upholding all things by the word of His power!*" This is none other than almighty God! And, this

is the beginning of the declaration of the gospel of His glory!

Vs.4-6 make it clear that although He is born as a man into this world -- He is “so much better than the angels”. In fact -- the word says: “And let all the angels of God worship Him.”

Vs.8-9 reveals that God the Father said to His Son: “Thy throne -- O God -- is forever and ever!” This means that He reigns and rules eternally. And, He reveals what sort of regime of rule that He has when He also says: “A Scepter of righteousness -- is the scepter of Thy Kingdom. (9) Thou hast loved righteousness -- and hated iniquity...” And -- how pleased that He, God, is with His Son’s rule: “Therefore, God -- even Thy God -- hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.” [I.e. all thy companions]

Vs.10-12 puts the authority of Christ’s sovereignty over all creation: “And thou Lord [being the eternal Son of God in human flesh] -- in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth [Which is the very staging arena where it is predestined to be revealed and unfolded -- His person and work -- as the only eternal sovereign Savior Substitute for elect sinners that there ever was, is or ever will be!] -- and the heavens are the works of thine hands! [The very universe in which the earth is placed and put on display] (11) They shall perish [As the consequence of man’s sin -- the present heavens and earth are temporary] -- but thou remainest. [Because He is God the Son almighty!] And they shall wax old as doth a garment -- (12) and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up -- and they shall be changed! But thou art the same -- and thy years shall not fail.” [This isn’t to say that time will not end -- but that for Him -- and by conclusion from the scripture, those placed in Him in eternity -- i.e. His progeny -- the years of time will just fade away -- and transition -- into eternity where time has all been done!]

But, the years of time won’t pass away -- without first accomplishing all that the sovereign ruler of providence has determined to do as the God/man. Hence the point that God did not commandingly say to any of the angels Ps.110:1. He.1:13 quotes this text and tells us this when it asks: “But to which of the angels said He at any time -- ‘Sit on my right hand -- until I make thine enemies thy footstool’?” And then vs.14 explains: “Are they not all ministering spirits -- sent forth to minister for them who (lit.) are about to inherit salvation [I.e. through the eternal Son

of God incarnate: the Lord Jesus Christ]?"

And, all of this successful work of Jesus Christ here on the earth -- in time and space -- in and among the history of fallen humanity -- begins and ends with Him as being the eternal Son of God! And, Hebrews keeps explaining this fact to us: He.2:1-3> "Therefore -- we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard -- lest at any time we should let them slip! [Or, lit. run right by us!] (2) For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast [Or, lit. the giving of the word of the law confirmed as being truth because it was spoken to Israel through angels] -- and every transgression and disobedience [of the law] received a just recompence of reward [Or, a just and righteous requital] -- (3) how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation -- which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord -- and was confirmed unto us by them that heard."

And then this chapter unfolds for us -- that all things have been put under subjection to the Son of God, our Savior. When I say all things -- I mean everything! Even though at the present time we do not see all things put under Him -- nevertheless, they still are! He.2:9-10 tells us: "But we see Jesus -- who was made a little lower than the angels -- for the suffering of death -- crowned [lit. as victor] with glory and honor -- that He by the grace of God (lit.) should taste death for every! [It not being identified -- exactly -- every one of whom that it is -- that He tastes death for. It is presumptuous to say every "man" -- for that is just too general. And, because of the word's declared success of the atonement of Christ -- we dare not risk being in error about such a significant matter!] Vs.10 goes on to say: For it became Him -- (lit.) for on account of all things [The all things that He has in subjection under His sovereign rule and authority] -- in bringing many sons unto glory [Here it is identified what -- in truth -- belongs at the end of ys.9 -- "that He by the grace of God should taste death for every son!"]

"In bringing many sons unto glory [-- to make the captain of their salvation [I.e. the same as Acts 3:15: "the Prince of Life -- whom God hath raised from the dead!"] and He. 12:2: "the Author and finisher of our faith"] perfect through sufferings." [I.e. Jesus was made to be perfectly suitable as a Substitute and a Propitiation for chosen sinners -- through His sufferings for their sin -- from temptation (although He never sinned) to punishment -- as a human being and in likeness to a bond-slave!]

The eternal Son of God had to live and die -- as a human being -- in order to make effective in time -- His heavenly ministry to us! He had to live and die as a human being in order to substantiate the eternity of His adoption of us -- into God's family. Ro.4:25 declares that He... “was delivered [I.e. delivered over to death] for our offences -- and was raised again for our justification.” [Which also must mean our reconciliation -- which hinges upon our justification] And, Eph.1:5-7 declares that God: “Having predestinated us -- unto adoption of children by Jesus Christ unto Himself -- according to the good pleasure of His will -- (6) the praise of the glory of His grace -- wherein He made us accepted in the Beloved -- (7) in whom we have redemption through His blood -- (lit.) the remission of sins -- according to the riches of His grace!” By which -- the word says in vs.9 -- “by the grace of God” -- He tasted death for every one of us His sons -- His children!]

And then the point is firmly made from vs.11 that “...both He that sanctifieth [Which is the Holy Spirit (2Thess.2:13)]-- and they who are sanctified -- are all of One! For which cause He is not ashamed to call them Brethren, (12) saying: 'I will declare thy Name unto my Brethren! In the midst of the Church will I sing praise unto thee'! And again: (13) (lit.) 'I will be trusting in Him.' And again: 'I and the Children which God hath given me'.” [Showing that the children's trusting in God is all because of Christ -- their Substitute's -- trusting in God!]

These are the elect of God unto eternal salvation! Not one of the many spiritual blessings that are necessary for their eternal salvation is contingent upon any of them -- or, anything in them. They are every one received and made eternally effective through the Lord Jesus Christ -- all of them without exception!

Hence, the explanation -- (14) “Forasmuch then as the Children are partakers of flesh and blood -- He also Himself (lit.) in like manner took part of the same. That through death -- He might destroy [Or, lit. render powerless] him that had the power of death -- that is the devil! (15) And, deliver [Or, lit. set free] them who through fear of death -- were all their lifetime subject to bondage. [I.e. specifically the bondage of sin. Sin and death always go together!] (16) For verily, He (lit.) taketh not hold of the nature of angels -- but He taketh hold of the seed of Abraham! [I.e. the seed of the chosen. Those of every family of fallen mankind that are

promised by God to be blessed in Abraham!] (17) *Wherefore* [Or, consequently] *in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His Brethren -- that He* [Who is the Truth] *might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the things pertaining to God* [*“For by mercy and truth -- iniquity is purged”*] *to make reconciliation* [Or, lit. propitiation] *for the sins of the People.*”

And again -- vs.18 explains how perfectly suited to being our Substitute our Lord Jesus Christ has become: “*For in that He Himself hath suffered* -- (lit.) *having been tempted* -- *He is able to succor them* [I.e. to help them] *that are being tempted.*”

Now we come in the context of today’s message that which issues to us the injunction for us to seriously consider -- to set our minds focus upon -- to take into account -- the Lord Jesus Christ.

He.3:1-6 says in drawing a conclusion of chapters one and two:

“*Wherefore* [Consequently -- as a result of the things said in chapters 1 and 2] *holy Brethren* [Elect of Christ -- People and family of God by Christ] -- *partakers of the heavenly calling* [I.e. partakers of the eternal Son of God -- having been sealed by the Spirit of grace in an eternal standing in Him] -- *consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession* [(lit.) “*confession*”] -- *Christ Jesus.* (2) *Who was faithful to Him that appointed Him* [I.e. God the Father -- whose will and word He came and in perfect obedience fulfilled] -- *as also Moses was faithful in all His house* [I.e. God’s house]. (3) *For this man* [I.e. the God/man -- Christ Jesus] *was counted worthy of more glory than Moses -- inasmuch as He who builded the house -- hath more honor than the house.*”

This is referring to the appointed time that the ministry of Moses was “*builded*” -- or established in redemptive history -- or prepared on the timeline of the history of fallen humanity -- by God. Moses did not thrust himself forward as the prominent figure of the hour for God and the children of Israel -- he did not even want the leadership position that he held. God made him to be the man that he was -- and brought him forward to be the leader that he was -- for the children of Israel. This was the time of the types and shadows of the historically yet to come Messiah -- Christ of God -- our Lord and Savior, Jesus. This was the time of the Old Covenant. That whole period was constructed and conducted by the Lord! It was God’s “*house*” of the hour in history --

and Moses was put in charge of it. He was faithful -- in a fallible kind of way -- but, this house of types was not destined -- not purposed -- to last. It was only temporary. It stood only until its types and shadows were all fulfilled in -- and made real by -- Christ...who He.1:3 says, was all the time, "upholding all things by the word of His power". Praise His Name! Hence, He who rules over the providence of the existence of a regime -- causing it to come to pass -- overseeing all of its circumstantial ups and downs and ins and outs as it seems -- is worthy of more honor than even the main character of the time! Why....?

(4) "For every house is builded by some man [I.e. established and prepared by some man] -- but He that built all things [I.e. sovereignly establishes and prepares all things] is God. (5) And Moses verily [Or, truly] was faithful in all His house [I.e. again -- all God's house] -- as a servant [This is not from the usual word that is most often used as servant, viz. bond-slave -- but is a unique -- one time -- use of a word that pictures a person that is appointed as an attendant of the particular duties discharged upon him to perform. The performance of the duties, however, are guaranteed to be performed -- by the one who issues the charge. In this case -- that one is God. He will accomplish through Moses that which He has intended to be done. Moses wasn't about to go anywhere -- or do anything -- until God assured him of His enabling grace! "Show me now thy way", he says, -- "that I may know thee -- that I may find grace in thy sight...". [Ex.33:13] God told him in vs.14, "My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest". This was enough!

Moses was chosen by God and elevated to the position of leadership that God thrust upon him to hold! Moses -- try as he did -- could not choose to not lead Israel throughout the last 40 years of his whole life! Hence, it says in He.3:5 he was to serve in this manner: for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after. [That which God had ordained for Moses would forever earmark this time -- as his time -- in the whole history of fallen humanity! It would forever distinguish him as a being a figurehead of great significance in redemptive history!]

(6) But Christ -- as a Son over His own house [Again, that's God's own house] -- whose house are we [I.e. to say -- that just what the children of Israel were in relation to Moses -- as a testimony -- so are we in relation to Christ. We are to Him -- His Israel! We are identified by Him as His

People. And, as our Savior, He -- simply put -- is the faithful attendant of the duties discharged upon Him by God the Father -- for our eternal benefit. All that God has ordained for Him -- has predestined for Him -- to perform in regards to our eternal salvation -- He has performed! And, He has successfully done that for us: *if we hold fast* [Or, lit. keep in memory] *the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*" [This statement is descriptively designed to draw the distinguishing difference among all of us fallen sinners. It is to identify experientially all God's elect unto eternal salvation. It is to show whom are the ones that "*He chooses and causes to approach unto Him*" [Ps.65:4] -- regardless of all the hardships and trials that such an approach through this world does, indeed, entail and engage. Who are the ones that are the saved ones? All who hold fast the confidence and rejoicing of the hope -- firm unto the end!]]

So then, the ones that make up the "house" of the Lord -- who "*hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing -- firm unto the end*" -- are the same ones who seriously "*consider the Apostle and High Priest*" of their confession. We want to see clearly -- why -- taking in serious consideration the Lord Jesus Christ as the "*Apostle and High Priest*" of our confession truly does change our lives! There are two questions then that we would like an answer to: 1) How do we come to seriously consider and truthfully confess the Lord Jesus Christ as our eternal Savior? And: 2) Why does our serious consideration and truthful confession of Him make such an impact -- such a dramatic change --on the way that we live?

For the first question that we wish to answer: How do we come to seriously consider and truthfully confess the Lord Jesus Christ -- the Apostle and High Priest of our confession -- and our eternal Savior?

Answer: the book of Hebrews from the very beginning describes for us God's method of communication unto us. How He has spoken unto us. In time past He spoke directly to us through the "*fathers -- in the prophets*" -- and now -- He speaks directly to us "*in the Son*"! It is He who has orchestrated the communication of His word to us -- from eternity -- into time. Angels have even played a role in this -- the communication of God's word unto us! They were there at Mt. Sinai. That's why it asks the question of He.2:3-4, "How shall we escape -- if we neglect so great salvation -- which at first began to be spoken by the Lord -- and was confirmed unto us -- by them that heard Him. [I.e. the apostles]

(4) God also bearing them witness [I.e. validating His word]-- both with signs and wonders and with divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost -- according to His own will?" Who, in turn, is the one who causes us to hear the Lord -- and obediently respond to Him -- from our hearts.

God has used Preaching as the principle means of communicating His word from heaven -- from eternity -- unto us! From 1Cor.1:18 it says: "For the preaching of the cross -- is to them that perish -- foolishness -- but unto us who are being saved [It doesn't say that it is reasoned out by us to be right and wise to accept, but that simply...] -- it is the power of God!" That is why all true believers are not at all ashamed of the "Gospel of Christ" -- even because it is as Ro.1:16 declares it to be -- "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth". And, 1Cor.1:21 tells us: "For...it pleased God -- by the foolishness of preaching -- to save them that believe."

He.3:7-11 quotes from Ps.95 when it tells us: "As the Holy Spirit says: Today -- if ye will hear His voice, (8) harden not your hearts as in the provocation in the day of temptation in the wilderness -- (9) when your fathers tempted me -- proved me -- and saw my works forty years. (10) Wherefore I was grieved with that generation and said: They do always err in their heart and they have not known my ways. (11) So I sware in my wrath -- they shall not enter into my rest."

And then the word from the Holy Spirit says: (12) "Take heed, Brethren, [Elect children of God] lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief -- in departing from the living God. [Oh -- we're touching on the answer to our second question here] (13) But exhort one another daily -- while it is called 'Today' [I.e. while this time -- this history of human frailty is still being lived out -- occupy your time exhorting one another] -- lest any of you be hardened -- through the deceitfulness of sin!"

And then vs.14 gives us the good news "For we are made partakers of Christ [I.e., lit. we have become partakers of Christ in the past -- and that union with Him -- still proves to be consequential in the present and the future] -- if we hold fast [lit. keep a firm possession of] the beginning of our confidence [I.e. our source of assurance -- which is the pure truth of the gospel] steadfast unto the end! [Once again is this descriptive of vs.6 repeated -- only this time it is elaborated upon with more emphasis]

(15) While it is said -- ‘Today -- if ye will hear His voice -- harden not your hearts -- as in the provocation!’ [That whole period of time is categorized as “the provocation”. This was the time that Israel irritated God with their stubborn desires for their flesh to be appeased. And, to be fleshly minded is death -- God’s word says!] (16) For some, when they had heard -- did provoke [I.e. exasperate] -- howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. [Joshua and Caleb didn’t] (17) But with whom was He grieved forty years? Was it not with them that had sinned -- whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? (18) And to whom sware He that they should not enter into His rest -- but to them that believed not? (19) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.” [Which, after all -- there again -- believing is the work and operation of God -- hence it says “they could not enter in”. “But you believe not” -- Jesus says in Jn.10:26 - “because you are not of my sheep”]

He.4:1-3 admonishes us -- and explains to us: “Let us therefore fear [Or, lit. be in awe and be alarmed] -- lest a promise being left us of entering into His rest -- any of you should seem to come short of it. [In other words, lest a promise -- of which all are yea and amen in Christ -- we should seem to come short of it not being truly represented by His -- not being true believers in the pure truth about Him] (2) For (lit.) also unto us was the gospel preached as well as (lit.) also unto them. [I.e. the particular pure truth of the report of the gospel of the glory of Christ was preached unto us -- as well as unto them. It is the same word used here for “preached” as in Ro.10:16-17 for “report” > “But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah saith, ‘Lord, who hath believed our report?’” (17) So then -- faith cometh by (lit.) hearing the report -- and hearing the report -- (comes) by the word of God.”] -- But the word preached” He.4:2 says, “did not profit them -- not being mixed with faith in them that heard it!” [Which is why they did not seriously consider and truly confess the gospel!] (3) For we which have believed -- do enter into rest -- as He said, (lit.) ‘So I swore in my wrath -- if they shall enter into my rest!’ [Which statement does have immediate and urgent warnings and ramifications on us -- a rightly so it should!] -- although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.” [Or, lit. “although the works from the foundation of the world -- were done!” Or, whatever happens that will make up our particular response to the gospel truth that we hear -- will be exactly as it is purposed and planned and completed to be as it is]

This brings us to the second question that we wish to answer: Why does our serious consideration and truthful confession of Him make such an impact -- such a dramatic change -- on us?

The answer is: Love! God's everlasting love for us is the beginning point of all of our salvation experience. Jer.31:3 “*The Lord hath appeared of old unto me saying, ‘Yea -- I have loved thee -- with an everlasting love! Therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn thee’.*” And, His love pours over unto us and saturates even our response back to Him! “We love Him -- because He first loved us!” “For the love of Christ constraineth us!” [I.e. forces us to act; compels us; even -- holds us together!]

We love the truth of the gospel whenever we hear it proclaimed -- no matter how many times we have heard it before! When we first heard it by the Holy Spirit (although there may indeed have been many occasions that we heard it and we rebelled at its pride striping -- self emptying -- message) we knew in our hearts that it was the truth -- and not long after -- we came to love it -- and want it -- and even knew we needed more of it! The impact of it -- literally converted our perspectives and changed our lives!

Hence we, in turn, gained a new perspective of other people. We now love everyone who also in truth loves Christ! Love for the pure truth of the gospel has converted our perspective and changed our lives -- has it not? It has become the gauge by which we form -- and maintain -- our relationships with people.

1Pe.1:22 declares: “Seeing ye have purified your souls -- in obeying the truth through the Spirit -- unto unfeigned love of the Brethren -- see that ye love one another fervently!”

2Jn.6 delivers to us this: “And this is love -- that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment -- that as ye have heard from the beginning -- ye should walk in it!”

And then there's 2Th.2:8-10 which reveals the consequences of not truly loving the truth: “*And then shall that Wicked One be revealed -- whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth -- and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming! (9) Even him whose coming is after the (lit.) effectual working of Satan -- with all power and signs and (lit.)*

wonders of falsehood -- (10) and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish -- because they received not the love of the truth -- that they might be saved." [Or, lit. "because the love of the truth -- they received not -- for them to be saved from eternity!"]

Finally, Eph.5:2 tells us: "And walk in love -- as Christ also hath loved us -- and hath given Himself for us -- *an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savor.*"

When we hear -- from God -- the gospel of the glory of Christ -- and by His grace -- seriously consider it -- and then by His Holy Spirit -- "confess" it -- i.e. say the same thing as the word of God purely reports it -- because we, indeed, love it -- then we truly will fulfill that phrase in He.3:6 and "*hold fast the confidence -- and the rejoicing of the hope -- firm unto the end!*"

Amen