

Consider Jesus

Hebrews 3:1-2
Halifax: 31 July 2022

Introduction:

Today we come to chapter 3 in the epistle to the Hebrews.

- When I introduced this letter, we saw that the author calls it an exhortation (Heb 13:22).
 - **Heb 13:22: “And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.”**
 - An exhortation is a push for you to do something important.
- But chapter 3 this is the first time that he addresses the recipients directly.
 - He opened talking only about Jesus.
 - In chapter 2, he gave an indirect exhortation.
 - Only now, in chapter 3, is this direct exhortation.
 - And it is the primary exhortation of the entire letter.
- This unique structure reflects the very message of the letter.
 - It’s about the superiority of Jesus to everything else.
 - The author’s passion is beautiful.

You can see what his primary exhortation is in our text, Heb 3:1-2.

- Listen as I read it to you.

Hebrews 3:1-2: Therefore, holy brethren, confession, Christ Jesus, ² who was faithful partakers of the heavenly calling, consider to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also the Apostle and High Priest of our was *faithful* in all His house.

May God add His blessing to this reading by enabling us to truly **Consider Jesus!**

I. “Consider Jesus.” What does this mean?

A. It means that you are to think hard about Him.

1. The word *consider* literally means “to put the mind down upon a thing.”
2. It’s what you do when you become passionate about something (a car, a relationship).
3. You are to be like the author of this letter about Jesus.

B. But why do we need to be exhorted to keep on about this?

1. Because of the world, the flesh, and the devil.
 - The world calls for your undivided attention—the internet...
 - The flesh is the temptations that arise from our own hearts.
 - When you get up in the morning and think, “I’m going to spend time in God’s word,”
 - but then the flesh says, “Oh, but I would really like to just take a minute and do this or that.”
 - And we never come back!
 - Satan is hard at work to discourage you.
2. Because we have only just begun to learn of the greatness of Jesus.
 - Even the angels have only scratched the surface.
3. Because if we slack off, it will not go well for us.

- a. We will lose our edge, our focus, our comfort, our testimony.
 - Your love will grow cold.
 - You will lose your joy in the Lord.
 - Suffering for Him will not be a privilege.
 - Remember in Acts 5 when the apostles were arrested and told not speak anymore in Jesus name, and beaten by the authorities for preaching in Jesus name,
 - they came back to their brothers and sisters, **“rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name!”**
 - Why did they rejoice?
 - Because they knew who Jesus was!
- b. We are even in danger of even losing heaven, of not entering into His rest if we don’t consider Jesus.

II. Look at how those who are instructed to consider Jesus are addressed.

- **Heb 3:1: holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling...**
- A. These speaks of those who have at least outwardly come to Jesus.
 1. They have God’s call from heaven to believe on Jesus for salvation.
 - It is a free offer on the basis of Jesus sacrificed.
 - It is a promise to work in those who come to Him, to change them and keep them.
 2. They are called “holy brethren” because they are set apart to God by Jesus.
 - Jesus is not ashamed to call us brethren because He has sanctified us.
 - We are not able to truly consider Him until we realise this.
 - B. There are two sorts of persons who are partakers of this calling.
 1. Those who are effectually called.
 - Do you know about King Manasseh in the Old Testament?
 - He was the son of a very godly king, King Hezekiah
 - He was one of the most wicked men who ever lived.
 - He set up all kinds of altars to false gods and rejected the worship of God that his father had established so faithfully.
 - We are told by the Jewish writings that he was the sort of man who would walk around and see someone who didn’t have the right sort of expression on their face, and he would say, “Take that one away and kill him.”
 - But God sent affliction to His people, and Manasseh was taken away into exile, and God humbled him.
 - God’s word broke through, and Manasseh, that wicked man, repented!
 - He was completely changed and began to call on the name LORD because God had opened his heart!
 - That’s the power of God to change people!
 2. Those who are only outwardly called but never changed.
 - I could illustrate with myself.
 - I was born in a family that was professing Christian and I grew up in the church.
 - Now the church I was in had gone bad, they had compromised on many things, but I still grew up as one of God’s people,
 - baptised, saying that I was a Christian—all the outward identification!

- If anyone asked me I would've said I was a Christian and believed in Jesus, and even that I was trusting Him for salvation!
 - But I didn't!
 - I had not really been gripped with the fact that this was a life-changing thing!
 - That coming to Christ was not just saying, "Okay, good. That's taken care of! I'm forgiven. Now I can go and live how I like."
 - I'd never repented!
 - I'd never come to live for God!
 - It was not until God brought that change, when I was 20 years old, that I was *effectually* called.

C. Why are these the ones who are exhorted to consider Jesus?

1. Because anyone who doesn't will drift away when pressure comes.
 - That's what Hebrews is concerned about.
 - Those who don't continue were never truly saved.
2. If you don't consider Jesus, you will not think it is worth it to go on with Him.
 - How could you when you don't know of His excellence?
 - Think of Judas. He never considered the salvation that Jesus came to bring—Peter and the others finally did.
 - Don't remain superficial.

III. What are you to consider about Jesus?

- That He is **THE Apostle and High Priest of our confession.**

A. As the Apostle...

1. He is the One who was sent by God—like Moses.
 - a. An apostle is an official delegate—a sent one.
 - They speak with the authority of the one who sent them.
 - The twelve were sent by Jesus...
 - b. His task is to establish us as God's people in God's house.
 - He calls them into fellowship with God.
 - He sets out the terms of God's covenant.
 - He establishes what is to be done.
 - c. He lays out the terms of the covenant with authority from heaven.
 - If we deviate from the word of the apostle, we err.
 - No king, pope, parent, teacher, minister, or priest has authority to establish new terms...
 - Moses was the apostles of the old covenant.
 - Jesus is the apostle of the new covenant.
 - We must hear Him or we will perish—consider Him.
2. We need to consider what the author of Hebrews has already said about Him.
 - a. That He is God's Son who was sent from heaven.
 - God spoke by prophets before,
 - Jesus is His final word.
 - b. That He is the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person.

- There is a fullness and beauty here that is inexhaustible.
 - He is the heir of all things.
 - He is superior to the angels. They worship Him.
- c. That we must hear Him or we will be destroyed
- Heb 2:1-4—how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?
3. He was faithful like Moses.
- a. This is what matters most about the steward of a household.
- **1 Cor 4:1: Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.**
 - A steward dare not misrepresent his master!
- b. Moses was known for his faithfulness.
- He was privileged to live in the palace in Egypt, as the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter.
 - He could have stayed in that palace!
 - He could have enjoyed all the luxuries and riches that were in the powerful nation of the day.
 - But he did not!
 - God called him to be His apostle, to go and deliver His people
 - Moses obeyed Him.
 - He was faithful.
- c. Jesus was faithful and He had a much greater task than Moses!
- Moses told us what God required.
 - Jesus had to fulfill what God required!
 - Moses gave commandments set up rituals at God's command.
 - Jesus obeyed the commandments and did what was necessary to reconcile us to God.
4. The author of Hebrews is preparing us to hear more about Jesus as God's Apostle.
- He is going to show us how Jesus is superior to Moses.
 - He is going to show us how Jesus brings us to God's final rest.
 - He is going to urge us to consider Him so that we will not come short of that rest.

B. Consider Jesus as the High Priest.

1. A priest is the one appointed by God to make us right with God.
 - a. He offers sacrifices to atone for our sin.
 - b. He intercedes for us all along the way.
2. We are to consider what the author of Hebrews has already said about Jesus as priest.
 - That He took our flesh that He might suffer and die to make propitiation.
 - That He was tempted and so is able to help us when we are tempted.
3. The author of Hebrews is preparing us to hear much more about Jesus as priest.
 - He is going to show us how He is superior to Aaron.
 - Much of Hebrews is devoted to this.
 - He is going to show us how He goes beyond rituals and is the true sacrifice for sin.

IV. Consider Jesus.

A. This is the key to a transformed life.

1. Are you far from God? Consider Jesus and you will be brought near.
 - No one can come to God but through Him who dies for our sins.

- No one can be forgiven and have eternal life without faith in His offering.
2. Is your relationship with God dry? Consider Jesus and it will revive.
 - The glory of the Father is seen in the face of Jesus Christ—by considering His work and by beholding His life.
 - Read the Bible with hunger to know God and to walk with God through Jesus.
 - Pray and ask to see the glory of God in the face of Jesus.
 3. Are you barren in your walk? Consider Jesus and you will be fruitful.
- B. John Brown has summed it up well:
- “This [considering Jesus] is a duty of radical importance for Christians. It is because we think so little, and to so little purpose, on Christ, that we know so little about Him, that we love Him so little, trust in Him so little, so often neglect our duty, are so much influenced by ‘things seen and temporal,’ and so little by ‘things unseen and eternal.’ ”
 - “It is because men do not know Christ that they do not love Him; it is because they know Him so imperfectly that they love Him so imperfectly.”
- C. So answer this question in your heart.
- Will you commit to consider Jesus from this day forward?
 - Seriously answer it yes or no. Will you make a diligent effort to consider Jesus from this day forward?
 - Will you be done with half-hearted devotion and half-hearted seeking which will get you nowhere—probably even make you more miserable?
 - If you will not commit to this, why not?
 - What possible reason do you have for going on as you are?
 - No reason.
 - You have every reason to come to the only one who can bring you to God.
 - We are only here for 70 or 80 years—maybe even 100—but you are a fool if you do not prepare for eternity.
 - Yes, there are hardships in the world associated with following Jesus.
 - But I assure you, the hardships of this world are nothing compared to eternity for those who are not reconciled to God—who draw back from the Lord Jesus and do not keep on looking to Him.
 - That is what we will see in this chapter.