

MOVING TOWARD MATURITY

CONSIDER!

TEXT: Heb.3

INTRODUCTION: Thus far the author of Hebrews has said, "God used to speak through the prophets, but now He has spoken through His own Son, who is far better than the prophets and even far superior to the angels. He is the creator of all things, the sustainer of the universe, the only sacrifice for sin and He has been exalted to the Father's own right hand where He is heir to all that is in the universe and He will reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

Therefore, since God held men accountable when they did not listen to His word spoken through the angels, we better listen to His word spoken through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. For if we do not, we will drift away from that word and be guilty of neglecting our wonderful salvation, provided by the only one who is our substitute for sin, our pathway to glory, our victory over the devil, and our sympathetic high priest.

In light of that, I need to ask you to consider, to pay careful attention, to give continuous observation.

What does he want us to consider? Let us read our text and find out!

Hebrews 3 ¹ Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ² who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. ³ For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God. ⁵ And Moses indeed *was faithful* in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, ⁶ but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. ⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "*Today, if you will hear His voice,* ⁸ *Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,* ⁹ *Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years.* ¹⁰ *Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.'* ¹¹ *So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'*" ¹² Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called "*Today,*" lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, ¹⁵ while it is said: "*Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.*" ¹⁶ For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it* not all who came out of Egypt, *led* by Moses? ¹⁷ Now with whom was He angry forty years? *Was it* not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? ¹⁹ So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

I. THE OBJECT OF CONSIDERATION

A. Jesus!

1. Why is Jesus called the **Apostle** – Because He is the **One sent from God**
2. Why is Jesus called the **High Priest** – Because He is the **One Who brings us to God**

B. Those who are lost need to consider Jesus.

1. Do not focus on church, programs, facilities, people, pastor.
2. Focus first on Jesus; you will find no flaw there.

C. Those who are saved need to continually keep their eyes on Jesus.

1. **As with the other things we have read in Hebrews, these words are also primarily addressed to believers.**
2. The Holy Spirit is not just saying that we need to look to Jesus to get saved.
3. **He is saying that we need to keep on paying careful attention, keep on observing our Lord Jesus Christ.**

4. Why should we continue to gaze upon Jesus as believers?

a. Because we do not fully know all of Who He is.

- 1) No matter how much we know of Christ, there is always more to be known, more to be learned, more to be understood.
- 2) And the more we know Him, the more we understand what God wants developed in us for His will is that we should be conformed to the image of His Son.

b. Because we do not yet fully appreciate His majesty.

- 1) If we fully comprehended the majesty of our Lord, I doubt that we could sing that song without falling to our knees!
- 2) The longer we know Christ, the more passionate our worship ought to be, not the other way around!

c. Because we have not fully experienced His power.

Phil. 3:10-12 ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

And the more we do experience His power, what will we do? We will be witnesses to Him!

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

d. Because we do not fully exercise His love.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

- 1) Who among us has learned to love as He loves?
 - 2) Yet love is one of the key outward signs to the world that we are disciples of our Lord Jesus.
- e. **Because when our eyes are not on Jesus they are on our troubles, temptations, and difficulties;** and like Peter, we are overwhelmed and sink in the storm!

II. THE REASON FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Jesus is better than Moses.

1. Moses was considered by the Jews to be the best man who ever lived.

- a. God protected him after his birth and personally buried him on Mount Pisgah.
- b. His life was one miracle after another.
- c. He not only saw the glory of God, for a brief period, his own face glowed with God's glory.
- d. The end of Deuteronomy sums it up:

Deut. 34:10-12 ¹⁰ But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, ¹¹ in all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, ¹² and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

2. But Jesus is far better than even Moses.

- a. **Moses was faithful with the household of Israel as a servant, but Jesus was faithful as the Son.**
- b. **Moses was a part of the household, but Jesus made the household.**
- c. **The household of Moses was an earthly household, but Jesus' household of the redeemed is an eternal and heavenly one.**
- d. **Moses saw the glory of God and briefly shined with it, but Jesus is that glory!**

B. Jesus is better than any other.

1. That is the real point here. Moses was the best they knew, the best they had to offer.
2. No matter who is the best you know, no one compares to Jesus.
3. He is the Son of God, and He is the very best.

III. THE RESULTS OF CONSIDERATION

A. Entering the heavenly household is dependent on what we do with Christ.

Hebrews 3:6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

B. Our choice: Hear or harden

Hebrews 3:7-8 ⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, ⁸ Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,

1. Hear (and obey) - hearken today
2. Or harden your heart

C. This is true for unbelievers considering whether to trust Christ.

D. This is true for believers.

1. **Even today we as believers have been challenged to grow in our knowledge of our Lord, to learn more about Him that we may grow to be more like Him.**
2. **To grow in our appreciation and worship of the majesty of Christ.**
3. **To increasingly live in His power to be more of a witness for Christ, here and everywhere.**
4. **To let the love of our Lord flow through us more and more.**

CONCLUSION: Lost friend, the Spirit of God has helped you in this last hour to consider Jesus. Now what will you decide. Will you hear and obey today, or will you harden your heart against the One Who died on the cross for you?

Dear Christian friend, has God spoken to your heart today about a matter? Have you taken your eyes off of Jesus and let confusion enter your heart and life? Has God spoken to you about an area of your life where He desires change and growth? What will you do? Will you hearken today, or will you harden your heart against this word from the Lord?