

Hebrews 3

Jesus

Chapter 1: Jesus Revelation of Father's Grace far superior to angels revelation of God's Law

Chapter 2: Jesus Revelation of the Fathers Grace w/skin on. Becoming man to die for man

Chapter 3...

Jesus is far superior than Moses

IOWs The Law of God is unable to bring us into the Promised Land

I. Moses vs Jesus?

1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling...

- **Written to born-again believers**

1. Holy Brethren of Christ/One another
2. Partakers of the Heavenly Calling. How?
3. Partakers of the Divine Nature...

2 Peter 1:4 [We] have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

Great Exchange: Our fallen/broken nature for Jesus divine nature
Because Jesus partook of our humanity/We can now partake of His divine nature

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

Introduction to Chapter 3 to True Born-Again Believers

To the holy brethren partakers of the heavenly calling...Keep your eyes on Jesus

1b... consider the **Apostle and High Priest** of our confession, Christ Jesus, 2 who was **faithful to Him who appointed Him...**

Consider Jesus 3X in Hebrews

Jesus was faithful to His Father as an Apostle and High Priest

- **Consider Jesus the Apostle** [Sent One]

John 3:17 ...God did not **send His Son** into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 3:34 For He whom **God has sent** speaks the words of God...

John 4:34 My food is to do the will of Him **who sent Me**, and to finish His work.

John 5:23 ...He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father **who sent Him**. 24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him **who sent Me** has everlasting life

God the Father sent God the Son to man with a message
Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand

- Consider Jesus the Apostle of the Father
- **Consider Jesus the High Priest**

Jesus is our High Priest offering Himself as a sacrifice for our Sin
Now able to represent us to the Father and the Father to us

Jesus was faithful an Apostle/High Priest to His house: The Church in NT

1c ...as Moses also was faithful in all His house.

Moses was also faithful in/to God's House in the OT: Nation of Israel
Strong leader in Israel during the Exodus

Exodus 40:16 ...Moses did according to all that the Lord had commanded him so he did.

Numbers 12:7 ...My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house.

Moses left everything the world valued
To be faithful to God/God's people

Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; **for he looked to the reward.** 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. 29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

Jewish believers venerated Moses/Law
We too can begin to venerate people/tradition w/out *considering Jesus*

Moses vs Jesus?

3 For this One [Jesus] has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.

Matthew 17:3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. 4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"**

Q. How much greater is Jesus than Moses?
A. How much greater is the Creator than the creation!

4 For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.

Moses was faithful over what God gave him...God received the glory
When we are faithful w/what God gives to us...God receives the glory

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and **glorify your Father in heaven.**

1 Peter 2:12 ...have your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, **glorify God** in the day of visitation.

Be faithful with what God has given you...

5 And **Moses indeed was faithful** in all His [God's] house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be **spoken afterward...**

Moses was faithful in pointing people to Jesus
Passover/Sacrifices/Ceremonies all spoke One to come...

Deuteronomy 18:15 "The Lord your God will raise up for you **a Prophet like me** from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear **...18** [God said] I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put **My words in His mouth**, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. 19 And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, **I will require it of him.**

As J the B, Moses must decrease and the LORD must increase

Moses' message was incomplete
Another was coming to complete the message

John 1:17 ...the law was given through Moses but **grace and truth** came through Jesus Christ.

Moses was faithful w/what God gave him
But it was not enough

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.

Moses was a servant over God's House
Jesus is a Son/owner of God's House

Moses/Law were only a servant to lead us to Jesus

Galatians 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to **those who believe**. 23 But before faith came, we were **kept under guard by the law**, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor **[servant]** to bring us to Christ, that we might be **justified by faith**. 25 But after faith has come, we are **no longer under a tutor**. 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Moses was steward over God's house
Jesus is Son/owner of God's house...We are God's house

1 Timothy 3:15 ... know how you ought to conduct yourself in the **house of God**, which is **the church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are the **temple of God** and that the **Spirit of God dwells in you?**

Moses was a servant over God's House
Jesus is the Creator of God's House [Moses]

Warning: Stop venerating people/tradition and consider Jesus
He alone is our Confidence. He alone is our Joy

Romans 3:20 ...by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Reminder: Moses/Law never did bring them into the Promised Land
Moses/Law can't help us but only reveal our need for a Savior

II. Believing is Seeing

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.**' " [C.f. Psalm 95:7-11]

Therefore: Since we are exhorted to hold fast the confidence
Rejoice in the hope of Jesus firm to the end...

Listen to His voice/Believe what He says
Or you will not enter His rest...Spirit Filled Life

- **Red Sea:** Salvation
- **Wilderness:** Struggling believer [Rom.6-8]
- **Jordan River:** Spirit led victorious life. [Not heaven as battles continue]

We can be saved/experience *peace with God* [Red Sea]
Yet never experience the *peace of God* [Jordan River]

As we were saved by faith...We also must walk in faith

Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**

We are to live the resurrected spirit-filled life/Taking off the grave clothes

Unbelief will keep us from that. Unbelief will kill your relationship with Jesus

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God

This is strong language, but we often underestimate the terrible nature of our unbelief. Refusing to believe God is a **serious sin** because it shows an evil heart and a departing from the living God... Unbelief isn't weakness of faith; it sets itself in opposition to faith. [Guzik]

The great sin of not believing in the Lord Jesus Christ is often spoken of very lightly and in a very trifling spirit, as though it were scarcely any sin at all; yet, according to my text, and, indeed, according to the whole tenor of the Scriptures, unbelief is **the giving of God the lie**, and what can be worse?" [Spurgeon]

Check your heart! If you are shutting out the voice of God today it is because you have an evil unbelieving heart and are in the process of going the opposite direction of the Living God. [NJC]

Psalms 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;
24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

Did I not hear someone say, 'Ah, sir, I have been *trying to believe* for years.' Terrible words! They make the case still worse. Imagine that after I had made a statement, a man should declare that he did not believe me, in fact, he could not believe me though he would like to do so. I should feel aggrieved certainly; but it would make matters worse if he added, 'In fact I have been for years trying to believe you, and I cannot do it.' What does he mean by that? What can he mean but that I am so incorrigibly false, and such a confirmed liar, that though he would like to give me some credit, he really cannot do it? With all the effort he can make in my favor, he finds it quite beyond his power to believe me? Now, a man who says, 'I have been trying to believe in God,' in reality says just that with regard to the Most High. [Spurgeon]

...13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

To those who are believers...Exhort while it is called today
Today is called today. Tomorrow will be called today when we get there

Exhort one another continually

Exhort: gr. *parakaleō* to call to one's side, call for, summon, to address, speak to, entreat, comfort, instruct, admonish, console, encourage, strengthen by consolation, to comfort, to receive consolation, be comforted, to encourage, strengthen, teach

Choice: Exhort or else be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin
IOWs v13: Exhorting will keep us from sinning

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."

- Partakers of the Heavenly Calling
- Partakers of the Divine Nature
- **Partakers of Christ!**

This is the whole picture. Partakers of His obedience, partakers of His suffering, partakers of His death, partakers of His resurrection, partakers of His victory, partakers of His plan, partakers of His power, partakers of His ministry of intercession, partakers of His work, partakers of His glory, partakers of His destiny. Saying "Partakers of Christ" says it all. [Guzik]

How can we be sure we are partakers of Christ?

V6 ... if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end

V14 ...if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end

Terrifying if our confidence is in keeping the Law

Exciting when our confidence is in the Grace of God/Obedience of Christ

If our confidence is in keeping the Law we will never find rest

If our confidence is in what Jesus did...We will listen to His voice/obey/find rest

The Hebrews coming to Jesus were turning back to the law/rituals

The author likens them to those who rebelled in the wilderness

They did not believe God was willing/able to do what He promised...so he didn't

They never entered the Promised Land/Spirit filled life

IOWs Because they did not believe/expect God to act...God did not act

III. Wilderness Wanderers

16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?

Only Caleb and Joshua believed God's Word

Only Caleb and Joshua entered in...And God received the Glory

Unbelief is manifested in complaining...God hates it

Numbers 14:2 And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "**If only we had died in the land of Egypt!** Or if only we had died in this wilderness! **...11** Then the Lord said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? **...30** Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in."

Unbelief prevented them from entering the Promised Land

Deuteronomy 1:35 'Surely not one of these men of this evil generation shall see that good land of which I swore to give to your fathers, 36 except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and his children I am giving the land on which he walked, because he wholly followed the Lord.' **...38** Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall go in there. Encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.

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.**

Do we want to die never experiencing all that God has for us here?
Faith lived out in obedience brings God glory and us rest/victory here and now

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened to them **as examples**, and they were written **for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore **let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.**

Old Testament
Physical representation of a New Testament Spiritual truth

▪ **Wilderness Life**

1. Struggling
2. Worrying
3. Complaining
4. Thirsty
5. Looking backwards

Not believing God is a sin
Believing God is a choice. Consider Jesus

How much do we miss out on by unbelief/lack of expectation of what Jesus can do?
He has so much more for you but it is only accessed by faith