

JESUS IS BETTER

Hebrews 3 || *Consider Jesus*

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The main audience of Hebrews 3 is **Christians**: “*holy brethren.*”

- This means that, if you are a Christian, this chapter is primarily for you.

The main point of Hebrews 3 comes in the first verse: “*consider Christ.*”¹

Q. What does it mean to *consider* (κατανοέω)?

A. It means to “*observe carefully*”, “*think about carefully*”, “*contemplate*” ...²

This is the word used to describe what **MOSES** did when he saw the burning bush.³ There’s a bush on fire that isn’t burning up; and so the Bible says that Moses marveled and decided to go check this thing out (get a closer look, study it, try to comprehend this incredible mystery).

This is also the word used in the Greek OT to describe **EVE**’S experience with the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden.⁴ It was as if she couldn’t take her eyes off it.

As **LUKE** was recording the missionary adventures of the apostle **PAUL**, he used this word to describe the moment when the captain of their ship spotted a beach where they could land.⁵ What comes to mind when you think of a crew looking for land? You think of people straining their eyes. You think of diligently & methodically studying the horizon.

It’s the word that **JAMES** uses to describe what you do when you look into a mirror.⁶

- What do you do when you look into a mirror? You study yourself. *Is my hair right? How does my makeup look? Does this shirt match? Is my shave even? Did I miss anything? How do I look?* For some of us, the answer is: *Well, I did the best I could!* 😊

All of us know what it means to “*consider*” something.!

Message of **Hebrews 3** is “*Consider Jesus*”.

Why? Well, we could say, “*Because He is better than everything else.*”⁸

It’s true that Jesus is better than everything, but the author of Hebrews doesn’t come right out & say that.

Q. Why not? A. Maybe it’s because it’s too hard for us to really comprehend a sentence like...

- “*Jesus is better than everything...*”

It’s too abstract. It’s too vague. It’s too enormous.

I mean, it’s *true*... but a sentence like that is almost impossible to wrap your mind around.⁹

¹ **Apostle**: Jesus is the One who brings God’s Word to us. **High Priest**: He is the One who brings us into the presence of God.

² κατανοέω (BDAG)

³ Acts 7:31, “προσερχομένου δὲ αὐτοῦ κατανοῆσαι”.

⁴ Gen 3:6, “καὶ ὡραῖόν ἐστιν τοῦ κατανοῆσαι” (LXX).

⁵ Acts 27:39, “δέ τινα κατενόουν ἔχοντα αἰγιαλόν”.

⁶ James 1:23, “οὗτος ἔοικεν ἀνδρὶ κατανοοῦντι τὸ πρόσωπον τῆς γενέσεως αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐσόπτρῳ”.

⁷ **Examples**: we consider the answer to the question on the test, travel plans, colleges, jobs, the food choices at a new restaurant, cars, homes, the study guide, the next move in our board game, etc.

⁸ He is more *awe-inspiring* than solar systems, more *terrifying* than tsunamis, more *mysterious* than science, more *satisfying* than food, more *fulfilling* than relationships, more *rewarding* than accomplishments. His *promises* are better. His *sacrifice* is better. His *hope* is better. His *love* is better. His *heart* is better. His *presence* is better. There is nothing in all the universe that you could **consider** that is better than Jesus.

⁹ *It’s like saying that Elon Musk has \$219 Billion. I can’t comprehend that kind of wealth. My mind can’t grab ahold of a number like that.*

So, instead, the author points to very specific things that were profoundly important to the Hebrews, and then says, “*Jesus is better than that!*”

Chapter One | Jesus is better than *Angels*.¹⁰

Chapter Two | Jesus is better than *David*.¹¹

Chapter Three | Jesus is better than *Moses*.

Q. Let’s talk about **Moses** for a minute. Why does the author bring Moses into the conversation?

A. Because the Hebrew people viewed Moses among the greatest heroes in the history of God’s people.

- And rightly so! God used Moses...
 - to rescue His children from slavery in Egypt...
 - to show the power of God over Pharaoh & all the false gods of Egypt in a way that would be remembered for the rest of human history...
 - to give them the law of the Old Testament...
 - to build the tabernacle... to institute the sacrificial system...
 - to lead His people to the doorway of the Promised Land...

When it came to the Old Testament (OT) prophets, Moses was in a class by himself.

Listen to what God says about Moses in **Numbers chapter 12**...

Then He [*God*] said [*to Aaron and Miriam*]
If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord, make Myself known to him *in a vision*,
and 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*...
~ **Numbers 12:6–8**

God had a *unique* relationship with Moses, and He used Moses to do extraordinary things in the history of His people. So, when Jesus came claiming to be the Messiah, the Jews wanted to know how Jesus compared to Moses. For example, in **John 6**, Jesus is teaching a Jewish crowd, and...

Jesus...said to them,
“*This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.*”
Therefore, they said to Him,
“*What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You?*
What work will You do? Our fathers ate the manna in the desert...”
~ **John 6:29–31**

In other words, how do your signs compare to the signs of Moses.

They wanted to compare Jesus to Moses, and so that’s what the author of Hebrews does here in chapter 3.

1. He begins by showing how **Jesus and Moses are similar**: *they were both faithful*.¹²
 - They were both *faithful* to leave the comforts of their home for the sake of God’s people.¹³
 - They were both *faithful* in facing the enemy.¹⁴
 - They were both *faithful* in rescuing God’s people from slavery.
 - And they were both *faithful* in many other similar ways...¹⁵

¹⁰ Heb 1:4.

¹¹ Heb 2:6–9. He is better than David inasmuch as He alone fulfills the words that David spoke in Psalm 8:3–6.

¹² Steve Green, “[Find Us Faithful](#)”.

¹³ Heb 11:26.

¹⁴ Matt 4:1–11.

¹⁵ E.g., Delivering a new law, enduring the wilderness for a time of 40, spending time alone with the Father on a mountain, sacrificing a lamb to save God’s people from certain death...

2. Then the author of Hebrews moves to show how **Jesus is very different from Moses.**

For this One [Jesus] has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses...
~ *Hebrews 3:3*

The author then gives two word images to show how different Jesus is from Moses: a *house* & a *home*.

HOUSE

III. **Building a house:**

Before God called me into pastoral ministry, I was a residential construction worker. I helped build homes for people. In the years that I worked construction, I helped build some impressive homes. And when the house was done, I had a certain kind of admiration for the building. But I always had a much higher admiration for the people who built the house.

That home (as magnificent as it was) was nothing without the builder & his team. The only reason that magnificent house existed was because of the people who built it. I never gave “*high fives*” to the house. And even when I was talking to people about how impressive the house was, what I was really doing was talking about how impressive the builders were.

This is the argument here in **verse 3**: the one who builds the house has more honor than the house. And this is why Jesus is better than Moses.

- Moses was faithful *part of God's house* (3:2) and is therefore worthy of our admiration.
 - Jesus **built** the house (3:3–4) and is therefore worthy of more honor than Moses.
- Moses was faithful in *leading* the people of God.
 - Jesus **created** the people of God.
- Moses was *part* of God's house.
 - Jesus created the *universe*!

HOME

The second word image he gives is of the people who live inside the house. He pictures a home which has both *children* and hired *servants*. And he says...

Moses indeed was faithful in all His [*God's*] *house as a servant...*
But Christ as a Son over His own house...
~ *Hebrews 3:5–6*

We notice two things from this picture:

1. The *difference* in their **ownership** over the household.
 - a. Moses lived in somebody else's house: *the house of God*.
 - b. Jesus lived in his own house – *because He is God*.
2. The *difference* in their **relationship** with the Father of the house.
 - a. Moses was faithful in his relationship *as a servant* to the Father.
 - b. Jesus was faithful in His relationship *as a Son* to the Father.

So, the **message** to the Hebrews is this: as you consider all that God did through Moses, **consider Christ**. As you are tempted to go back to a religion that has *Moses* – but no *Messiah* – consider Christ. He is worthy of more glory (in your life) than Moses.

RELEVENCE FOR TODAY

Some of you are thinking, “*Well, this chapter doesn’t really seem to apply to me because I never compare Moses to Jesus. In fact, I don’t really spend much time thinking about Moses at all!*”

Here’s the thing: Moses isn’t the point of this chapter; Jesus is.

And so this chapter **does** apply to you because you **do** compare other people (and other things) to Jesus **all the time**. You may not think about Moses all the time (*like the Hebrews did*), but you do think about *something* – and you *compare that something* to Jesus **all the time**. That’s the point of this chapter.

As Christians, we are constantly faced with the question of **which is better**:

- Approval from our *peers* – or Christ?¹⁶
- The momentary sexual adrenaline rush of *pornography* – or Christ?
- Giving your heart and soul to your *career & future retirement* – or Christ?
- Giving your life to a *television* and a *cell phone* screen – or Christ?

The author of this book is saying, **Christ is worthy of consideration in your life**.

- As you plan your day, *consider Christ*.¹⁷
- As you sit down in front of the television or your computer, *consider Christ*.¹⁸
- As you think about what to do with your money, *consider Christ*.¹⁹
- As you hang out with your friends, *consider Christ*.²⁰
- As you go through hard times in your marriage, *consider Christ*.²¹
- As you grieve the loss of a loved one, *consider Christ*.²²
- As you struggle through your sickness, *consider Christ*.²³
- As you wrestle through feelings of hurt, betrayal, shame...*consider Christ*.²⁴

This whole book (Hebrews) is taking the things and people that we compare to Christ and saying, “*Jesus is worthy of more glory than that.*” So, won’t you “*consider Christ.*”

One last question: some of you might be asking, “*Yeah, but **what’s in it for me?***”

- I mean, I know what’s in it for me if I...
 - Watch that movie... Pursue that relationship... Make that purchase...
- But what’s in it for me if I *consider Christ*?

The answer: **rest**.

III. One of the most magical moments in my life: *spending a day on the lake with Liz & her parents*.²⁵

¹⁶ **III.** Making a decision between watching the raunchy movie with the guys at the birthday party or the bachelor party (*and thereby gaining their approval and comradery*) or following Christ.

¹⁷ Prov 16:3.

¹⁸ Eph 5:16; Job 31:1.

¹⁹ Matt 6:21.

²⁰ Mark 2:13–17.

²¹ Eph 5:22–32.

²² John 11:35.

²³ Isa 53:4–5.

²⁴ Luke 22:48.

²⁵ **The day on the lake:** the temperature was perfect. The breeze was perfect. The bay was peaceful. The water was calm. The atmosphere was amazing. There was nothing demanding my attention. No grades to earn. No ladders to climb. No peers to impress. No deals to make. No conflict to resolve. No websites to avoid. No secrets to hide. No plans to pursue. No status to maintain. No sickness to care for. Nowhere I needed to be. Nothing I needed to do. My body and my mind were totally at rest.

Whenever I hear Jesus say,

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden
and I will give you *rest*.”
~ *Matthew 11:28*

...I think of moments like that.

- But the rest that Jesus offers doesn't just last for a moment. It will last forever.
- And it won't just be rest for your body and mind, but also for your soul.²⁶

We live in a world that is striving after so many things: success, fame, money, pleasure, possessions, experiences, approval, entertainment, achievement, advancement, innovation, stability, healing, escape, meaning, identity, acceptance, retribution, justice... and it's exhausting.

But, for those who have their heart fixed on Christ, there has *always* been *one glorious promise*: **rest**.
Rest in Christ: that's what's "in it" for you.

If you hold on to the world in your heart, the Bible does *not* promise you rest. In fact, it indicates the opposite. **Hebrews 3:7–11** tells us that when our heart only considers the things of this world (*like the hardened hearts of the people in the wilderness with Moses*), God does **not** promise rest.

So I swore in My wrath,
They shall **not** enter My rest.
~ *Hebrews 3:11*

The people considered the things of the world as being greater than the Word of God.
The things of the world held a greater appeal. They seemed more important. More real.

And so they **let go** of the belief they once professed to have in God's Word, and then they chose to live in **willful disobedience** to God's Word. *What was the result?*

Now with whom was He angry forty years?
Was it not with those who **sinned**, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?
And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest,
but to those who **did not obey**?
So we see that they could not enter in [*to the promised rest*]
because of **unbelief**.
~ *Hebrews 3:17–19*

BENEDICTION

Brothers & sisters,

As you leave this place today and enter a world that is full of things clamoring for your attention:

1. Consider Christ (**Heb. 3:1**).
2. Hold fast to the confidence & the confession that we have in Christ (**Heb. 3:6**).
3. Watch out for your brothers and sisters in Christ (**Heb. 3:13**).

Let us continually encourage one another to consider Christ, to bring your weary souls now to Jesus,
And hold on to the promise that He will give us *rest in Him*.

²⁶ Matt 11:29.