

House of Christ

All right, I think we finally got everything running the way it's supposed to now, I hope so. No more issues tonight would be great.

We're gonna continue through our series tonight, Jesus is better. I was actually listening to a message on Hebrews 10 or 11, this last week where the pastor was talking about the theme of Hebrews being look to Jesus. And I think both things are there, and they're actually kind of the same. But as we continue going through Hebrews, we're going to focus on the fact that Jesus is better. We've... we've discussed already, that He is better than the prophets; we have discussed that He is better than the angels; we have discussed that He is a high priest; and we're going to... we're gonna see that come up again, a few times over the next couple of weeks, that He is our high priest. In this case, today, we're going to actually see Him compared to Moses once again. But remember, as we see all of this, the theme is always to get people to understand that Jesus is better. The author of Hebrews was writing to the Hebrew people, he was writing to Hebrew converts, who sometimes still had the old way, stuck in their heads, you know, they were stuck in their ways. And so he needed to write and remind them often of these things. It's funny, I actually read this earlier today. It's kind of not... it's not in today's passage, it's in chapter five, but the reason we see the repetition of a lot of the stuff over and over and over again, and I'm repeating it as well, because we need to fully understand this. But here is what the author of Hebrews said to his recipients in Hebrews chapter five, I'm going to start in verse 11. He said, "Of whom (being Christ) we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk," So the reason we see these concepts repeated continually throughout Hebrews, the same concepts, is because his recipients were not getting it, they were not understanding. And so we see the theme repeated, but it's good for us. Even if, you know some of us may be right there. We may be guilty of what the author just accused his audience of being guilty of. Some of us are ready for the meat that... that chapter will talk about in the next verse that I did not read. In any case, it's good for this repetition for us as well because we it drives the point home, just how much better Christ is.

So we see here in verse one, he says, "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;" Now, the wherefore here is specifically in light of verses 14 and 15 of chapter two, we read it last time we met. But in light of Christ, being our high priest, and in light of Him, being our perfect high priest, remember we discussed last week that He became like us, so that He could... that He could represent us. He became like us, He knows that we go through, He knows how to help us, because He went through it. And the partakers of the heavenly call, and those are us that are saved. We "consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house."

Now we see this comparison I talked about a couple of minutes ago, we see Jesus once again compared to Moses. Now, we're told here something about Moses. Moses was faithful in his house. Moses was faithful in the calling. And he, Moses had a rocky start, right? He started off in Pharaoh's home, murder the Hebrew, went to the wilderness, talked to God in the burning bush, didn't really want the calling. You know, in our modern English, his phrase to God would have been, "Thanks, God, but you've got the wrong person. I... That's not for me." But then he took the calling and he served faithfully. He got... he brought the Word of God to the people, he led them through the wilderness, passed down the law, passed down judgment, organized all of Israel under God's instruction. He was faithful to the one who had appointed him, but so was Christ. And He was faithful to the extent that He would die on the cross that He would leave behind His glory, leave behind His immortality, and He would suffer what was reserved for the sinners. But not only was Jesus faithful, He was faithful all the way through as we begin to compare Jesus to Moses. While Moses was faithful, no doubt he... he served faithfully. When he died, he heard "Well done my good and faithful servant." Moses is in heaven with God right now. But Moses was not always faithful. We can recall times, this is funny because my mom and I were talking about this earlier in the week, we can recall when Moses threw his temper tantrums; we can recall when he broke the stone tablets; we can recall when he lashed out in anger; we can recall when he got when he lost the ability to enter into the promised land. He was not always faithful, but Jesus was faithful all the way through. Jesus lived a life that was filled with faith, that was filled with obedience. He lived a life that set the example for us to follow, never rebelling against the will of his Father, never hesitated to do the work that was before him, never doubting but all the way through He was faithful to Him, to God the Father, that appointed him.

Now I like what this says as... as we continue reading here in verse three, we see that Jesus is better just in his faithfulness, but as we continue, we get another reason for why He is better, "For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house." Think about that. When we see great grand buildings and architecture today, even if we stand in awe, we always give more credit, more glory, to the architect who designed it than we give to the building itself. Well, if the builder of the house receives more glory than the house itself, then Jesus is better. Because He is the builder of the house. While Moses was faithful in his household, in the house, Christ was the builder of that house. The text tells us that "every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God." And so as verse three says, "This man has counted worthy of more glory than Moses, because he has gone because he built all things." It's fascinating as we read the Word of God, as we begin to contemplate just how Jesus was fully man and fully God builds this... this great... I'm trying to really describe it here and I'm not... I'm not succeeded in describing how great this is. Jesus as a man was faithful, and He was worthy as God who built all things.

As we read this, we may wonder why... why is Jesus constantly being compared to Moses? Now there are two great people in the Old Testament that were respected by the Jewish community. The first is Abraham and I would say rightly so. Abraham should be respected as the father of faith and the father of the Israelite nation, but Moses, was respected as the prophet who led them out of Egypt, led them through the wilderness, spoke with God. And so we see here that how great is God, how great is Jesus when we say He is better, He is better than the best. Then tells us here in verse five, that "Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken

after;" Moses was a servant of God, whose purpose was to be a testimony of the things which would be after which was Jesus. The life of Moses pointed to Jesus. We actually see this happen in Deuteronomy when... Deuteronomy chapter 18, when Moses gives a prophecy, regarding a prophet who would come later on referring to Jesus. In the things that Moses did, we see Jesus, when Moses lifted up the bronze serpent, you will remember in Numbers when they were get... when God brought the plague of poisonous snakes, and people are getting bitten and died, that Moses was commanded to make a bronze serpent and all who would gaze upon it would be cured by the poison. And we see a prototype of our Savior, who is better than the bronze serpent. Because if we would gaze upon Him and call upon His name, we would be saved. While Moses spoke, the word of God, Jesus is the Word of God.

But we see the comparison continue verse six, "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." I'm going to continue into verse seven here: Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)" Now Christ here, Moses was faithful as a servant, but verse six here says, "But Christ as a son." Okay, so here we see this comparison again, that Jesus is better: while Moses was but a servant of God, Christ is the Son of God and He was faithful as the son. We discussed, I believe back in chapter one of Hebrews, that when you are doing business with the heir's son of either a kingdom or a business or an estate, that you are doing business with the Father, that kingdom or business or estate so Jesus was faithful as a representative of the Father.

Now, here's three reasons that Jesus is better and we we've been covering them already, but we're going to reiterate over them. He is better because He is the Son of God. He is better because a son has more glory than a servant; and we have seen that in the Bible, we even see that today, a son is got more glory and more honor from the father than a hired servant has, and a son is always of the being that he is from. So if He is the Son of God, then He is God. And what we see this telling us then is that Jesus was not faithful, was not obedient, just as a man, as a human, but He was obedient as a divine being. Now, I like what... this kind of takes a bit of a turn here from Jesus is better to a warning that we should go in view, it says here, that He was faithful as a son over His own house and then it says, "Whose house are we?" 'Kay, and then it gives a stipulation here, "If we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." So we who are faithful, we who obey the Word of God, who know the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are of that household. According to verse six. Verse seven tells us, "Wherefore... Harden not your hearts," there's kind of a skip there, we got parentheses in a bracket in the text, but "Wherefore... harden not your hearts" when you hear His voice, He is better. He is better than the ancient prophets. He is better than any modern prophet, He is better than any high priest. He is better than any pastor. He's better than religion. He is better than any home, car, boat, anything that our money can buy; so if you will hear His voice today, do not harden your hearts, because He is better than life. He is life and only in Him do we know the fullness of joy.

It tells us why we need to not harden our hearts says, "in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that

generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)" For 40 years, Israel was in the wilderness with Moses. I would say one of the greatest prophets of all time. And what does it say? It says they tested Him, they tempted God, and they did. They received food, manna from heaven, and when they weren't happy with the bread they were getting, they got quail. They received water. Their shoes and clothing never wore out. And despite the fact they erred in their heart, they did not know God. And it tells us right here, verse 12, "Take heed lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Why did the children of Israel, that left Egypt with Moses, why did that generation not inherit the promised land? It's because they had inside of them an evil heart of unbelief. And notice this description. Unbelief is called evil. To not believe in God is evil and wicked. So how do we avoid this? We know Jesus is better. I believe each of us in this room have tested God. I think we know we've proved Him. We know that He is good and gracious. We know that He's a promise keeper. We know that He blesses us. But it tells us to take heed. Lest we get this heart of unbelief and depart from him.

We take heed by verse 13. It says to "exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Now, there's still a theme here of Jesus is better. We moved from comparing Jesus to the prophets to comparing Jesus to sin. It tells us that we need to be with one another on a daily basis. This isn't a suggestion of the Bible, by the way, this is a command to exhort one another daily. In other places, it says to pray with one another daily, and others says to confess your sins to one another. And the reason for that is because we are weak. If we are not together, if we are not praying with one another, if we're not encouraging one another, in the word, teaching one another, daily, there is a danger that any of us may be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Now, if we are comparing Jesus to sin, we know of Jesus, it says... He says, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Right? The way, the truth. Look at what sin is called here, sin is called deceitfulness. It's a lie. It's a false pleasure. It's a false joy. It's a false sense of worth and well being that eats us internally. It is, for this reason, as well as all the other scriptures that command us to do this, that I want as a church to be getting together. We're in the last days. We're in a world where the first century, and today is not that different. We're going to be persecuted just like they were, perhaps even more. We know the persecution leading up to the tribulation is going to be worse, probably than that of the first century. In the 21st century, that we live in, the skeptics are a whole lot worse. And so we need to be together. And we need to do this. It continues to tell us here, that we "are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;" Let me tell you something, and we talked about this in The Parable of the Sower, those who profess Christ and then when persecution comes or the world comes, or other things come, and they can't seem to be there for Christ, they are choked out by the world, they are choked out by the weeds. Maybe some are saved, maybe some aren't. But this does tell us to assess that if you are truly saved, then you will hold the beginning of your confidence steadfast to the end, you will not depart from the ways of the Lord unto the end. "While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." Let me tell you something, the Bible... what the Bible tells us about belief here, here's how critical belief is: it's in Hebrews chapter 11, Let's see if I can get turn there myself. Verse six. It says that "without faith it is impossible to please him: for

he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Our works don't get us there. We can't even please God by our works. We cannot please Him without faith. And it is that faith we have to hold on to until the end.

A couple of verses here, as we wrap up tonight, Revelation chapter two, verse 10. It says regarding the world, to "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Remember, in this church here, and Sameera... in Smyrna, they were under persecution, the world was coming down on them. But they were told to fear not what they would suffer, but to hold fast unto death, and they would receive a crown of life. We're reading tonight here in Hebrews three, that they did not hold fast, and that we are partakers of Christ, if we hold fast. We see it again in Matthew 24 Verse 13. It says, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." So as we compare Jesus today, I would also like to compare whether or not He is worth it. He says, If we endure to the end, we shall receive a crown of life. In Revelation 2, Matthew 24, He says, that if we surrender to the end, we shall be saved. He later tells us that if we lose our life, we shall find. In other words, if we give up our flesh, if we give up the things in the world, and seek after Him, then we will find life. But if we seek after our life and the things of the world, He says, We will lose that life. So when we compare whether or not Jesus is better, when we compare, as we go through this Christian way of living in this life, as we go through trials and tribulations and temptations, and the world and the flesh, calling after us, to do everything, when we should be reading, when we should be praying, when we should be gathering, when we should be going to church, as we compare, is it really worth the sacrifice? Because it's a sacrifice. That's why He tells us to be a living sacrifice to Him. He tells us to pick up our cross and follow after Him daily, because it's hard in our busy lives, to make sure we follow the commandments, but we need to evaluate. Is it worth it? Is it worth all the sacrifice, all the temptation, all the trial, all the mockery of those who mock us, to find eternal life? And I would say it is because remember that Jesus is the truth and sin is to deceitfulness.

We'll continue through the series, Jesus is better next week, we'll be in chapter four. So if you want to read ahead, we'll be in chapter four next week, I will also put out on our mobile app, that poll to see what time will work best for everyone. I encourage you to keep up with the commandments of the Bible. And let's do this as a church. Let us encourage one another. This way we can remember every single day, that the Lord that we serve, is not only creator and God, but He is better than life itself. Let's pray.

Father, God, Lord Jesus, Lord, we thank you and praise you today, that you are a great and glorious God. Lord, we thank you and glorify you because you are the builder of this world. Lord, you are the creator of all things, as your Word tells us in Colossians 1:16: That is by you that all things were created, whether it's seen or unseen, visible, invisible power, thrones, principalities, all things were made by you, and so, Lord, we glorify you more than any other being because you are the creator. Now we thank you that you were the better Prophet, that you are the better servant. We thank you that you were the Son of God, and that you faithfully represented the Father. Lord, I pray that we will be steadfast and hold on to our faith until the end as you have commanded us that we are partakers of your kingdom. And Lord, we will rejoice when we finally meet you face to face. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.