

- Last week in chapter 2 we looked at how Jesus is better than angels, because He was a man.
 - Because He became a man, He could die for our sins, which angels can't do because they can't die; v9 & 11.
 - Jesus fulfilled the just requirement of the Law by dying in our place, which perfected, or completed the way of our salvation; v10.
 - Now that the way of salvation has been completed on the cross, anyone who believes in Jesus, enters into that salvation by faith.
 - But that's just the beginning of our new "life in Christ"; we must continue to grow in our love for Him & His word so we don't "drift away".
 - The book of Hebrews is dedicated to encouraging believers in Christ why they should all the more *give the more earnest heed to those things we've heard, lest we drift away*.
 - Chapter 2 began with this warning, & chapter 3 continues that warning in verses 6 & 14.



Heb 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus ...

- *Therefore*; Because of all those reasons we've just discussed in chapters 1 & 2, the readers are urged to; consider Christ Jesus, think again who He is & what He's done for us.
 - Jesus is the one who created this world, & Jesus loved us so much that He stepped off His throne & became one of us; Just so He could die in our place & save us.

- The list of His accomplishments would fill volumes; The Apostle John said:

Jn 21:25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

- His perfect character; His perfect love; His perfect forgiveness; Consider Jesus!



- *holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling*;
 - I believe this phrase identifies the Hebrew readers as believers in Jesus; Christians.
 - *Holy* means separated, & they are Jewish brethren who have been separated unto Christ.
 - *Partakers of the heavenly calling*; The Jews were called to be God's nation on earth, & believers in Jesus have a heavenly calling that extends well beyond this world.
- These believers are being asked to really consider this Jesus they have confessed as Lord.
 - If Jesus really was sent by the Father, & if Jesus really is better than the angels, & if Jesus really died for our sins; Then that makes Him two things to believers now:
 - 1- *Apostle*; *Gk; apostolos*; *Someone sent on a mission to represent the interests of another.*
 - This is a NT term that's not found in the OT, because at that time God used prophets.
 - This letter to the Hebrews opened with a passage that says just that:

Heb 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son ...

- It's Jesus who was sent by the Father to bring this message of salvation to mankind.
- Jesus then appointed twelve Apostles to deliver His message after He was gone, but these Hebrew believers are told that the true Apostle of their faith is Jesus Himself.

2- *High Priest*; He is the mediator for the nation of Israel between God & man.

- The high priest is the one man on earth who is allowed to go into the Most Holy Place in the Temple, on behalf of the other people in the covenant.
- The title “high priest” is used in Hebrews more often than any other NT book.
- Jesus’ roll as High Priest is a constant theme in Hebrews because these Jewish believers need to be reminded that the High Priest position of Jesus is only for NC believers.
- Our NC High Priest is much better than the OC high priest who could only enter into the copy of the Holy of Holies, & only once a year.
- Jesus has entered into the true Holy of Holies in heaven, & presented the sacrifice of His own blood directly to the Father.
- Not only that; Jesus stayed in that heavenly Holy of Holies; He sat down & never left.
- We will discuss this High Priestly position in greater detail as we go thru the book.



◦ *High Priest of our confession*; This is another passage confirming these Hebrews were believers because it states that they, like Paul, have made a confession of faith in Jesus Christ.

² *who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.*

◦ Here Paul introduces his next argument; The superiority of Jesus over Moses.

- There is not a more highly regarded prophet & leader in the OT than Moses.

• God intervened to save Moses in his infancy; *Ex 2:1-10.*

• Moses chose to be with his Hebrew brethren rather than enjoy the palace life; *Heb 11:24-26.*

• Moses was chosen by God at the burning bush to deliver God’s people; *Ex 3:1-10.*

• Moses delivered the Law to Israel, bringing a new age to the earth; *Ex 24:12-18.*

• Moses built the tabernacle in the desert; the first dwelling of God on the earth; *Ex 25-27.*

• Moses established the priesthood in Israel; *Ex 28-30.*

• Moses penned the first five books of the bible by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

• Moses faithfully served & led the people of Israel until the day he died; *Ez 31-34.*

- Moses was one-of-a-kind, with a more intimate relationship with God than any other prophet.

Num 12:6–8 Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. ⁷Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. ⁸I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD...

- As Paul makes this comparison between Jesus & Moses, he in no way disparages Moses, but is simply saying that even as great as Moses was, Jesus is still greater.



Heb 3:3 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.

◦ Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses; We don’t use the word “glory” a lot in our day, but we all understand what it means.

- In the Olympics, the gold medal winner has more glory than the silver, & the silver has more glory than the bronze.
 - In 1992 Olympic runner Derik Redmond's hamstring tendon snapped during the race, but despite the pain, he refused to stop, & he finished the race injured.
 - That day Derik Redmond lost the race, but because of his character, he earned more glory than the gold medal winner.



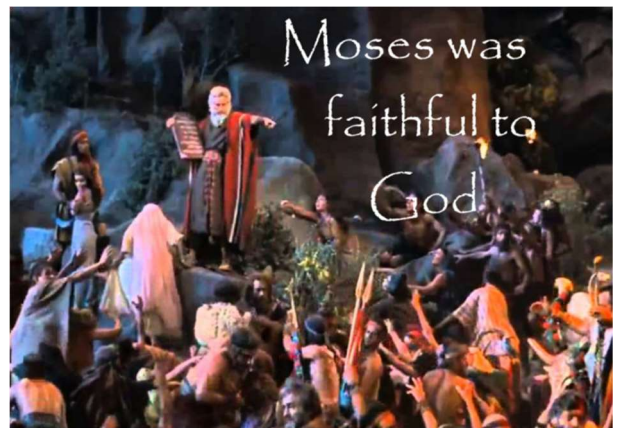
- Glory is not a word we often use today, but we know that it means Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses because of His character, & what He has accomplished.
- *He who built the house has more honor than the house;*
 - Verse 3 says that Jesus is worthy of more glory & honor than Moses in relation to God's house, & he gives what I think is a very interesting reason.
 - Because Jesus is the builder of the house & Moses is just a part of the house.
 - Look at it carefully; Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, just like the builder of the house has more honor than the house.
 - Moses, along with all the people of God, are part of God's household.
 - So he's saying; Jesus built Moses, so He's obviously greater than Moses.

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

- V3 says Jesus built the house of God; v4 says God built all things; Therefore, Jesus is God.
 - Chapter 1 goes to great lengths to prove that Jesus is the Son of God, which makes Him God.
 - The word of our Apostle Jesus, is a sure word because He is God.
 - The sacrificial work of our High Priest on the cross is an absolutely complete work because it's the work of God Himself.

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...*

- Moses was a faithful servant in the house of God, but Jesus is a Son over the house of God.
 - The difference between a servant & a son is that the son, by inheritance, owns the house, & is lord over the house, & provides for those in the house out of his wealth.
 - The servants don't own anything in the house, but follow the word of the owner of the house.
 - Moses was a faithful servant in Christ's house, & continued to be faithful until he died.
 - Jesus is superior to Moses because He built, He owns & He rules over the house of God.

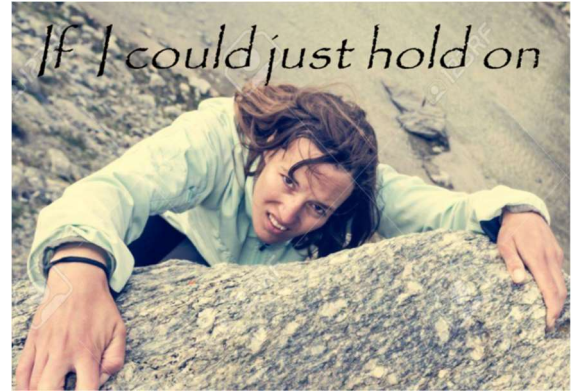


^{6b} *whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.*

- We're as much a part of Christ's household as Moses, But here, Paul is urging these believers to continue in their faith, & not return to the old Jewish Laws & traditions.
 - Here's that little word that holds enormous consequences; *if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.*

- Many people read this thinking our salvation is dependent on our working hard enough.
- No; Our salvation is a free gift from God, simply by faith in His finished work.

Eph 2:8–10 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.



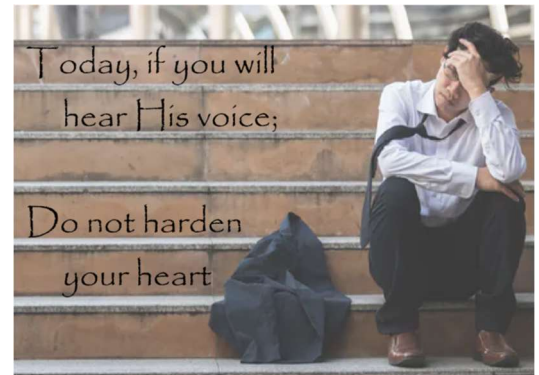
- So after we're saved, do we maintain our salvation thru works? NO!
 - God made us for good works, but they are not the source of our salvation; Jesus alone has paid the price for our salvation; *There is none righteous, no not one;* Rom 3:10.
 - We were saved when we believed in His sacrifice for us; Now, we live our Christian lives the exact same way; simply by holding fast to that confidence we have in Him.
- ° Let's look at verse 7 to help us understand verse 6 better.

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

- ° I think verses 6 & 7 are the heart of this letter; The Hebrew readers, many of whom have drifted away to some degree, are being called back to a commitment of loving Jesus from their hearts.
- Paul quotes from Psalm 95:7-11, saying: *Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion ...* (Just after the exodus from Egypt).
 - Israel was told they were being freed from slavery to go to the land God promised them.
 - They traveled thru the wilderness, but along the way they rebelled against God & refused to believe His promises to them.
 - The land God was leading them to was already theirs; God promised it to them; They simply had to trust Him, but because of adversity, their hearts were hardened toward God.
 - The Jews had seen how powerful the hand of God was during the miracles of the exodus.
 - They weren't harmed by the ten plagues; They were given the riches of Egypt when they left; Not one was lame or sick when they left; Egypt's army was drowned in the Red Sea, & they had a cloud covering them by day, & a pillar of fire protected them by night.
 - Despite all these miracles they walked by sight & not faith; They had hard hearts toward God, & they didn't *hold fast to the end*.
 - When Israel was in the wilderness they didn't follow God with their heart.
 - They didn't believe or trust Him; They never truly loved Him.
 - When adversity came, they had no commitment or love of God to stand on in faith.
- ° V7 tells us: *Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.*
- Notice it's the Holy Spirit calling to us, not the Psalmist; The scripture is God's word to us.
 - The Holy Spirit is saying to them, (& us), Don't harden your heart; Don't shut Me out; Don't try to do this by yourself; Trust Me; Let's do this together, & let's do it today.



- In Hebrews, the believers have abandoned Jesus, & returned to good works & the Law.
- Verse 6 says: **IF** we hold fast to the end, & verse 7 says: Today **IF** you hear His voice.
- I can't do v6 if I don't do v7; How can I hold fast to the end, if I can't hear His voice today?
- The only way I can: *hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end*, is when I commit myself to God every day.
- Tomorrow when I face the challenges of that day, the Holy Spirit will speak to me & say: *Today, hear My voice, & don't harden your heart.*
- Paul is encouraging these Hebrew believers in v6 to commit the rest of their lives to Jesus, & v7 says that each day they need to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit to do that.
- Continue in His love, faithfully live for Him, but do it with His help, His word & His Spirit.
- o In v14 we're told a second time that it's only **if** we hold our confidence steadfast to the end, that we're partakers of Christ.
 - Then again v15 reminds us: *Today if you will hear His voice*; Every day the Holy Spirit will call us to walk with Him, & we have a choice to make.



⁹ *Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years.*

- o This verse contains a very important passage that's slightly off-topic, but I want to address it.
 - The “*day of trial in the wilderness*”, was not God testing Israel's hearts to find out if they would be faithful or not.
 - It says God was the one being tested by Israel in the wilderness.
 - God did not test them with bad things to see if they would be faithful to Him.
 - He promised them a land flowing with milk & honey; He told them to go there & He would be with them; He wanted to help them overcome, but they refused to believe Him.
 - They looked around & didn't see the promises of God, & their hearts became hard.
- o It's no different today; God has also given us many promises.
 - When circumstances look bad, we need to trust Him & stand in faith instead of doubting, grumbling & questioning His intentions of goodness towards us.
 - When the world bring hardship, as it did to Israel in the wilderness, run to God; Trust your future to Him.
 - Believe His word, because He is faithful & He will never leave us.



^{6b} *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 ...*

- o All of this is saying that we need to remain faithful.
 - We need to maintain a daily love for Jesus.
 - We need to listen to the Holy Spirit calling to us, & then, don't harden our hearts.