Consider Christ Superior!

Hebrews 3:1-6

3-10-2021

Introduction: (v.1-2)

V. 1

"Wherefore" - The writer of Hebrews now builds on what he previously said.

Having demonstrated why God (in Christ) became a man, he now shows how faithful that God-man was when he came to earth.

He does this by comparing and contrasting Him with Moses.

This expose' on Christ's supremacy to Moses is addressed to ***"holy brethren"***; that is, to believers who have been declared righteous based on their union to Jesus Christ, and have been set apart from the world unto God.

"Brethren" - Because we are adopted children of God, we are called "brothers." We are related to each other and to Jesus Christ, who is not ashamed to call us brethren, as just previously stated (2:11).

"Partakers" - Participants, sharers, partners.

As "holy brethren" we don't merely know about God's heavenly calling, but we share in it! We are not spectators of it, but participants in it.

"The heavenly calling" - the invitation to salvation which came not from man on earth but from God in Heaven.

God from Heaven invites sinners to Heaven, and those who respond to His invitation become partakers of that invitation.

"Consider" - the only imperative in this paragraph (v. 1-6). The word implores us to fix our minds on something. To allow some truth to penetrate deep into our minds.

Who is it that deserves such serious attention? Answer: Jesus Christ.

"This is no quick glance at Jesus Christ! It is a careful consideration of who He is and what He has done." (Wiersbe, p. 34)

"Apostle" - The word means "a sent one," an ambassador (not necessarily implying an office of apostle, like the twelve; EX: John the Baptist was called an Apostle, in the sense of a sent one.)

Rather, speaks of the function of an apostle, which is to faithfully carry out a mission; it refers to one who is commissioned as an authentic representative.

Jesus was sent by God the Father to announce to the world God's *"Heavenly calling"* to eternal life (John 17:3 - *"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."*)

Jesus Christ was sent as God's "last word" to sinful man (Wiersbe, p. 34).

"High Priest" - our mediator; the God-Man who provides the bridge for man to God by His sacrifice at Calvary and His abiding intercessory work for us.

Both words "apostle" and "high priest" refer back to chapter 2 to the incarnation of Christ. As a "sent one," *"He was made a little lower than the angels"* (2:9), and as a "High Priest" He provides reconciliation for us (2:17).

"Profession" - (*homologias)* the same word which means "to confess" or literally "to say the same thing." A "profession of faith" means to agree with God, to "say the same thing" God's Word says about sin, salvation, and the Savior.

"All true believers 'say the same thing' when it comes to their experience of salvation" (Wiersbe, p. 34).

V. 2

"Faithful to Him" - Jesus was perfectly faithful to carry out the will of God the Father who sent Him.

John 4:34 - *"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."*

John 6:38 - *"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."*

Because of the rank in the triune Godhead (I Cor. 11:3), Christ when He came to earth submitted Himself to the Father and fulfilled His plan of salvation.

(God the Father planned our salvation [Eph. 1:4-6]; God the Son performed our salvation [Eph. 1:7-12]; God the Holy Spirit preserves our salvation [Eph. 1:13-14])

Moses, who at the age of 80 led 2 million Jews out of Egypt through the desert of the Sinai peninsula for 40 years, is clearly the greatest human leader to ever live.

Moses was faithful, but not perfectly faithful (EX: the disobedient incident of his striking the Rock rather than speaking to it - Num. 20:1-13)

Jesus and Moses have some things in common. For example, they both introduced covenants and initiated new dispensations. Moses, the Old Covenant; Jesus, the New Covenant.

"For the Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (Jn. 1:17).

*** Consider how Jesus Christ is superior to Moses!**

I. Christ is superior to Moses, as a BUILDER is superior to a BUILDING (v.3-4)

V. 3

"Counted worthy" - When Christ's glory is weighed with Moses' glory, Christ's infinitely outweighs Moses'.

"Glory" - that which shines; that which radiates a glow or brilliance (SEE: II Cor. 3:7ff)

Jesus outshines Moses as the sun outshines the moon, as the cause of light outshines the effect of that light, as the light bulb (source) outshines the room it has lit (effect).

God's glory is not shared with anyone! (Is. 42:8). Yet Jesus shared the same glory as the Father before the world was created (Jn. 17:5).

He who built the universe is Jesus Christ!

> John 1:1-3, 14 - *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth"*
>
> Col. 1:16-17 - *"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."*
>
> Heb. 1:2 - *"Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds"*

He who built the nation of Israel is Jesus Christ!
He gave a son to Abraham named Isaac (Gen. 18:1-14; cp. Jn. 8:56).
He guided the nation as the shekinah glory cloud and pillar of fire (Ex. 13:21)
He provided water for Israel out of a rock (I Cor. 10:4)
He protected and conquered for Israel as the Captain of the Lord's host (Josh. 5:13-15)

He who built the Church is Jesus Christ!

"I will build My church..." (Mt. 16:18)

"Builded" *(kataskeuzao)* - to construct and furnish

"The word expresses more than the mere construction of the house.
It includes the supply of all necessary furniture and equipment" (Reinecker, p. 672).

Christ built the world and all things therein (Ps. 24:1).

V. 4

"Every house is builded by some man" - Nothing happens by evolution or chance. Every building on earth has been built by someone. An architect planned it and a carpenter built it.

"He that built all things is God" -
Gen. 1:1 - *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"*

> Heb. 11:3 - *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."*
>
> Ps. 33:6-9 - *"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast."*

If Jesus is Creator then He must be God, because God had no help in creation (Is. 44:24 - *"Thus saith the LORD, they redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.")*

Since the Builder is to be honored (valued, esteemed highly) above the Building. . . we should love the Creator more than the Creation; we should worship the Creator and not the creation; we should serve (live for) the Creator rather than the creation.

II. Christ is superior to Moses,
as a <u>SON</u> is superior to a <u>SERVANT</u> (v.5-6a)

V. 5

"His house" - God's household, or stewardship, given to Moses to manage: namely, the nation of Israel.

"As a <u>servant</u>" - (not *doulos* or *diakonos*, but *therapon* [akin to "therapeudic"], meaning one who brings aid and help to people as an attendant, a dignified servant, one who voluntarily and willingly serves as an honorable servant.

What type of spiritual aid did Moses bring to his household, Israel? What service did he render?

"For a testimony. . ." - Moses was a witness of One who would come to speak on God's behalf in the future. He testified of Christ!

"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me, for he wrote of Me" (Jn. 5:46).

SEE: Deut. 18:18-19; cp. with Acts 3:22-26

V. 6

"But Christ [implied: "was faithful"] ***was a Son over His own house" -*** While Moses was a servant (attendant), Jesus is a <u>Son</u>.

While a servant of a King <u>works</u> in a house, the Son of a king <u>owns</u> the house and <u>rules</u> the house.

Christ being the "Son" is the rightful heir of all things. All of the Father's property is His by right of inheritance.

Jesus demonstrated the superiority of a Son over a servant by saying: "*And the servant abideth not in the house for ever; but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."* (Jn. 8:35-36)

"Whose house are we" -

Christ's relationship to His people is illustrated in several ways in the New Testament:

--The Body of Christ (Rom. 12; I Cor. 12; Eph. 4:4-16)

--The Bride of Christ (Jn. 3:29; Eph. 5:23-32; Rev. 19:7, 9)

--The Temple of God (I Cor. 3:17, 6:19-20; Eph. 2:21, 22)

--The pillar and ground of the truth (I Tim. 3:15)

--The Building (house) of Christ (I Cor. 3:9-11)

1) The Builder is Christ (Mt. 16:18)

2) The foundation is the Gospel about Christ (I Cor. 3:10-11)

3) The cornerstone is Christ (Eph. 2:20; Acts 4:11)

4) The building stones are believers (I Pet. 2:5)

Conclusion: (v.6b)

Since Christ is superior to Moses, no one should revert back to the Law of Moses, but continue in the grace of Christ.

A proof that you are Christ's *"house"* is if you don't cave in under pressure, if you "hold fast" (firmly hold onto without letting go).

Compare such perseverance of the saints with 3:12, 14.

That which distinguishes a true Christian from a false one is his divinely-bestowed ability to endure until the end (cp. Mt. 24:13). A true child of God will never become an apostate (I Tim. 4:1; I Jn. 2:19).

"If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed" (Jn. 8:31).

God's righteous ones may and will at times fall, but they get up again! (Prov. 24:16).

God is not teaching us that we keep ourselves saved; what He is teaching is that if we are saved, we will keep on keeping on!

"Confidence" - a bold assurance of truth

"Rejoicing" - a boasting in the hope anchored in Christ (not self)

By comparing Christ to the greatest Jew to ever life, it becomes clearly evident that no one compares to Jesus Christ.

He is above and beyond anyone and anything.

--Should we ever be ashamed of Him? (should we "blush to speak His name"?)

--Shouldn't we be faithful to Him? (we have every reason to keep our full confidence in Him to the end)

Song: "We Will Glorify"

"WE WILL GLORIFY"

We will glorify the King of kings,
We will glorify the Lamb;
We will glorify the Lord of lords,
Who is the Great I AM.

Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty,
We will bow before His throne;
We will worship Him in righteousness,
We will worship Him alone.

He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth,
He is Lord of all who live;
He is Lord above the universe,
All praise to Him we give.

Hallelujah to the King of kings,
Hallelujah to the Lamb;
Hallelujah to the Lord of lords,
Who is the great I AM.

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