

Consider Jesus

Our text today comes from the book of Hebrews. It is a book written to believers who were under pressure. It was written to encourage them to consider who Jesus is and who they are in Him, and to never, ever give up, right to the end.

Opening text: Hebrews 3:1, 6, 14

¹ *Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, **consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.** (...)*

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. (...)*

¹⁴ *For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.*

1. Consider Jesus

There is so much to consider about Jesus.

a) He is the 'star attraction' of the Kingdom of God.

Interestingly, the word '*consider*' comes from the Latin root-word for '*star*'. The word in its original form literally meant *to carefully and diligently contemplate or to gaze at the stars*. Consider Jesus: look at our Star.

When Jesus was born, wise men saw His star appear and they followed it. Jesus is the star we follow, He is the star attraction of the Kingdom of God, the keynote of the whole Bible, the One we consider and the One we contemplate.

b) *Consider the Apostle ...*

To a person living in NT times, the word apostle meant *one sent, a delegate, often on a military expedition to occupy new lands*. Consider our General who came to crush the enemy and establish the Kingdom of God.

c) *... and High Priest of our confession.*

To the early Jewish believers this was a very important title. In the book of Hebrews, Jesus is referred to as 'High Priest' 12 times.

Jesus came perfectly Divine and perfectly human – Jesus came uniquely qualified for the role of a High Priest: He could speak to humanity for God and intercede to God for humanity. As a High Priest He offered the final sacrifice of Himself for sin.

Considering Jesus is crucial, so we never become discouraged because of any pressure against us:

Hebrews 12:3 - For **consider Him** who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

- d) We need to consider Jesus as Apostle, as High Priest but the greatest of His titles is, *Son of God*

V.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.

2. Consider who you are in Him

V. 6 - but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are...

- a) Believers in Jesus are called the House of God. He lives in us! Consider who you are in Him today.

1 Peter 2:5 - you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- b) I find it amazing that a passage that invites us to consider Jesus and elevate Jesus, also mentions us right there with Him!

Verse 1 - Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

The Bible calls us "holy and "partakers of the heavenly calling".

Verse 14 also calls us "partakers of Christ".

The word *partaker* in the Greek is *metochos* which means: *a participant, an associate, a partner, companion.*

Jesus is the star attraction, elevated to the highest place of honour. However, He came to the earth to elevate our lives from the dust and insignificance to make us sit with Him, to participate and partner with Him.

(Ephesians 2:4-6 ... *and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus)*

As I mentioned before, the writer of the book of Hebrews is writing to a church under pressure. He urges the Hebrew Christians not to give up their faith by reminding them to consider who Jesus is and who they are in Him. In this passage, he urges them also not to be moved, not to give up - right until the end!

3. Consider the long-haul

Christmas is a season, but we don't have to be seasonal Christians and have a joy or a passion that only lasts the season. Jesus is our Lord until the end. Our allegiance to Him is permanent and a non-negotiable, come what may.

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.

¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.

This is passion to the end, joy to the end, faith to the end!

a) Hold fast the confidence!

This speaks of being intentional about not letting go of your faith in Jesus, having a firm resolve to never quit, never give up!

Hebrews 10:23, 35, 38-39:

***23** - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

***35** - Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.*

***38-39** - Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." ³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*

b) Keep the joy!

Let us go back to our opening text in Hebrews 3:6:

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.

Keep the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end!

Christmas is a season of joy. The angels announced "good news of great joy which shall be for all people" – but God never intended this to just be a seasonal joy. We need to keep this joy going to the end!

Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Hebrews 3:6 AMPC - *⁶ But Christ (the Messiah) was faithful over His [own Father's] house as a Son [and Master of it]. And it is we who are [now members] of this house, if we hold fast and firm to the end our joyful and exultant confidence and sense of triumph in our hope [in Christ].*

Consider Jesus,
Consider who you are in Him,

Consider the long haul:

- Have an immovable resolve to never let go
- Have an unwavering confidence in Jesus
- Have an infectious joy and a sense of triumph ... until the end!