

In Chapter 1, we were reminded that our Savior is God. He is the Son of God who created the heavens and earth; He is the Son, sent by His Father to save creation from itself. He is the Son to whom the angels worship. The Son of God, begotten of the Father, not as an act of creation but of declaration! The eternal Son of God whose throne is forever and ever.

In Chapter 2, we were reminded of the mystery of the GOD-MAN, Jesus. We were reminded that He was 100% God and 100% Man, not 50-50 and not at one time God and another time Man. Did Paul write of Him as emptying Himself in Philippians 2:7? He did NOT empty Himself of His divinity, but only His glory, condescending to become a man. And He dwelt among us, walked with us, taught us not in a pillar of cloud, or a burning bush, not to just a few as He did with the patriarchs but as a man, as a brother. It surely was understood, but much later that those who met Him, met GOD – face to face.

So, what do we do with this information? What do we do with these revelations?

Let's see...

(pray)

(Hebrews 3:1 NKJV) Therefore, **holy brethren, partakers** of the **heavenly calling, consider** the **Apostle** and **High Priest** of our **confession, Christ Jesus,**

There is a lot here in these few introductory words. The writer wants to convey more about Christ Jesus. Something more superior than what they have experienced.

The author is writing not just to his brethren, that is, fellow Jews, but to his holy brethren, believers who share or partner with each other in their 'heavenly calling'. These believers are holy, not because of what they do, but by the sanctifying work of Jesus on the Cross.

The word 'partakers' is like the Greek word for 'eat', but this form of the word means 'sharing' or "being in association with". And what do we share? **A heavenly calling.** Now, for the Jewish believers reading this, this phrase teaches them that this calling is not like their earthly calling, a national calling to love the One, Living and True God with all their mind, heart, soul and strength and to be a light to all who do not know Him. This heavenly calling is especially understood by the words of Jesus:

John 17:21-24 NKJV that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. (22) And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: (23) I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. (24) "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

So, in our heavenly calling we look upward. And, it begins by and is made complete in our relationship with our Messiah. In all the verses dealing with our "calling", it is clear that this is a calling from God **to** Himself. Our calling is not just something we do...but who we

are...children of the Most High God! The "doing" is what we do because of who we are! This is, perhaps, why Paul could write "whatever you do, do it for the glory of God".

Next is the word "consider". This isn't like considering a piece of key lime pie vs apple pie for dessert. No! It is to look deeply into something, to gaze, to ponder, to meditate on something ...but in this case, we are told to focus on 'someone', that is, on Jesus.

And we are told to consider him as an Apostle and High Priest. Jesus an apostle? NO! This is Jesus THE apostle! Of the 81 times this word is used, it is only attached to Jesus here. But why does the author call Him the Apostle? The word Apostle means 'sent one' or 'set apart'. We know that John uses the word "sent" extensively, but I can give you a couple of examples:

John 3:17 NKJV For God did not send (the Greek word for apostle) His Son into the world to condemn the world, **but that the world through Him might be saved.**

John 5:24 NKJV "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent (dispatched) Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

The point here is that JESUS is epitome, the perfection of an apostle because He always obeyed His Father who sent Him.

This also helps us to understand the relationship of the Son to the Father. It is so difficult for us to understand that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all God, all equal, all the same. Yet, They choose, in some mysterious way, to submit to One another.

Once again, Jesus is referred to as "THE" High Priest. Not like the High Priest on earth. He is our 'mediator' between God and Man and ONLY THE God-Man Jesus could do this to perfection. For how could a man stand before God to mediate for another man? But the God-Man Jesus could because of who He was!

"of our confession". Some translations use the word 'profession' but even in scripture, this can have a negative connotation. For example "even though they professed to be wise, they were fools". But in the Greek the word means "acknowledgement" and its verb form "confess" mean to 'covenant'. This isn't the same as in 1 John 1:9 where our confession is total agreement with God on His assessment of our sin!

So, Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of the covenant He made.

(Hebrews 3:2 NKJV) who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house.

Moses is the most revered Jewish man who ever lived. You cannot say anything negative about this man without receiving an onslaught of criticism.

The author first declares that Jesus was faithful to His Father who ordained/appointed Him even as Moses was faithful in all His House.

Numbers 12:1-8 NKJV Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the

Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. (2) So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard *it*. (3) (Now the man Moses *was* very humble, more than all men who *were* on the face of the earth.) (4) Suddenly the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tabernacle of meeting!" So the three came out. (5) Then the LORD came down in the pillar of cloud and stood *in* the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward. (6) Then He said, "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. (7) **Not so with My servant Moses; He *is* faithful in all My house. (8) I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?"**

In the Greek and the Hebrew, the word house can mean a specific dwelling, a house, the Tabernacle, the Temple. But it can also mean a household, a family which I believe is the intention here.

Jesus was also faithful to Him just as Moses. But there was a big difference!

(Hebrews 3:3 NKJV) 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. (Hebrews 3:4 NKJV) For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God.

Although Moses was faithful, Jesus has more glory because He is the One who built the house, even the "house" over which Moses was considered faithful, that is, the House of Israel.

(Hebrews 3:5 NKJV) And Moses indeed *was* faithful in all His house as a **servant**, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*,

The word for servant is not the same word that is used for bond-servant or slave. It means an attendant.

(Hebrews 3:6 NKJV) **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.**

And, there's the Truth: The Christ, Jesus, has more glory because whereas Moses was the attendant of the house, Jesus owns the house because He built the house....AND this house is, in reality, all true believers who are called the Body of Christ or His church. And He, unlike Moses, is not a son by adoption or by creation but by His very Nature, God the Son.

1 Corinthians 3:9 NKJV For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's **building**.

1 Peter 2:4-5 NKJV Coming to Him *as to* a **living stone**, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, (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.

So, we are told to hold fast to the end. We are told to hold fast the **confidence** and **rejoicing** we have because we are in "His House"!

What's interesting is the word choices and their meaning in the Greek:

1. Confidence

From G3956 and a derivative of G4483; **all out spokenness, that is, frankness, bluntness, publicity**; by implication *assurance*: - bold (X -ly, -ness, -ness of speech), confidence, X freely, X openly, X plainly (-ness).

2. Rejoicing

From G2744; a *boast* (properly the objective; by implication the act) in a good or bad sense: - **boasting**, (whereof) to glory (of), glorying, rejoice (-ing).

The confidence, like the rejoicing, is not just internal – it is boasting, it is outward bluntness or boldness in speech! We are hold tight until the end (heaven), and the write tells us how: we're to boast in our testimonies of what this GOD-MAN Jesus did for us! How He called us, forgave us and granted us eternal life!

Even though the Temple still stood and the priests, Levites, the rabbi's and the Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes were still in power --- from the beginning, the Temple and all that it represented was just a shadow of a true substance. Strange to think of our reality in which we see, hear, touch, taste and smell is just a shadow and that Christ, who is invisible, is the substance.

This new reality of being "His House" comes with an admonition, that is, a warning:

The IF is a warning; IF you were to spend years and years neglecting your relationships in your life, what would be the result? Could be years of sadness; years of stress. Or years ended abruptly. The Holy Spirit will do and does do everything possible to keep you clinging securely to the Son. All to the Glory of the Father! This is more than God relying on our own free-will – this is His active involvement in relationship between God and Man by the GOD-MAN, our Lord and Savior Messiah Jesus. Only God can declare "I will never leave you nor forsake you"! We must humble ourselves to know that it is His faithfulness that keeps us clinging to Him!

And the skeptical, or the hurt ones, or the insecure ones might be sitting here thinking, "Well, what exactly DOES He Do?"

Song of Solomon 2:8-17 NKJV (8) The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes Leaping upon the mountains, Skipping upon the hills. (9) My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall; He is looking through the windows, Gazing through the lattice. (10) My beloved spoke, and said to me: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away. (11) For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over *and* gone. (12) The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove Is heard in our land. (13) The fig tree puts forth her green figs, And the vines *with* the tender grapes Give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away! (14) "O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret *places* of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice *is* sweet, And your face *is* lovely." (15) Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines *have* tender grapes. (16) My beloved *is* mine, and I *am* his. He feeds *his*

flock among the lilies. (17) Until the day breaks And the shadows flee away, Turn, my beloved,
And be like a gazelle Or a young stag Upon the mountains of Bether.