

Hebrews Ch. 3

V.1

- Remember, the author isn't talking to nonbelievers
 - he is addressing Hebrew Christians who are falling back into Judaism and legalism
- he wants them to consider Jesus
 - He isn't encouraging them to consider Jesus as one of many options
 - but the word "consider" means to "observe fully"
 - if people observe fully what Christ has done for us, they would undoubtedly commit their lives to Him
- Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession
 - He is not merely an apostle, but rather THE Apostle
 - an apostle is simply an "ambassador of the gospel" or "one who is sent"
 - the apostles were sent by Jesus, Jesus was sent By the Father
- in the Jewish culture, the high priest was the ultimate spiritual authority
 - The high priest had very specific responsibilities and privileges
 - He was the only one allowed in the Holy of Holies (presence of God)
 - He was the one who had to perform the sacrifices for the peoples' sin
 - He was appointed for life
- The author wants the people to understand that Jesus is the Ultimate High Priest
 - all that came before Him were simply foreshadows of the One to come
 - Jesus does not simply enter the presence of God; He is the Presence of God

Col 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

-Jesus doesn't perform sacrifices on our behalf to remove our sins; He became the ultimate sacrifice Himself

1Pe 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

-Since Jesus raised Himself from the dead, He will remain High Priest forever

Heb 6:20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

V.2

-to say that Jesus was worthy of greater honor than Moses was a huge claim to the Jewish people

-Moses was the greatest prophet that ever lived before Christ

-he was the deliverer of the Hebrew people, the most humble man that ever lived and someone whom God knew intimately

Deu 34:10 Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

Exo 33:11 Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend.

-of course, Moses didn't see God in all His Glory

-this is describing the encounter Moses had with God when He descended on the tabernacle in a thick cloud

-but Moses encountered God on the mountain, gave the people the Law to live by and wrote the first five books of the bible

-he was such a great man that God buried him personally

Deu 34:5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

Deu 34:6 And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows his burial place to this day.

-Satan actually wanted to have access to the body of Moses

Jud 1:9 But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

-yes, the writings of Moses were extremely important, but they weren't written to testify how great Moses was

-they were written to point to Christ

Joh 5:46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.

Joh 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

V.4

-the point the author is trying to make to the people is that no matter how great Moses was, he was just a man created by God

-the One who created him is to receive more honor just like the builder is to receive more honor than the house

-a house has no say-so in how it will be built, how beautiful it will be or what its function will be

-those details are all decided beforehand by the builder

-the same is true with people and their gifts and abilities

V.5-6

-Moses was one of the greatest leaders that ever lived, but he served the people he led

-the event that got him banished from his life of luxury was trying to serve his people

-he wound up killing a soldier in the defense of one of his fellow Hebrew people

-although he was raised in Pharaoh's house with wealth and prosperity, when he escaped to Egypt, he tended his father in law's flocks of sheep

-Moses lived a life of comfort until he realized he had to deliver his people from the enemy

-this is an obvious foreshadowing of the Messiah to come

-Jesus existed in complete paradise in heaven

-but when His people were being oppressed by the enemy, He humbled Himself and did what He needed to in order to save them

-Jesus was the ultimate leader, but like Moses, His focus was on serving His people

Mar 10:43 "But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant;

Mar 10:44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.

Mar 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Joh 13:14 "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

Joh 13:15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.

-don't miss the part in v. 5 that says "for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later"

-some people think that the Old Testament is irrelevant now since it was the old covenant

-this couldn't be further from the truth

-the Old Testament is a picture book filled with illustrations, picture types and examples of things that will be fulfilled in the New Testament

-Augustine said "the New Testament is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New revealed."

V.7-11

-Today is the day of salvation

-there is no better day to give your life to the Lord than today

-God kept the Israelites from entering the Promised Land because they didn't believe His promise that they could defeat the enemy and move into the land

-just like in the promise land, God has promised us victory but still expects us to go and take it

V.12-13

-how sad it is when someone falls away from their relationship with God

-as much as some people don't want to believe it, the doctrine of "once saved, always saved" isn't accurate.

-you can't fall away from somewhere you have never been

-most people who fall into sin don't set out to do it

-it's usually a gradual process that the enemy leads them through and before they know it, they are neck deep in sin

-this is a big part of the reason for being part of the church

-when we see each other struggle, we are supposed to encourage one another

-so many churches today are no longer personal

-people show up for the service and leave when it's over

-they may do a little small talk on the way out the door but for the most part, people don't discuss their real problems with their church family

-results from a 2011crosswalk.com survey:

34% of people who attend church leave because of a lack of personal connections there.

18% have abandoned a church because they felt unwelcome, and 16% stated their reason as an inability to connect with others.

V.14

-Being a partaker in Christ is conditional

-there are no works we have to perform but we are required to stand firm in our faith until the end

-a real relationship with Christ is not walking down the aisle of a church one day or raising your hand and saying a short prayer

-a relationship with Him is a constant, daily, lifelong commitment

-it's submitting to His authority and plans for your life

-Jesus wants an ongoing relationship with us

V.15-19

-if the children of Israel would have just believed that God had given them the victory over their enemies, they would have enjoyed countless blessings from Him

-but since they doubted, God required them to wander the wilderness for 40 years

-this was to ensure that all who made the decision to doubt God would die off before He allowed the group to enter the promised land

-as mentioned earlier, the promise land is not a picture of heaven but of the Spirit filled life

-in the promise land, the children were still required to fight and work to secure their land

-Moses was not allowed to enter the promise land but is undoubtedly in heaven today