

EPIPHANY 4 – 2009

Hebrews 3: 1 - 6

The Book of Hebrews aims to keep Christians focused on and faithful to Jesus. Clearly the verses we are centered on today want us to

Fix Our Thoughts on Jesus!

If we fix our thoughts on Jesus we will continue to trust in and rely on Jesus as our eternal and complete Savior for eternal life. The rest of these verses surely ought to make us want to fix our thoughts on Jesus.

You and I daily are under attack because we confess Jesus. The devil, the world, and our natural, sinful selves hate God because God is out to rescue us from sin which kills us spiritually, eventually kills physically unto eternal death. God aims to free us from Satan's slavery under sin to death eternal in hell. God works to rescue us out of this corrupt, dying world of impenitent unbelief. This is why sin, Satan, and the unbelieving world so hate us as believers in Jesus and His salvation.

These verses and the Book of Hebrews as a whole, work to keep and even strengthen our reliance on Jesus, God our Savior.

To fix our thoughts on Jesus, these verses tell us wonderful things about Him.

It says, Fix your thoughts on Jesus because Jesus is even greater than Moses. Moses was appointed by God – remember what happened at the burning bush – to lead the people of Israel out of Egyptian slavery under a tyrant Pharaoh. Moses, by God the Savior's power, led Israel through the sea, while God used the same sea to destroy the enemy army chasing Israel. Anyone who tries to destroy or to enslave the souls of God's people is also God's enemy. Moses was the LORD's instrument to lead Israel through the wilderness to the land of Canaan which God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob God would one day give to a nation of their descendants.

Moses delivered God's written Laws to Israel at Mount Sinai.

Moses testified to what God would one day say to Israel and to the world through a future Prophet of prophets, God the Son. That Promised One would also be born from the people of Israel.

Moses was faithful as a servant in God's house. Moses was a member of God's household, God's family, God's people. Moses served God, who appointed him, by faithfully serving God's people, even when those people were quite unfaithful to the lord and even abusive toward Moses.

Moses was worthy of great honor. But Jesus is worthy of even greater honor!

Jesus was also appointed to His saving office and work by God, the Father. From eternity God knew only He could rescue sinners from their sin and from eternal slavery to the tyrant Satan and from death. To do it, God knew He would both need to live and to die for those sinners. So God came. God the Father sent His one and only Son, the eternal Son, God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, the Son from the Father.

Jesus will lead all His people from such slavery and death to the true, eternal, Promised Land of heaven. He brings them through the water of Baptism, thereby destroying the threat of sin and Satan, through this short but hard life in the world to life eternal in Him. Jesus died to free us from the guilt and eternal consequences of sin, and then raised Himself from the dead. He raised Himself to glorious, eternal life to assure us sinners of glorious eternal life in Him and with Him.

The message of God's free gift of love and favor (grace) came through Jesus Christ. This message liberated us from the just judgement of God's holy laws. This message is the Gospel, the Good News connected to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection on our behalf.

Jesus is God the Savior! Jesus is that great Prophet of all God's prophets. As God, Jesus is the Builder of everything, especially the Builder of God's House, God's family. Jesus, the Son, makes everyone who trusts in Him His brothers and sisters and so the Father's sons and daughters.

Jesus is faithful as the Son over all of God's house. Jesus is the King and Lord of God's people, ruling their hearts as their Redeemer and Savior. Jesus was truly faithful, perfectly faithful, pure, sinless, as He did exactly what the Father wanted done.

In all these things Jesus is worthy of far greater honor than Moses.

And we should fix our thought on Jesus because Jesus is also the Great High Priest. Jesus made Himself the Mediator, the Middleman between the holy God and sinful humanity. Jesus provided forgiveness to the sinner and righteousness to the unrighteous, to you, to me, for all. He, as High Priest, offered Himself as the sacrifice of atonement. By His resurrection He is our eternal, living, and pure, holy High Priest, exalted higher than the heavens, at God the Father's almighty right hand, to use His almighty power to save us and to intercede for us forever.

Because of Jesus we are named the holy brothers. We are holy in Jesus the Holy One for us. We are brothers with Jesus, the Son, children of the Father, Jesus' Father, God the Father. So, we are heirs of God, inheriting everything Jesus purchased for us with His holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death, inheriting eternal life in Jesus.

We share the heavenly calling, a call from heaven, a call to heaven. Eternal, joyous, sin-free life with Jesus is the hope of which we boast, boasting about Jesus!

So hold on to Jesus. Do this with courage. That is what faith in Jesus is, courageous holding tightly to Him.

Fix, focus your thoughts on Jesus every day, all the time, certainly also when the world confronts us with fears, worries, doubts, troubles, and even death, certainly when the devil lies against God's Word, certainly when the sin in us wants to rebel. Fix your thoughts on Jesus! Amen.