

Consider Jesus: The Faithful One Hebrews 3:1 – 4:2

When we are willing to make a careful, diligent contemplation of Jesus Christ, we cannot fail to see His faithfulness - to His Father and to mankind - and the benefits of trusting in Him. This is one reason why the author of Hebrews contends so strongly that Jesus Himself must be the single focus and sole object of our faith - not propositions or principles, not customs or covenants. We are to "consider Jesus" (3:1) as the centerpoint of our faith.

For one, He alone is the "Apostle" of our faith (3:1) - divinely commissioned by God to be His personal, direct, firsthand, full and final revelation of Himself - God's representative, ambassador to man. As our "High Priest" who makes intercession in the presence of God for us (3:1), He is man's representative before God. As such, He is the "faithful one" (3:2,6) - the reliable source of every Christian confession, every choice of faith.

"Therefore" (3:7), consider the perils of unbelief in Him:

- "hardened hearts" (3:8,15) - the result of deliberate, defiant, ongoing refusal to trust Him
- "deceitfulness of sin" (3:13) - our lives begin to be shaped by and built upon lies
- something dies (3:17) - every time we place faith in a "dead idol" something "dies"
- loss of "rest" (3:18 - 4:1) - the chronic presence of aimlessness, complaining, restlessness

In other words, just as an entire generation of Israelites failed to enter the Promised Land due to unbelief, we, as Christians, will never get to where we intend to go on the road of unbelief!

But there is an alternative:

- remember "who" you are (3:1,6,14) - "holy brethren", "the house of God", "partakers of Christ"
- be in a listening "posture" (3:7,15) - a non-selective readiness to "listen under" God's authority
- "unite" His word to your faith (4:2) - join your "chooser" to God's choice and obey
- do so "today" (3:7,13,15) - an ever-fresh, receptivity of God's activity in the moment

The author is assertively reminding His readers that "considering Jesus" is no static, one time choice. Rather, it is walking by faith with the ever Faithful One in the newness of "now"! Since the life of Jesus Christ is always a never-beginning, never-ending "today", an ever-present "now" - faith in the Faithful One calls for an ever-present trust in Him "today". Agree with God "today" and obey Him "today" - and watch Him make a difference in your view of yesterday and your provision for tomorrow. He is faithful!

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Greetings

Most people we talk to seem to think the world is getting worse every day. Sensationalistic reporting, doom and gloom talking heads, ever present social media rants... you get the point! I do not look at life through rose-colored glasses, however, we are firmly instructed by God not to "walk by sight" (what we see and hear), but by faith (what God sees and says). Why? We can be easily deceived by our own limited, finite perceptions - for worse or for better!

I could make a case, statistically, that many things are better now than even 30 years ago. (Half as many active wars around the globe, annual homicide rates per 100,000 are down nearly 30%, pollution rates have decreased by about half, poverty rates worldwide less than 50% of what they were in 1988 - just to name a few.)

To the point: Reality is not what we see, feel, or think. Reality is not what the reigning experts of the day say. Reality is certainly not what the social pundits and media gurus think it to be. Reality is always what God sees! Those willing to walk in the light of Truth and say what God says are in the best possible position to catch a glimpse of reality - and "see" what God sees. And "grace" - the desire and the energy to be and do all God intends us to be and do - is for reality!

Let's dare to lay down our biases, see through our perceptions, and rise above our fears. And by saying what God says we just may begin to live "on earth as it is in heaven" -in God's reality!

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