

## Hebrews 3:1-6

The beginning of chapter three shows how superior Jesus is to Moses, probably the most revered person in Jewish history. There is a saying in the Jewish world, "From Moses [of the Torah] to Moses [Maimonides] there was none like Moses."

1. Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness wanderings.
2. Moses received the 10 commandments and the Law through a personal encounter with God on Mt. Sinai -  
*"And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them,"* Exodus 24:10.
3. Moses died an unnatural death -  
*"And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated,"* Deuteronomy 34:7.
4. Moses was buried in an unknown place by God -  
*"And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day,"* Deuteronomy 34:6.
5. Moses had his body disputed over by Satan and Michael the archangel -  
*"Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee,"* Jude 9
6. Moses was one of two men chosen to appear with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration,  
*"And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him,"* Matthew 17:3.

### **1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;**

The beginning of this verse is predicated on all that has been taught up to this point:

The Son, Jesus, is the Messiah	- 1:1-3
Jesus is better than the prophets	- 1:1-2
Jesus is better than the angels	- 1:4-14; 2:5-8
Jesus offers so "great a salvation"	- 2:3
Jesus died for all	- 2:9-10, 14-15
Jesus will bring us to heaven one day	- 2:10
Jesus is a merciful and faithful High Priest	- 2:17-18

There are 4 truths in this verse we need to internalize.

#### **OUR POSITION - holy brethren**

Our position is in view here, not our practice as "part of the family." This verse reflects back on Hebrews 2:11.

The only other time this phrase is used is in 1 Thessalonians 5:27:

*"I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren."*

"Holy" ἅγιος hag'-ee-os means "sacred (physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated)."

Holy is always used in a religious context and is something that is set apart for God or spiritual (religious) purposes.

## OUR FOCUS - partakers of the heavenly calling

Once we are saved we have a different focus in life.

- we are children of the kingdom - Colossians 1:12-13

*"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."*

- we have spiritual blessings - Ephesians 1:3

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."*

- we are seated in heavenly places - Ephesians 2:6

*"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."*

- we have our citizenship in heaven - Philippians 3:20

*"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."*

- we are to focus on things above - Colossians 3:2

*"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."*

## OUR THOUGHTS - consider the Apostle and High Priest...Christ Jesus

*consider* (κατανοεω katanoeo {kat-an-o-eh'-o} - to observe fully) - everything we do should be done with Jesus in mind.

Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ," 1 Corinthians 11:1.

Apostle means "sent" (αποστελλω ap-os-tel'-lo) - 1 John 4:14 - "And we have seen and do testify that the Father **sent** the Son to be the Saviour of the world."

High Priest speaks of his mediatorial function between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5 - "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.")

*Christ Jesus* is the first time in this letter the office of Messiah and the person of Jesus are tied together. Previously the Messiah's offices (1:1-3) were mentioned as being present in the Son but now the Son, Jesus, and the office of Messiah are brought together.

## OUR PROFESSION - our profession, Christ Jesus

This word is used as a noun 6 times in the N.T. (2 Corinthians 9:13; 1 Timothy 6:12,13; Hebrews 3:1; 4:14;10:23) and always means confession.

*"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good **profession** before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good **confession**."* 1 Timothy 6:12-13

*"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our **profession**."* Hebrews 4:14

In the verb form it is found in 21 verses in such places as Romans 10:9,10 and Matthew 10:32-33.

*"That if thou shalt **confess** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth **confession** is made unto salvation."* Romans 10:9-10

We are called to confess Him as Messiah, Savior, and Lord before the whole world.

**2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.**

Moses was faithful in all his house - see Numbers 12:7-8

Consider Exodus 40

Verse 3-15 where at least once in every verse Moses is commanded "thou shalt."

Six times in chapter 40 is the phrase "as the LORD commanded Moses."

Notice verse 33, "Moses finished the work."

Yet Moses sinned - Numbers 20:8-12

Jesus was faithful in all things

Matthew 5:17 *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."*

Luke 22:42 *"Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."*

Jesus never sinned

Isaiah 53:9 *"And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth."*

2 Corinthians 5:21 *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

**3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.**

This man speaks of Jesus who is worthy of more honor than Moses in that He built the house. Moses was an honored servant in God's economy of the Old Testament ("house") but Jesus, as God, was the author and builder of the house.

**4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.**

God is the builder of all things:

Hebrews 1:1-2, 10

Colossians 1:16 *Jesus, as Creator God - "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him."*

**5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;**

Moses was a servant in his house. This is probably referring to the Tabernacle as Moses received the instructions for building it, and carried it out, from God, Exodus 25:1,8,9.

**6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.**

Messiah the son (of God) over his own house

Proverbs 30:4 *"Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?"*

Isaiah 9:6 *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

Psalms 2:7,12 *"I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee."*

*"Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."*

Believers today belong to Jesus and are His house (the church):

- 1 Corinthians 3:9      *"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."*
- 1 Peter 2:5            *"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."*
- Ephesians 2:19-22    *"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;  
And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;  
In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:  
In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."*

Jesus is the FOUNDATION STONE (1 Corinthians 3:11) and the CORNERSTONE (Ephesians 2:20)

*"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

*"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."*

***if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.***

This admonition is with the **professing** believers in mind. The warning is not given to create uncertainty but to prevent presumption and carelessness.

Luke 8:4-15 (contrast, for example verses 14 and 15)

- 14      *And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*
- 15      *But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.*
- 2 Peter 2:20      *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*
- 21      *For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.*
- 22      *But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*
- Philippians 1:6      *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."*