



INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 3:1-6

“Consider” means to think about something by taking the time to observe it carefully. Jesus used the word when He told us to consider the ravens and the lilies (Luke 12:24, 27). We see ravens almost every day, but we don’t usually stop to consider them. Jesus pointed out that they do not sow nor reap. They have no storerooms or barns, and yet God feeds them. He concludes, “How much more valuable you are than the birds!” Why didn’t I think of that? Because I didn’t stop to consider the ravens!

To consider something requires time and effort. It doesn’t happen automatically, especially when you’re busy. But if you take the time to do it, it usually yields rich rewards. We had some friends in California who visited Yosemite. They had heard us raving about its beauty. They told us later that they spent an hour there, saw it, and left. We were stunned! An hour in Yosemite?

I later read about an old park ranger there who was still working in his late eighties. He had literally spent his life exploring and enjoying the spectacular beauty of Yosemite. One day a city woman hurriedly approached him and asked, “If you had only one hour to see Yosemite, what would you do?” He slowly repeated her words, “Only one hour to see Yosemite.” After a pause, he said, “Ma’am, if I only had one hour to see Yosemite, I’d go over to that log, sit down, and cry!”

How much time did you spend this past week considering the beauty of Jesus Christ? The Bible has page after page revealing His majestic glory. It is our only source of information, by the way. Some Christians make up a “Jesus” in their minds, but He isn’t the Jesus of the Bible. Their Jesus is nice and never judgmental. When they sin, which is often, their Jesus just hugs them and assures them that we all make mistakes. Their Jesus loves them just as they are, which is how they like it, because they don’t want to confront their sins and discipline themselves for the purpose of godliness. The problem is, their “Jesus” isn’t the Jesus of the Bible!

And so our antidote to drifting and our strength for endurance is to see and savor Jesus Christ from His Word. I implore myself first, because I’m prone to drift, and I implore you: Take time to consider Jesus often!¹

Watch It  Bible Principles

Watch Bible Principles #5; Heb. 3:1-6 www.villagebible.church/bibleprinciples

¹ Sermon by Steven Cole. <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-9-endure-consider-jesus-hebrews-31-6>

Open it

1. In the world of your favorite hobby, who is considered the greatest of all time and what makes them so great?

OR...

who was your childhood role model?

Read it

Hebrews 3:1-6

Explore it

2. What does the author say his readers share in?
3. What two roles/offices does the author link Jesus to?
4. What are the main differences listed between Moses and Jesus?
5. Why is Jesus worthy of more glory than Moses?
6. Who makes up God's house?

Apply it

Holy Brothers

The word holy is important as well. Other biblical authors designate the people of God as a “holy” people. This word emphasizes that the blood of Christ has sanctified and cleansed the church. The context of Hebrews gives the word an even richer significance. Holiness was an important feature of the Levitical system. Worshiping God rightly under the old covenant required holiness in every aspect of life among the old covenant people. This is why Leviticus contains such detailed instructions about sacrifices and purifications. Holiness could only come through sacrifice, which is to say, holiness was not a human achievement. Thus, when the author designates these people as a holy brotherhood, he makes a Christological claim. He is not congratulating them for achieving the status of holiness; he is rendering them holy on the basis of the priestly sacrifice Christ offered on their behalf.²

7. How do you hold in tension the positional holiness given to us by Christ and the practice of holiness demanded of us in our lives as Christians?

8. What affect should our holiness have on our affections and focuses as believers?

² Mohler, R. Albert. *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary)* (p. 42). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Partakers of a Heavenly Calling

They are not only holy brothers, but heavenly partners; they have rich privileges, having become partakers or sharers in a heavenly call. This word ‘partakers’ (metachoi) recurs at various points in this letter. It describes participation in some common blessing or privilege ... The bond of union lies in that which is shared and not in the persons themselves (Westcott). The same word ‘sharers’ is used later in the letter when Christians are described as sharers in Christ (3:14), partakers of the Holy Spirit (6:4) and participators in discipline (12:8).³

9. What blessings and privileges do believers share in *today* that they will share in for eternity as well?

Consider Jesus

They are to consider Christ as apostle. He is God’s envoy, messenger, or ambassador, sent by the Father. In first-century thought and practice the specially appointed envoy possessed the full powers and was regarded as the personal representative of the one sending him. Jesus has been sent to fulfill a definite mission for God. He was sent not only to proclaim the truth but also to manifest it.⁴

10. What does Jesus’ role as the apostle of our confession teach us about God and Himself? What does our role as an ambassador of God’s ministry look like as we follow in Jesus’ footsteps?

Jesus is also the “high priest” par excellence. Because He was perfectly human and perfectly divine, He knows both man and God. Thus, He is able to speak to men for God and to intercede to God for men. He is the one person through whom man comes to God and God to man.⁵

11. Why is it so significant that the author of Hebrews brings Jesus’ role as a high priest into his letter?

³ Brown, Raymond. *The Message of Hebrews (The Bible Speaks Today Series)*. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Hughes, R. Kent. *Hebrews (2 volumes in 1 / ESV Edition) (Preaching the Word)*. Crossway. Kindle Edition.

12. What significance does Jesus' fulfillments of both apostle and Great High Priest play in our relationship with Him and the Father?

Faithfulness of Moses

This comparison between the builder and the house in no way minimizes Moses. His faithfulness is not in question. In fact, God highly honored him. They are simply in different categories that are beyond comparison because Jesus' calling is so superior.⁶

13. As you think of the life and ministry of both Moses and Jesus, what similarities do you notice? In what ways does the life and ministry of Jesus surpass the life and ministry of Moses?

14. If you were asked who the greatest Christian of all time is, who first pops into your head? Why is it so easy for us at times to become attached to the ministry of an individual?

⁶ Ibid

But what did it mean for Moses to be a faithful servant? The author clarifies that by faithfully discharging his ministry, Moses testified “to what would be said in the future.” In other words, Moses’s life and ministry displayed the superiority of Christ. They meant to point away from Moses and toward the Messiah. Moses’s ministry existed to testify about things to come.⁷

15. In what ways did the ministry of Moses point forward to the ministry of Jesus Christ?

16. What does it look like for the ministry of a church to point others to Christ today?

17. How can your ministry today point others to Jesus Christ?

⁷ Ibid

Holding Fast

There is no casual easy-going presentation of Christianity in these chapters. William Manson is perfectly right when he insists that to the author of this epistle, Christianity is 'not a matter only of repenting and obtaining forgiveness, but of irrevocable commitment of life to a supernatural end.' We are certainly in God's house by faith in Christ but, to be real, that belief must be something more than the occasionally faltering faith which initially takes hold of Christ, or that excited faith which, with adoring gratitude, first renounces sin and comes to Christ for liberating pardon. It is a persistent faith which holds fast to its boldness and rejoices in the certain hope of better things. True Christian confidence is unwavering faith in a trustworthy God. He who has promised to keep us is eternally faithful and will not disappoint his people, but that truth is not meant to encourage careless complacency.⁸

18. What does complacent Christianity look like? On the contrary, what does persistent faith look like?

19. According to verse 6, what are the necessary focal points of our faith if we wish to hold fast to the end?

⁸ Brown, Raymond. *The Message of Hebrews (The Bible Speaks Today Series)*. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.
This study was compiled and questions were written by Pastor Jeremy Anderson (Indian Creek Campus) —www.villagebible.church/smallgroup