CONSIDERING JESUS

**DATE: 9/18/2013 Wed.**

**TEXT: Hebrews 3:1; Colossians 3:1, 2; Hebrews 12:3;**

 **Philippians 3:10**

**INTRODUCTION**

**SONG:** The hymn writer said: *“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face; And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.*

The writer of Hebrews has already shown us that Christ is Better than the Prophets and the Angels

Now in **chapter 3**, we will see that Jesus is Better than Moses

To preface the writers words declaring that Jesus is better than Moses …

… He first tells the Christian to ***“consider”*** Jesus

Or has the hymn writer said, *look full in His wonderful face*

Twice in the book of Hebrews we are told to ***“consider”*** Jesus

First, in our text and then in **12:3** where we are told to -

***“consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself”***

In a similar expression, in **Hebrews 12:2**, the writer speaks of –

***“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith”***

The word ***“consider”*** in **Hebrews 3:1** means more than just simply *looking at,* or *noticing something*

The word speaks of *fixing our attention on something in such a way that the lesson it’s designed to teach is learned*

For example, Jesus used the same word in **Luke 12:24** when He said –

***“Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?”***

Jesus wanted us to do more than just watch ravens

He wanted us to watch the ravens, so we could learn from them

The writer of Hebrews is telling us to fix our attention on Jesus and learn from Him

Before we ***“consider”*** this matter of ***“Considering Jesus”***

Notice how in **v. 1** the writer Describes a Christian

**1.** He speaks of Christians as ***“holy brethren”***

***“Brethren”*** is a term that at times, is used for all people

For example, in **Acts 13:38** Paul referred to unbelieving Jews as ***“brethren”***

In **Hebrews 3:1**, the writer used the adjective ***“holy”***

He is Setting these ***“brethren”*** Apart from all other people

He is talking about *Saved* people

The word ***“holy”*** speaks of those that have been set apart or sanctified

We saw in **Hebrews 2:11** that Christians are ***“they who are sanctified”***

You could paraphrase those words to read *“they who are holy”*

Saved people are the children of God

- As saved people, we are spiritual brothers and sisters

- As saved people, God is our Heavenly Father

**Humor:** A little boy asked his mother where he came from, and also where she had come from, as a baby. His mother gave him a tall tale about a beautiful white-feathered bird. The boy ran into the next room and asked his grandmother the same question and received a variation on the bird story. His father also gave him another variation of the bird story. He then ran outside to his playmate with the comment, *"You know; there hasn't been a normal birth in our family for three generations."*

You could say that a Christian is someone who has not had a Normal Birth

But, we are people who have had a Divine Birth

We have been Born Again, Born from Above

As saved people we are ***“holy brethren”***

**2.** He speaks of Christians as those with a ***“heavenly calling”***

This calling is more than an Invitation to Salvation

It speaks of the Privileges that are Associated with the Position we have in Christ because we are Saved

It carries the idea of our Spiritual Inheritance

The word ***“partaker”*** speaks of a Participant

We are to be Participants in all things Heavenly

The unsaved can only participate in earthly things

The Saved are to Participate in Heavenly things

There are Heavenly blessings that only saved people can enjoy and experience

Having first given us this description of Christians,

The writer then tells us to ***“consider”*** Jesus

Let’s Pray and think on that Thought

***“CONSIDERING JESUS”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, the writer is talking about -

**I. “CONCENTRATION”**

To Observe something *is to watch something*

To Concentrate means *to think intensely or to devote effort to one thing over a period of time*

We have seen the word ***“consider”*** speaking of fixing our attention on something

In this case, it is fixing our attention on the Lord Jesus

The matter of fixing our attention on Jesus calls for Concentrationon the Lord Himself

This Concentration involves 2 things - **Col. 3:1, 2**

**A. Not Setting Our Affections on things of the earth**

Our Concentrated Observation means that we take our eyes off everything else …

And begin Concentrating them on one particular object

In this case, it involves taking your eyes off the world

The Bible says in **Colossians 3:1, 2 –**

***“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God” “Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth”***

Setting our *affections* on ***“things on the earth”*** speaks of having a preoccupation with the things of this life

***“Affection”*** speaks of – *the emotional aspect for something*

What is your response to the lost of material objects?

How do you respond when some material thing is broken, lost or taken away?

Angry, sad, broken hearted etc.?

We shouldn’t be trying to do more, buy more, have more *earthly things*

Jesus put it this way in **Matthew 6:19 –**

***“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal”***

Most Christians are so *Earthly Minded* that they are *No Heavenly Good*

When they could be, and should be, living in the Heavenlies, we are preoccupied with earthly things

We are to take our eyes off this world

We are not to be preoccupied with the things of this life

We are **Not to Set Our Affections on things of the earth**

Instead there is to be a -

**B. Seeking of Those Things which are Above**

Our affections are to be ***“set on things above”***

Our eyes are not to be on worldly things, but on –

***“where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God”***

We are to ***“consider”*** Him (fix our attention on Jesus)

We’ve all heard the song *I Only Have Eyes for You*

To ***“consider”*** Jesus is to *only have eyes for Him*

The ways of the world are to have …

- No Fascination For us

- No Attraction To us

To ***“consider”*** Jesus is to have your eyes and heart fixed on Him and Him alone

We live in a time that we are daily bombarded with the things of this life (advisement, material processions)

The sad part is we allow ourselves to be subjected to it

**Psalm 101:3a – *“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes”***

However, when our eyes are on Jesus we are not looking at the world …

But we have eyes for nothing, but Him

To ***“consider”*** Him -

Demands **“CONCENTRATION”**

It is also to be -

**II. “CONTINUAL”**

The tense of the word ***“consider”*** speaks of being Continually Fixed upon an object

We are to fix our eyes on Jesus and leave them there

It is not just a Sunday thing, but a gaze that is Constant and Continual

It is very important that a Christian keep their eyes fixed on the Lord

If we don’t, it will be a Determent to our Christian life

It will Prevent us from being what we need to be for Him

Let me show you what I am talking about

I want you to look at **Hebrews 12:3** and notice why it is important for the Christian to keep his or her eyes on Jesus

We read - ***“For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds”***

The writer tells us that if and when we take our eyes off Jesus it will results in -

**A. A ‘Wearied’ Christian Life**

The writer tells us if we don’t keep our eyes on Jesus it will result in being ***“wearied”***

The word speaks of being Sickly

It is describing a Sick and Weak Christian life

Why are some Christians spiritually weak?

One reason is that their eyes are not on Jesus!

You will not grow spiritually if you have eyes for this world

If you are preoccupied with this world instead of Jesus it will leave you ***“wearied,”*** sick and weak in your Christian life

**I Corinthians 11:30 – *“For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep”* (Context)**

Furthermore, the writer tells us that taking your eyes off Jesus will result in -

**B. A ‘Worried’ Christian Life**

The word ***“faint”*** in **Hebrews 12:3** literally means

*To relax,* and *speaks of someone blacking out, fainting*

It is describing someone whose Faith has Run Out

Why do we worry?

We worry because we fail to exercise our faith

You Can’t look into the face of Jesus and see Him in all His power and glory …

… And then worry at the same time

**Isaiah 6:1-8 …**

There is something about being around the Lord that causes our worry to cease

Peter is another good example

**Matthew 14:25 -32 …**

When he had His eyes on Jesus his faith was strong and he walked on the water

But the minute he took his eyes off Jesus, he began to sink

We will ***“faint”*** when we take our eyes off Jesus

**Luke 18:1 – *“And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”***

When the writer tells us to ***“consider”*** Jesus,

We are to look full into His wonderful face with both -

**“CONCENTRATION”**

**“CONTINUANCE”**

There is a 3rd Truth about ***“Considering Jesus”*** that I want you to see and that is -

**III. “CONSTRUCTIVELY”**

By Constructively I mean, We Learn as we ***“consider”*** Him

Let me once again give you the definition that I gave you in the beginning for the word ***“consider”***

The word speaks of *fixing our attention on something in such a way that the lesson it is designed to teach is learned*

It is more than just looking at something

It is Attentively and Carefully looking at something so that you may learn from it

In this case the writer is telling us to learn about the -

***“Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Jesus Christ”***

Let’s look at Jesus and learn about Him as the ***“Apostle”*** and ***“High Priest”***

First, we see -

**A. Jesus is Heaven’s ‘Ambassador’**

No other NT writer speaks of Jesus as an ***“Apostle”***

It is interesting that the writer never gives this title to man, but only to the Lord Jesus

This writer reserves the title for Christ and Christ alone

The Greek word is *apostolos* and literally means *one who is sent forth*

The Jews used it to describe the envoys of the Sanhedrin, the supreme court of the Jews

The Sanhedrin sent out *apostoloi* who were clothed with the authority of the Sanhedrin and were the bearers of its commands

The Greeks used the word to speak of an Ambassador,

*A representative and messenger of that royal court*

Jesus the ***“apostle”*** of our profession is the one sent from God, clothed with all the authority of heaven, and the One that speaks with the voice of God

We have already seen His authority, and that it is through Him that God speaks

**Hebrews 1:2** says that God - ***“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son”***

**Jesus is God’s ‘Ambassador’**

He was sent from God to represent Him on this earth and be the very voice of God himself

Secondly, we see -

**B. Jesus is Heaven’s ‘Access’**

He is not only the ***“Apostle”*** of our profession

He is also the ***“High Priest”***

The Latin for ***“priest”*** is *pontifex*

Today the pope is called *Pontifex Maximus* or Pontiff

The word means *bridge builder*

The pope is not the Bridge Builder though

Jesus as the High Priest has built the bridge between man and God

There was a great gulf that separated man from God

But Jesus, as the High Priest built the bridge that spans that gulf

That Bridge is the Cross

Jesus as the ***“Apostle”*** came to *bring God to man*

Jesus as the ***“High Priest”*** came to *bring man to God*

**CONCLUSION**

Now, this matter of Learning, involved in ***Considering Jesus …***

… Is more than just Learning that He is the***“Apostle and High Priest of our profession”***

It is an Experiential Learning

- It is more than Facts, Stored in our Mind

- It is a Force at Work in our Heart

You can go to school and learn mentally that Jesus is the ***“Apostle and High Priest of our profession”***

But you have to keep you eyes on Him to begin to personally experience Him as the ***“Apostle and High Priest”***

**Quote:** John Wesley once received a letter that read: *"The Lord has told me to tell you that He doesn't need your book-learning, your Greek and you’re Hebrew."* Wesley answered, *"Thank you, sir. Your letter was not necessary; however, as I already knew the Lord has no need for my 'book-learning,' as you put it. However, although the Lord has not directed me to say so, on my own responsibility I would like to say to you that the Lord does not need your ignorance either."*

When it comes to Jesus, we are not to be ignorant of Him

We are to Know Him—not just know about Him—Know Him!

Paul said in **Philippians 3:10 –**

***“That I might know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death”***

The word ***“know”*** used by Paul speaks of knowing the Lord Intimately, Experientially by Personal Involvement

It comes from the Greek word *gnois*

To the Greeks, *gnosis* described the secret, cultic, mystical communion with deity

Those who were initiated into this mystery claimed to have ascended beyond the mundane knowledge possessed by the masses

They imagined that they enjoyed some special relationship with their deities

Paul was saying that He wanted to know the Lord Jesus and the power of His resurrection in a very personal and intimate way

When the writer of Hebrews tells us to ***“consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession”***

He is telling us to fix our eyes on Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, letting the things of this earth grow strangely dim, as we look into His glory and grace

You know, you can determine today, right now that you are going to ***“Consider Jesus”***

Or you can regret later that you didn’t

What’s your Choice?

**“CONCENTRATED”**

**“CONTINUALLY”**

**“CONSTRUCTIVELY”**