

Discipleship Series Week 8
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The objective of our lives described in Hebrews is

- Rest
- Inheritance
- Maturity

Hebrews 2:17 introduces us to Jesus as our **High Priest**.

- Helps “the descendants of Abraham” (2:17)
- Represents us in service to God (2:17)
- In order to do that, Jesus had to become “fully human” (2:17)
- In His service as High Priest, He must be able to “make atonement for the sins of the people” (2:17).

Because He suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

Chapter 3:1-6 DP Greek:

“Wherefore, holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, fasten your full attention upon the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Jesus, He who was faithful to the one who appointed him, as also Moses in all his house. For this one has been considered worthy of greater glory than Moses, in the proportion that the one who has built a house has greater honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the one who prepared all things is God. And Moses on the one hand was faithful in all his house as a servant, to provide a testimony for what was to be said in future; but Christ as a Son over his house, whose house we are, if we hold our confidence and the boasting of our hope firm unto the end.”

Hebrews continues the theme of “Better Things”:

Moses was a faithful, loyal, committed, servant of God’s “family.”

Christ is the Son whose family it is!

Biblically, a house refers to the human beings who make up the family. In Hebrew and in Greek, house means primarily the persons living in the place and secondarily the place in which the persons live.

There 12 Aspects of this Calling in Heb. 3:1-6:

1. Holy *a call to holiness*
2. Brothers *recognition of the identity given to us as a result of what Jesus accomplished for us—members of God’s family (house)*
3. Partakers of *made heirs and participants*
4. Heavenly calling *Ours is an upward, forward, eternal destiny. Our heavenly calling is reflected in our earthly mode of conduct.*
5. Fasten your attention *Fully fasten all of our faculties on Jesus in His earthly life and present priestly service.*
6. Jesus the Apostle and High Priest *our mortal lives should “say the same as” Jesus on earth: “As the Father sent Me, so I send you”; Our eternal lives are being fashioned through His service as our representative in heaven.*

7. Our confession *Jesus' giving of Himself completely in Person, example, and work through loyal trust, obedient conduct, and faithful service to God.*
8. Faithfulness—faithful on earth; faithful in heaven: *Christ's faithfulness, (loyalty, commitment, obedience, perseverance, humility) towards His Father was for the sake of the Father's family—the house of God from whom every family is named.*
9. Moses is the faithful servant *the faithful servant to provide a testimony pointing to heavenly realities and better things ahead in Christ; Moses has been surpassed by Christ*
10. Christ is the faithful Son *faithfulness as a Son over the Father's family (house) being built by Him is unsurpassed.*
11. We are the “house” *The family of the Son prepared by the Father and being built by the Son.*
12. Our being “built” occurs in relation to an “if” *Being built as His family occurs as we hold fast to and continue “in the same as” Christ in all things and in confident hope until we see Him.*

Personal Application:

- **Our Confession** – “to say the same thing as”
V1. “...the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Jesus”
- **Our Confidence** “freedom of speech”
v. 6 “...if we hold our *freedom of speech* and the *boasting of our hope* firm unto the end.
Our “*freedom of speech*” and “the *boasting of our hope*” is from political term in classical Greek: *parresia*. The city of Athens prided itself on having what is guaranteed by the United States Constitution: confidence, expressed in speech. When you lose your freedom of speech you’ve lost your rights as citizen. The idea was nobody could stop you saying what you wanted to say *provided it didn’t transgress certain basic rules.*
- **Until the end:** the need for perseverance, endurance: maintain our confession, our confidence, the boasting of our hope, firm until the end
 - Holy(sanctified)
 - brothers(family)
 - partakers(heirs & participants)
 - heavenly calling(upward, forward, eternal)
 - fasten attention(center yourself now)
 - Apostle (sent by someone to someone for something)
 - High Priest (head of God’s eternal order we have been received into)
 - Confession (the evidence of our participation in that order)
 - House (the purpose for all of this is that God’s house be built)
 - Sons have a greater responsibility than servants
 - Faithfulness is the evidence of participation
 - Endurance and hope shows our conviction and anchors our inheritance
- **Fasten your attention on Him:**

Apostle: one “sent forth” John 13: Jesus said, “the one who is sent is not greater than the one who sent him.”

Jesus became an apostle when the Father sent Him. Jesus’ apostolic ministry was fulfilled on earth. Jesus was sent to do what nobody else could do: deal with the issue of sin. It was necessary Christ faithfully fulfill his apostolic mission in order to earn His place in office in His heavenly ministry as our High Priest.

Phillippians 2:5-11 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Derek Prince “When you meet some apostles you need to ask who sent them.”

Hebrews 5:1-10 Jesus “earned,” met the necessary qualifications of becoming our eternal High Priest by His conduct and character in His Apostolic earthly ministry.

High Priest. Having performed His ministry as Apostle, He returned to heaven to represent us to the Father.

- Hebrews 4:14: “Since then we have a Great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession”
- Hebrews 10:21-23 “Since we have a Great High Priest over the house of God let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering”

Jesus’ High Priestly ministry is the primary comparison in 10 of 13 chapters in Hebrews:

Heb 2:17 full identification with “humanness”

Heb 3:1 our share in a heavenly call

Heb 4:14-16 hold fast to our faith; help in temptation;

Heb 5:1 offer gifts and sacrifices on our behalf

Heb 5:5 represents us in things pertaining to God

Heb 5:10 the eternal order of priestly service

Heb 6:20 Jesus has entered ahead of us on our behalf taking Headship of the eternal existing priesthood of God

Heb 7:26-28 on the basis of the power of an indestructible life & with an oath God sworn by God making Christ the guarantor of the better covenant

Heb 8:1-8; 10 He serves in the sanctuary set up by God offering gifts and sacrifices mediating the superior covenant establish on better promises and the law of righteousness being inscribed on our hearts by the Spirit

Heb 9:7 he has entered deep heaven once for all with His blood for our sins

Heb 9:11 in the greater more perfect tabernacle not of this creation

Heb 9:25 he offered his own blood as atonement whereas blood of animals continually witnessed its inability to purge sin

Heb 10:8-13 the one time offering of His body eternally perfects those being sanctified by it

Hebrews 13:11-16 through Him we offer continual sacrifice of praise and service of others as we look forward to our reward in His eternal city

Chapter 1 introduces the Son who is revealed in chapter 2 as our High Priest.

Chapter 11 reminds us of the character and exploits of the company of the faithful under the inferior covenant who have been made participants with us now.

Chapter 12 describes the eternal Tabernacle where our High Priest serves and where we are seated with Him until all His enemies are subdued.

Partakers in Christ: Hb 3:1 & 3:14

1. Rom 5:17 in His *righteousness the gift* imputed & outworked
2. Romans 6:23 in His *eternal life* "the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"
3. Rom 8:17 partakers of His *sufferings* "we are heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him"
4. Luke 22:28–30 partakers in His *kingdom* "And you are those that have stood by Me in my trials and just as my Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."
5. John 17:22 His *glory* "The glory which thou has given Me I have given to them"
6. John 17:26 His *relationship with the Father* "that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them"
7. John 16:14–15 His *total inheritance* "He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He (the Spirit) takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you."

DP Greek:

Ch 3:7-19 "Wherefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the provocation day of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me, and saw what I did forty years wherefore, I was angry with this generation and I said, "They always go astray in their heart"; and they did not know my ways; so I swore in my wrath, "They will never enter my rest." Watch, brothers, lest there should be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in turning away from the living God. But encourage or stir up one another each day, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of the Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence firm to the end. While it is said, "Today if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the provocation." For who when they heard provoked? Was it not all those who came out of Egypt through Moses? And with whom was he angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose carcasses fell in the desert? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter into his rest, if not to those who were disbelieving and disobedient? And we see that they could not enter through unbelief."

Watch out for yourself
Exhort one another

This is the 2nd solemn warning:

Hb 3:7- 4: 13 **26 verses warning against unbelief.** "A sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God." The second half of chapter 3 is concerned with the solemn warning against unbelief and the possibility of not "entering God's rest" (laying hold of our promised inheritance provided in Christ and prepared for us eternally).

1st solemn warning: neglect: "Lest we drift away..."

Chapter 3:1-6: The Son who was faithful

V 7-11 Be faithful; The Holy Spirit wrote the Bible, quoted: Psalm 95:7-11.

V12 2nd of 5 "solemn warnings": warning against unbelief (1st: don't neglect what we've heard, lest we drift away).

- V13 Sin is deceptive; produces hardening of spiritual arteries leading to spiritual heart failure!
- V14 We continue to participate in our heavenly calling as long as we hold fast to our confidence until the end.
- V15 Repeated exhortation Today-hear-do not harden your hearts.
- V16-19 The example of Israel's unbelief, rebellion (refusing to trust and obey), failure to enter the promised rest.

Entering the Rest:

"Rest" occurs 12 times between Hebrews 3: 7 and 4:13:

1 Corinthians 10: "For I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them [or went with them]; and the rock was Christ." ... "Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. These things happened as examples for us, that we should not do the things they did, crave evil things. Don't be idolaters . . . act immorally . . . try the Lord . . . grumble . . . all these fell in the wilderness. Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

Deuteronomy 3:20. "Until the Lord gives rest to your fellow countrymen as to you, and they also possess the land which the Lord your God will give them beyond the Jordan."
Rest only comes when we possess the land which is our inheritance.

Deuteronomy 12:9: "For you have not as yet come to the resting place [but the Hebrew says "to the rest"] and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you."

The rest is in the inheritance.

Deuteronomy 25:19: "Therefore it shall come about when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which the Lord gives you as an inheritance to possess.

Inheritance:

Romans 8:17;32: "And if children, heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ... "He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how will He not also with him freely give us all things?"

The gate to the inheritance is to listen-listening: (with both ears) equivalent to obedience:

Exodus 19:5 "Now then, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own possession among all the peoples.

Exodus 15:26 "If you will **hearken, yes, hearken** to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His eyes, giving-ear to His commandments and keeping all His laws..."

Jeremiah 7:22-23. "For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. But this is what I commanded them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you will be my people."

John 10:27 Jesus says: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

*Hebrews 1:2 "In these last days God has spoken to us in his Son, who he appointed heir of all things...
Hebrews 3:14 "if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm to the end."*