



# Consider Jesus!

Psalms 95 Hebrews 3:1-12 John 3:31-36

July 12, 2020

Pastor Dave Bolte

Hebrews chapter 3 teaches us to **consider Jesus**.

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a Heavenly calling, **consider Jesus**, the **Apostle** and **High Priest** of our confession Hebrews 3:1

The word “**consider**” means to **fix your thoughts on Jesus**; it calls for **serious attention**; you are to **carefully and constantly study** Jesus in order to learn more and more about who He is and what He has done for you. In this passage, Jesus is both God’s **Apostle** and our **High Priest**.

Jesus as the **Apostle** means that He has been **sent** by God the Father. The word “**apostle**” means “**sent**” --> Jesus has been **sent** by God the Father to preach and teach the good news of salvation. Jesus is the **official representative** of the Father; Jesus speaks and acts with the **full authority** of God in heaven.

Jesus has been **sent** to reveal the Father’s love for you; and to speak the Words of eternal life to you. Jesus’ death and resurrection has removed your sin and secured eternal life for you and all people. His powerful Word creates faith so that you know His Word is true and that it applies to you! **Hear and believe Jesus’ Words and you will live forever!** Jesus gives life to the world! Jesus is the only One Who reveals the Father’s love and speaks the words of eternal life to you! Jesus has been **sent** by God the Father to proclaim the good news of salvation to you and all people!

When you **consider Jesus**, you **listen to Him**; you **trust His word about eternal life** and **believe** that He speaks on behalf of God the Father. He is the **Apostle**; the One **sent** to you from God the Father!

We also **consider Jesus** because He is our **Great High Priest**. He lived His earthly life in complete obedience to the Father. He was sent to destroy the devil for you, and to set you free from living in fear, dread, and non-stop worry of death and dying. His life, death, and resurrection set Him apart as your sympathetic, understanding and helpful **High Priest**.

Jesus as your **Great High Priest** is *merciful and faithful* to you! He **makes atonement** for your sins – that is, He shed His blood on the cross so that your sin and guilt are “**covered over**”. You are reconciled to God the Father and you have the forgiveness of all of your sins. You have been given eternal life; and you are set apart to live a holy and godly life. Jesus your **High Priest** has **made atonement** for your sin!

In addition, Jesus your **Great High Priest** *helps you helps you in every temptation, trial, hardship, problem, and pain*. He is sympathetic and understanding; He promises to help you. He helps you in many ways. Remember some of the ways He helps you **overcome temptations** and **faithfully endure hardships** in your life:

- † He continually *prays* for you to resist temptation and to remain faithful and strong in faith
- † He speaks to you through His powerful **Word** – which empowers you to resist temptation, to patiently endure, and to live a holy life
- † He has sent the **Holy Spirit** to be with you forever; He is at work to strengthen and fortify you, to help you turn away from temptation, and to bear up under every suffering
- † He has given you His very own prayer to use – **the Lord's Prayer** – where you ask God the Father to “*lead you not into temptation, but deliver you from evil*”
- † Our **Great High Priest** has given you **His Body and Blood** in bread and wine to strengthen you through the forgiveness of your sins
- † Jesus the all-powerful and all-knowing Lord over all provides *a way out* for you in the midst of your temptations and suffering; you are **NEVER** trapped in your temptations, trials, hardships, problems or pain
- † Jesus even *limits the intensity and duration* of your suffering and temptations --> they will never crush you, they are not more than you can bear. You can withstand them!

Jesus your **Great High Priest**, was tempted just like you are, in every way, but He never sinned. He understands and He is sympathetic! *He helps you in every temptation, trial, hardship, problem, and pain.*

Jesus is God's **Apostle** and our **Great High Priest**; there is no one else like that; there is no one else who can claim those titles. That is why we are to **consider Jesus**; He is that important to us!

There is no prayer that a Christian needs more frequently than:  
“Lord, increase my faith; and deliver me from an evil heart of unbelief.”

To **consider Jesus** means to *fix your thoughts on Jesus*; understand what it means that He is God's **Apostle** and our **Great High Priest**. Elsewhere in Hebrews, you are to **hold on** to Jesus; **fix your eyes** on Jesus; **pay ever increasing attention** to Jesus; you are to **mature** in your faith; and you are to **persevere** in the Christian faith.

## THE REASON YOU ARE TO CONSIDER JESUS IS BECAUSE YOU CAN LOSE YOUR FAITH.

The danger of *falling away* is real; *Apostasy*<sup>1</sup> is a serious danger that threatens every single one of us. In Hebrews chapter 3, *Apostasy* happens when you fail to **consider Jesus**; *when you harden your heart, close your eyes, and stop listening to His Word.*

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear His voice, **do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion** . Hebrews 3:7-8

The Old Testament Israelites and their wilderness journey to the Promised Land is the prime example of *Apostasy* for us in the Bible.

God had sent Moses to the Israelites, the Lord had rescued them from bitter slavery to Pharaoh, He led them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, to Mount Sinai and ultimately to the Promised Land. But along the way the Israelites hardened their hearts, they rebelled against God, they stopped listening to God's Word, and they lost their faith. They were *apostate*: they fell away from God and His Word. Every single one of them died in the desert except for two: Joshua and Caleb. The Israelites and their wilderness journey to the Promised Land become the prime example<sup>2</sup> in the Bible of *Apostasy* and *falling away* from the faith.

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear His voice, **do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion** . Hebrews 3:7-8

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful unbelieving heart that **turns away from the living God**. Hebrews 3:12

---

<sup>1</sup> **Apostasy** The Greek word: ἀποστασία, meaning 'a defection or revolt', (from ἀπό, 'away, apart', and στάσις, 'stand, standing'). "Apostasy" means "to stand apart; to fall away -- to defect from Christ and His Word". Apostasy is when believers "fall away" from the faith and lose eternal life. One who commits apostasy is known as an *apostate*.

<sup>2</sup> Israel's *apostasy* is the major theme of Hebrews 3-4. These chapters are the Holy Spirit's commentary on Israel's *apostasy*, using Psalm 95 as a reference. They are also a warning for us to listen and learn from their mistakes! Israel's *apostasy* is referred to in other New Testament books also, see for example, 1 Corinthians 10.

**The warning here is clear:** Don't harden your heart to God's Word; Don't rebel against the Lord your God; don't take a stand with the world and against the one true and only God. If you do you will lose your salvation. Do not let a sinful unbelieving heart turn you away from the living God!!

There are several ways how this can happen:

- † You become influenced by the world and its ideas
- † You don't take the Christian faith seriously
- † You are bored with God and His Word
- † Your faith is shallow and superficial
- † You have an apathetic attitude towards Christ and His Word
- † Your worship is irregular, haphazard or disengaged
- † You have no passion, nor zeal, nor love for God, His Word, or His Kingdom

**We are talking about eternal life and eternal death now.**

If your heart is hard, if you are rebelling against the Lord, if you're taking a stand with the world against God and His Word, then repent! Don't be like the Israelites who lost their faith! Turn away from your rebellion and confess it to God.

Time is short! The end is near! The Signs of the End are in front of us every day! Repent while you can! In Christ all sin is forgiven, His death and resurrection forgives even your rebellion. You are reconciled to the Father! Christ and His Word creates a zeal within you; the Holy Spirit softens your heart so that you hear, believe, and obey God's Holy Word. The Holy Spirit lines up your life and your attitudes with the Word of God. *See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.* Hear the words of forgiveness and be renewed in your faith!

***Rather than* HARDEN YOUR HEART,  
God's will for you is that you  
consider Jesus --**

*fix your thoughts on Jesus;  
pay serious attention to Him  
carefully and constantly hear, believe and obey His Word –*

**He is the  
God's Apostle and our Great High Priest  
that we boldly confess!  
AMEN!**