Apart from Jesus Christ, life is a waste.
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Prayer Study # 513
HEBREWS 3
First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, GA

Hebrews 3 Amplified Bible (AMP)

Jesus Our High Priest

3 *Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, [thoughtfully and attentively] consider the Apostle and High Priest whom we confessed [as ours when we accepted Him as Savior], namely, Jesus;* ***2*** *He was faithful to Him who appointed Him [Apostle and High Priest], as Moses also was faithful in all God's house.* ***3*** *Yet Jesus has been considered worthy of much greater glory and honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house.* ***4*** *For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.* ***5*** *Now Moses was faithful in [the administration of] all God's house, [but only] as a ministering servant, [his ministry serving] as a testimony of the things which were to be spoken afterward [the revelation to come in Christ];* ***6*** *but Christ is faithful as a Son over His [Father's] house. And we are His house if we hold fast our confidence and sense of triumph in our hope [in Christ].*
7 *Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says,*

“Today if you hear His voice,
8 *Do not harden your hearts as [your fathers did] in the rebellion [of Israel at Meribah],*
On the day of testing in the wilderness,
9 *Where your fathers tried Me by testing [My forbearance and tolerance],*
And saw My works for forty years
[And found I stood their test].
10 *“Therefore I was angered with this generation,*
And I said, ‘They always go astray in their heart,
And they did not know My ways [nor become progressively better and more intimately acquainted with them]’;
11 *So I swore [an oath] in My wrath,*
‘They shall not enter My rest [the promised land].’”

The theme of Chapter One of Hebrews is *Christ is superior to all others, including angels and prophets.* In Chapter Two of Hebrews exhorts us to heed the words of Jesus. Chapter Three tells us that in Jesus we had the fulfillment of the religious observances, ending the 1500 years of following the Old Covenant Law. Since then, we have had 2000 years under the New Covenant. These two covenants were separated by the fact that God tore apart the Temple veil, opening up the Holy of Holies and

symbolizing that Jesus at Calvary had spelled the end of the law. We are no longer saved by keeping the law but by accepting Christ and being baptized by the Holy Spirit into His blood. The blood is what cleanses us now:

(The following is based on a teaching many years ago by Derek Prince.)

1. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM REDEEMED OUT OF THE HAND OF THE DEVIL.**
   Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy (Psalm 107:2).

2. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, ALL MY SINS ARE FORGIVEN.**
   In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace…(Ephesians 1:7)

3. **THE BLOOD OF JESUS, GOD'S SON, CONTINUALLY CLEANSES ME FROM ALL SIN.**
   But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin (1st John 1:7).

   But if we [really] *are living and walking in the Light, as He* [Himself] *is in the Light, we have* [true, unbroken] *fellowship with one another, and the blood*

of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt [keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations]. AMP

4. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM JUSTIFIED, MADE RIGHTEOUS, JUST AS IF I HAD NEVER SINNED.**
   Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we should be saved from wrath through him (Romans 5:9).

5. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM SANCTIFIED-MADE HOLY OR SET APART TO GOD AND SEPARATED FROM THE DEVIL.**
   Wherefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate (Hebrews 13:12).

6. **MY BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-REDEEMED, CLEANSED, SANCTIFIED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS. THEREFORE, SATAN HAS NO PLACE IN ME, NO POWER OVER ME, THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, JESUS!**
   What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom ye have of God and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's (1st Corinthians 6:19-20).

In this long section that starts in Hebrews 3:1 and goes through Hebrews 4:3, John Phillips tells that the writer "delves deeply into Old Testament typology to prove that the era closed was merely one of shadows, whereas substance was in Christ and His cross.

The writer begins by contrasting Christ with Moses. In the Old Testament under Moses and the law everything had to do with a place. In the New Testament under Christ everything had to do with a Person. In the Old Testament the Jew had to be in the land to be blessed. When the Jews were outside of the land, they were being punished or corrected. In the New Testament, the believer had to be *in Christ*, to be blessed. Aaron was Israel's high priest. Moses was Israel's apostle or *sent one*. An apostle represents God to man. A priest represents man to God. Jesus was both an Apostle, the *sent One,* and the High Priest. Thus He serves as both Man to God and God to Man.

The Jews were quick to say, "We are Moses' disciples" and to oppose any allegiance to Jesus. They could not see that all Moses did, as wonderful as it was, was a shadow of things to come. His death and resurrection "finished" all the religious observances because all of them except those pointing to the Second Coming were completed in Jesus and no longer necessary.

This is not to take anything away from the contribution of Moses. He is mentioned nearly 700 times in the Bible and appears in every section of the Bible. He was a cornerstone but not the designer of the House. Jesus was the designer. Moses was merely

a type of the Lord Jesus or “a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after” (Hebrews 3:5).

A symbol is something which is itself but means or represents something else. The American flag, for example, is cloth with stars and stripes of different colors, but it symbolizes the United States of America. A type, on the other hand, is a select group of symbols having prophetic and foreshadowing characteristics. The rainbow is a symbol in Genesis 9:13-16, not a type. The olive trees in Zechariah 4:3 are symbols, not types. The number 666 in Revelation 13:18 is a symbol, not a type. The color white in Revelation 19:8 is a symbol, not a type. Adam, however, in Romans 5:14 is a type, not a symbol. The Tabernacle of Moses in Exodus 25-40 is a type, not a symbol. Isaac is a type, not a symbol.

Moses’ ministry was to the Hebrew people. Christ’s ministry was to us and all believers, who are introduced as “holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling….”

The writer of Hebrews has spent the first verses of this chapter to contrast Moses and Christ. His warning is “Don’t disregard the salvation of God, which is in Jesus Christ.” In verse 7 He has another warning, “Don’t disbelieve in the sufficiency of God.” The writer then uses Old Testament scripture to remind the Jews of what happened when they rebelled against God in the wilderness to draw a parallel to the present day when the Jews were rebelling against the teachings of Christ.

The Peril of Unbelief

12 *Take care, brothers and sisters, that there not be in any one of you a wicked, unbelieving heart [which refuses to trust and rely on the Lord, a heart] that turns away from the living God.* ***13*** *But continually encourage one another every day, as long as it is called “Today” [and there is an opportunity], so that none of you will be hardened [into settled rebellion] by the deceitfulness of sin [its cleverness, delusive glamour, and sophistication].* ***14*** *For we [believers] have become partakers of Christ [sharing in all that the Messiah has for us], if only we hold firm our newborn confidence [which originally led us to Him] until the end,* ***15*** *while it is said,*

“Today [while there is still opportunity] if you hear His voice,
Do not harden your heart, as when they provoked Me [in the rebellion in the desert at Meribah].”

16 *For who were they who heard and yet provoked Him [with rebellious acts]? Was it not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?* ***17*** *And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies were scattered in the desert?* ***18*** *And to whom did He swear [an oath]*

*that they would not enter His rest, but to those who disobeyed [those who would not listen to His word]? **19** So we see that they were not able to enter [into His rest—the promised land] because of unbelief and an unwillingness to trust in God.*

The Jews must take care or take heed to what is being said. This first verse, verse 12, is addressing non-believers who are wicked or evil. These are people who might profess to be believers, but their behavior shows otherwise. Verse 13, on the other hand, is addressing true believers. He urges them to encourage and exhort others daily to not be hard hearted and deceived by sin. This points to the importance of community and reminds me of the verse in Hebrews 10:24-25: *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

The writer urges his readers to encourage one another *today.* There is an urgency about it for we are not promised tomorrow.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us again of those who rebelled in the wilderness, making the Lord so angry that He made them wander in the wilderness for 40 years and thus that generation, except for Caleb and Joshua, were

not allowed to enter into the promised land because of unbelief and an unwillingness to trust in God.