

The House of Jesus

Hebrews 3:3-6

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Introduction:

Last week we began chapter 3 in the epistle to the Hebrews.

- We only looked at the first two verses.
- Here we saw that as Christians, we are set apart from the world as “holy brothers.”
 - We have been called by heaven to heaven by trusting in Jesus Christ.
 - He is the one who takes us, who are otherwise condemned sinners, and brings us to glory.
- We further saw that we are advised here to consider Jesus as:
 - The Apostle—the One who was officially sent from heaven to establish us in God’s house;
 - And as the High Priest—the One who atones for our sins so we can be forgiven and the One who continues to intercede for us.
 - *Considering Him* means intensely and diligently setting our mind on Him.
- We saw that He was faithful, like Moses, in all of God’s house.
 - Both He and Moses did exactly what they were sent to do.
 - Both Jesus and Moses were faithful, but today we will see that what Jesus was sent to do a much greater work than Moses’.
 - Jesus is the One in whom we are to put all of our trust.
 - We are to trust in Him to actually save us and to bring us to glory.

Listen now as I read the first six verses of Hebrews 3.

- We will be looking especially at verses 3-6, but I will begin with verse 1.
- This is the Word of God.

Hebrews 3:1-6: Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ² who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. ³ For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. ⁴ For

every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God. ⁵ And Moses indeed *was* faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, ⁶ but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

May God add His blessing to this reading as we consider what it says to us.

The key word is *house*, used six times.

- It is not a building, but a people (e.g. house of David, house of Saul)
 - The Bible speaks of each man as the head of his house.
 - For example, Paul speaks of baptising the house of Stephanas.

- Kings are referred to as fathers in the Bible.
 - Nations are households in that sense.
 - In Hebrews 3, the house that is being spoken of is the house of God.
 - As we will see, it is the house of God the Father and God the Son.
- Our text tells us that Jesus has a much greater role and a much greater status in God's house than Moses does.
 - The Jews or Hebrews to whom this letter was originally written held Moses in very high regard—and so does the writer.
 - He said that Moses was faithful in God's house.
 - He delivered the promises, administered the discipline, and established the government and practices of the house, just as God instructed him.
 - But our author is telling these Hebrew Christians that, as great as Moses was, Jesus is far greater because Jesus is the one who actually builds the house as well as the one who actually owns the house.
 - Of Him as the builder, verse 3 says:
 - **“For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.”**
 - Of Him as the owner, verse 5 & 6 say:
 - **“And Moses indeed *was* faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, ⁶ but Christ as a Son over His own house.”**

TRANS> Having seen an overview of our text, let me now ask you this:

I. Why is the writer saying all of this to the Hebrews (and to us)?

- He wants us all to make sure that we really are a part of God's house.
 - Some of the Hebrews, like some of us, were wavering about whether they were going to continue following Jesus because of the opposition they were facing from their people.
 - In verse 6, the writer says that we are only part of God's house “if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of our hope firm to the end.”
- The burning question for these Hebrews was whether their hope was truly and lastingly with Jesus or not.
 - This is also the burning question for each one of you.
 - Hope has to do with the future—with what you are trusting in to get you to a good place.
- God's word is telling you here that you are not really part of God's house unless you have confidence and delight in Jesus that endures.
 - You remain confident that Jesus is the only way to God.
 - You continue to rejoice in Jesus and in what He offers.

TRANS> Let's think a little more about this.

- A. If you are in God's house, you remain confident that Jesus is the way to glory.
 1. You do not trust in anything else to bring you to God.

- Perhaps someone comes along who is trusting in their good works—that they are doing enough to be acceptable to God.
 - Or maybe they are trusting in religious rituals—saying their prayers, going to church, the sacraments... and they encourage you to do the same.
 - You will say,
 - “I’m sorry, but that just does not work. I have no confidence that that will turn out well. My confidence is in God’s Son. I am trusting Him with my future.”
 - “You can try to obtain God’s favour by your good works or by your religious ceremonies, but you will come up short in the end.”
 - “We are not saved by works of righteousness that we have done, but only by Jesus who came to redeem us.”
- Or maybe they come to you with a different view of God than the Bible has.
 - They tell you that God is an all-accepting God.
 - That He is not a God who would ever punish sinners in hell just for being sinners—that He is much nicer than that.
 - You will tell them that they are trusting in an idol.
 - That the God of the Bible is much better than their God because He is holy and cannot tolerate sin, yet sent His only Son to die for the sins of His people—to atone for their sins so they can be saved.
 - You will tell them that your hope is in Jesus alone.
- Or maybe you run into a different problem.
 - Maybe you are struggling in your walk.
 - Perhaps you have been severely tested, like Job was, by many trials.
 - Or maybe you have been struggling with sin and you just don’t feel like you are making any headway.
 - And then you are tempted by Satan, by your own heart, and perhaps by other people to think, “This is just not working for me.”
 - Maybe you look at the church and you see people hardening their hearts and turning way, and you see corruption in leadership and all.
 - And you are tempted to give up and quit.
 - But I tell you, if you are truly in God’s house, your confidence in Jesus may be severely tested, but in the end you will realise that there is no other hope.
 - You will cling to Him and soon He will refresh you.

TRANS> Yes, if you are truly in God’s house, your confidence in Jesus will remain.

- Now let’s look at our rejoicing.

B. If you are in God’s house, you continue to rejoice in Jesus and in what He offers.

1. The world comes along with many promises, telling you how to be happy and fulfilled.

- Like the seductress in Proverbs, is says, (Prov 7:18): **“Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; let us delight ourselves with love. For my husband is not at home.”**
 - Maybe it is just that—adultery, satisfying your sinful passions...
 - Maybe it is drugs and drunkenness...
 - Maybe it is a get rich quick scheme...or a disciplined approach to wealth.
 - Maybe it is the pride of being accepted among intellectuals...
 - Maybe it is to win a gold medal or achieve something...
 - Maybe it is hope in some scheme to save the world by political action...
- Whatever hope the world offer you to rejoice in, you will say,
 - “I’m sorry, but that is not what I want. I want to dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Even if I could gain the whole world, I would rather have the future that God has promised me in Christ.”
 - “Even if I must now bear the loss of all things in following Him, I will gladly do that that I may gain all that He has promised.”
 - “I can’t rejoice in the hope that you are presenting to me. I have something far better.”
- There may be times when you waver—when you are tempted to give up—when God’s way seems too hard.
 - The world’s promise of immediate relief and ease from the rigors of following Jesus can be very tempting.
 - But you will not be able to let go of your rejoicing in the future that Jesus has promised to those who trust in Him.
 - If you do stumble, you will return to your senses and say to God: Psalm 73:22-24: **“I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. 23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. 24 You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.”**
 - You will hold on to this hope to the end.

TRANS> So you see that the purpose of this passage is to warn you about having a superficial hope in Christ that will not continue with confidence and rejoicing of hope in Jesus.

- But that is not the only purpose of this passage.
- This passage is also designed to help you strengthen your confidence and rejoicing in Jesus that you might continue to hope in Him.
 - The purpose is to present Christ to you so that you will trust in Him if you don’t, and so that if you do trust Him, your faith and hope will be strengthened.
 - This is actually how God works.
 - If we are Christians, our confidence and rejoicing is not as strong now as it will be in the future.
 - God will actually use the times of testing to make our faith stronger.

- We will go through seasons of testing where our faith will be challenged, and there may be times when it will almost completely fail, the way Peter's almost did when he denied Christ.
 - But if we have true faith, it will never utterly fail and it will come back even stronger than it was before.
 - Our heavenly Father does not work in a straight line—
 - He is far more interesting than that.
 - He works through many twists and turns.
 - Think about Job and how he was tested—or David and all the twists and turns that he had—or Peter.
 - It is never the same with any two people. It is always interesting. And in the end, we come out with more confidence and rejoicing in our hope than we had to start with.
- But it is not just testing that God uses—He also uses His word.
 - And this passage right here that we are looking at today is designed to strengthen your confidence and rejoicing in our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - It was written to these Hebrews, some of them struggling in their faith to actually make them stronger—and these words will make you stronger too if you will receive them.
 - Remember that the primary means that God uses to strengthen our faith is His Word.
 - So let's look at the two things we are told about Jesus to strengthen our hope in Him—the confidence and rejoicing of our hope in Him.

II. First, it tells us that He is the builder of the house.

- Verse 3 tells us that He has more honour than Moses because He is the builder.
 - **For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.**
- A. He is the architect of the house of God. He designed it entirely.
1. It is a house made up of ruined sinners.
 - He determined that God's house should be made up of people that He created who then fell into sin and were completely alienated from God—hardened in rebellion...
 - A people who were all condemned to eternal punishment that they justly deserved—
 - He purposed that those who were to be members of His house of glory would be taken from people like that.
 - He created them to be the kind of beings that would learn of God through this process rather than in a more straightforward, simple way.
 2. He further purposed that God's house (His house) would be a house made up of ruined sinners that were redeemed by Him.

- And that they should be redeemed in that way that we have already seen summarised in Hebrews...
 - That He who was the eternal Son of God would become human flesh and be born as son among them,
 - And that He Himself would suffer and die for their sins. In other words, that He would be punished for them—that He would be punished instead of them.
 - In this way, they would learn of His character—they would come to truly know Him as a God of holiness, justice, goodness, truth, mercy, grace, wrath toward sin, wisdom, and so on.
3. He also designed the way these sinners would come to Him... that they would be called by Him to be saved by looking to Him—trusting in Him to be saved.
- He is the architect, and this is what He wanted for those who are members of God's house.
 - He first made promises to one nation that He called that He would be born to save them and people from all nations—and He gave them all kinds of rituals.
 - This created a great drama as He preserved them through the ages until His coming that the promise might not fail.
 - And then He came and sent out the gospel to the nations that whoever believed in Him would be saved,
 - And He began working powerfully in those that heard so that they who before were hardened and had no interest in the true God now came with confidence and rejoicing from all different nations.
 - He designed the house of God to made up of materials that were gathered in this way.
4. And further, the house He designed is a house made up of ruined sinners who are not perfected all at once.
- He designed it that we would be called to go through many trials and testings in this world before we reach glory.
 - He has even appointed the very trials and difficulties that we will go through—each one with a definite purpose.
 - He designed it so that we would need to minister to each other and to encourage each other in this world—that we would have gifts and be in relationships in the family and the church where we would be responsible to help each other.
 - He appointed ministers and elders and deacons and ordinances, means of grace, the assembly that we call the church, to be necessary for our edification and preservation.
 - He made us to be creatures that would know Him best and develop the best by going through this whole process.
 - And He has assured us that when all is finished, it will be a truly glorious house.

TRANS> We are to admire with awe the way He has designed His house, and rejoice in His wisdom and kindness.

➤ So He is the architect, but as the builder of the house He is even more than that.

B. He is also the one who brings the house into being and at last to glory.

1. God's house would not exist if He did not make it.

- There would be no house of God (no people that belong to His house) if He did not create them and then bring them into the house by His power and grace.
- We were all cut off from God by our sin.
- We were by nature not His people and children of wrath with no ability or inclination to deliver ourselves.
- We are so hardened in sin that by nature we do not want to come to God and be reconciled to Him.
- And what's more, even if we did, there would be no way for us to atone for our sins.
- If we were to be punished for it, it would take us all eternity to pay the penalty in the lake of fire.

2. And yes, as I mentioned a moment ago, He decided that He would build God's house out of ruined sinners, but He would be the only one who can actually change them from what they are into members of God's household.

- Preachers are to proclaim the way that He does it: by giving us a new heart that loves Him and that wants to be saved so that we come to Him to be saved, and by dying for our sins.
- As baptism shows, by washing away our corruption as well as our guilt.
- Moses and all the apostles faithfully proclaimed the message of the gospel... that the Lord would do this...
 - but neither Moses nor any other preacher can transform a sinner into a believer, nor can any of them work in a believer to bring them to glory and perfection.
 - And certainly none of them can made satisfaction for their sins.
 - The apostles and prophets and preachers point sinners to look to Jesus as the only one who can do this and He is the one who actually does it.

3. He has more glory than any of them—far more—as the one who not only proclaims the way of salvation, but as the one who actually saves us.

- This is such a marvellous thing.
- We are to be like Abraham, and believe that God gives life to the dead and calls those things that do not exist as though they did. (Rom 4:17).
- This is how He wants to be known!
- He calls the house of God into existence by the word of His power, and He atoned for our sin by going to the cross to suffer in our place.

- We are to marvel at His power, His grace, His love, and every one of you is called to trust in Him to secure your pardon and to give you new life forever with God—you who were dead in your sins before.
 - No one else can even begin to do that.
 - As we are reminded in our text—in verse 4, **“For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.”**
 - This is simply a way of reminding us that Jesus, who has the honour of building God’s house, is Himself God.
 - He created all people to start with...
 - Then we fell into sin and ruin...
 - Now He creates out of our ruined race a house for God!
 - Glory be to His name.
 - Do you have confidence and rejoicing in hope because of this one who brings God’s house into being?
 - He created people out of nothing, that was a great thing...
 - but an even greater is that He creates us as a people for God out of sinful ruins.
- Now let’s look at the other thing that our text shows us about Jesus that helps to strengthen our confidence and rejoicing in our hope.

III. Second, it tells us that Jesus is the owner of the house.

- It belongs to Him in a way that it does not belong to Moses or to anyone else.
 - I remind you of verse 5 & 6: **“And Moses indeed *was* faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, ⁶ but Christ as a Son over His own house...”**
 - It only makes sense that Jesus who designed the house and Jesus who brought the house into being is the owner of the house.
 - There are several implications.
- A. First, since Jesus owns the house, He is responsible for it.
1. That’s how it is when you own something.
 - If you are the owner of a house and you rent it out, you are still responsible if the roof leaks or if the house doesn’t have a proper railing on it.
 - You are responsible for maintaining the house and for making decisions about it. The weight is on your shoulders.
 2. We should be very pleased that Jesus owns God’s house because that means that He takes responsibility for it.
 - He is responsible for what the house is and for what it becomes.
 - By taking us as His house when we were sinners, He took responsibility for all our sins. That’s why He went to the cross even though we were the ones who sinned.
 - As owner, He is also busy shaping us and preparing us for our place in glory.

- He will see to it that everything comes out right in the end.
3. That He is responsible gives us confidence and rejoicing in our hope!
 - There could be no hope for a good outcome if we were responsible.
 - It takes a great load off of us to know that the future of the church, of the house of God, is with Jesus, the Son of God.
 - We would have no hope if it were in our hands or even in the hands of the best people that this world has to offer.
 - Our hope is in Him.
 - He knows what He is doing and He has the ability to do it.
- B. Second, since Jesus owns the house, He rules the house.
1. Moses, as it says, is a servant in the house, not the owner.
 - As a servant, he is under orders.
 - Jesus, on the other hand, is the one who gives the orders.
 - The laws of the house are His laws, the ordinances are His ordinances, the ways are the ways that He has established.
 - It is not our house. It is His house.
 - He does not conform to us, we conform to Him.
 - We do not shape Him for our house, He shapes us for His house.
 2. And this is wonderful news to those who are true members of His house.
 - When we conform to Him, we become beautiful and perfect like Him.
 - The Bible says that God has predestined us to be conformed to the image of His Son.
 - What could be better than to become like Jesus, the one who is altogether lovely... who loves as we ought to love, who worships God the way we ought to worship God, who serves others the way we ought to serve others.
 - We rejoice to be shaped by Him. We definitely do not want it to be the other way around.
 - It is our place to obey Him.
- C. It is our glory to belong to Him and to His house.
1. What a privilege to be in such a house—such a great house, such a wealthy house, such a lasting house!
 - What a privilege to be the bride of Christ—to be owned by Him, led by Him, shaped by Him, and provided for by Him.
 - We don't deserve to be here, but we are—through faith in Him.
 - We are protected here—He will abolish all of our enemies, even death.
 - We are provided for here—we will inherit the earth, dominion will be restored.
 - We will inherit glory!
- How could it be that He has brought us so far? What hope, what joy is ours!

2. He brings us into service and makes us a delight to Him and to each other.
 - He leads us in a way that brings out the best in us—that enhances our gifts and that develops our character.
 - He makes us beautiful and holy.
 - Already, He is ravished with us, with our developing love for Him and growth in His grace. He loves our fruits.
- How could it be that He does all of this for us? What hope, what joy is ours!
3. We say, “Lord, I want to be what You want me to be. You are the potter, and I am the clay.
 - “I trust you to save me and to make me into someone who pleases you.
 - “I trust you to do the work in me that you have promised to do.
 - “I trust the work that you have already done to atone for the sins of your people.”

Conclusion: Everything goes wrong when we stop trusting in Him as the builder and the owner, when we cease to be confident and to rejoice in this hope.

- When we stop gladly putting ourselves into His hands and knowing that He will make His house the most glorious house of all.
- When you are part of His house, your hope is in Him.
 - And you hold fast the confidence and rejoicing of your hope firm to the end.
- You are not in the house as someone who is merely testing the waters—as one who might or might not stay if things get too hard.
 - You are a member of the family, a member of the house, a part of it.
 - Leaving is not an option.
 - Your future is with this house and you don’t want it to be anywhere else because there is no future in anything—no future that is worthwhile.
 - You have cast in your lot with Him. You have no other place to go.
 - This is the house that will stand.
 - This is the house that will be lovely.
 - This is the house where you will be truly happy.
 - This is the house that you want to be part of.
- Are you in? Seriously. Are you in?