
JESUS MUST BE TRUE NORTH ON OUR SPIRITUAL COMPASS

JESUS



FIXING OUR THOUGHTS ON JESUS

PAYING MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION TO WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT OUR LORD SO THAT WE DO NOT GO ASTRAY IN OUR HEARTS AND SQUANDER OUR HEAVENLY CALLING

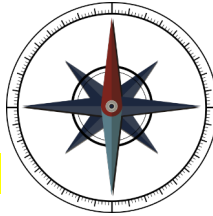
I. OBEYING THE COMMAND TO FIX OUR THOUGHTS ON JESUS SETS OUR SPIRITUAL COMPASS ON JESUS AND KEEPS IT SET ON JESUS, 3:1.

- (Hebrews 3:1 LSB) Therefore, holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider [NIV—“fix your thoughts on”] the Apostle and High Priest of our confession—Jesus.

A. We are commanded as holy brothers and sisters to set our spiritual compass on (to consider, fix our thoughts on) Jesus.

3:1 ... consider ... κατανοέω katanoēō – to pay attention, notice, observe; consider, contemplate; this word has a strong implication that the attention paid is intense, and the contemplation is broad and thorough, resulting in complete understanding.

Fix your thoughts ... This is the diligent use of the mind in its considerations, thoughts, meditations, and conceptions about Jesus Christ, so that they may understand and perceive correctly who and what he is, and what follows as a consequence of this. [Owen, J. (1998). *Hebrews* (p. 55). Crossway Books.]



B. Obeying the command yields confident hope that we will arrive at our destination—heaven.

- (Ephesians 1:18 NLT) I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.
- i. Having our hearts flooded with the light of who Jesus is, what he has done and what he will continue to do forever gives us supreme confidence that our coordinates are accurate.
- ii. Obeying this command is essential if we are to have assurance—confident hope—that we are walking worthy of God and our heavenly calling.

C. We are commanded/exhorted to walk worthy of our calling in multiple places in Scripture.

- (Ephesians 4:1 LSB) Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called.
- i. Walking worthy is directly related to bearing fruit and growing in our knowledge of God.
 - (Colossians 1:10 LSB) So that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to

please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and multiplying in the full knowledge of God.

ii. Walking worthy is directly related to being firmly rooted and established in our faith.

- (Colossians 2:6–7 LSB) Therefore as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and being built up in Him, and having been established in your faith—just as you were instructed—and abounding with thanksgiving.

iii. All of the above are directly related to the Spirit-to-spirit witness that we are being called into the kingdom and glory of God.

- (1 Thessalonians 2:12 LSB) So that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
- (Romans 8:16 LSB) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.

D. With our spiritual compass set on Jesus the Holy Spirit grows our understanding as to who Jesus is both intellectually and experientially.

- i. He is the Son of God, heir of all things, Creator of the worlds, so we worship him as God.
 - (Hebrews 1:2 LSB) In these last days spoke to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.
- ii. He is God who sits on his throne and rules as Lord and Master forever, so we submit to his sovereign authority and bow before him as loving servants.
 - (Hebrews 1:8 LSB) But of the Son He says, “YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE SCEPTER OF UPRIGHTNESS IS THE SCEPTER OF YOUR KINGDOM.”

E. With our spiritual compass set on Jesus we grow in our understanding as to what Jesus has done in accomplishing cleansing for our sins.

- (Hebrews 1:3 LSB) who is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power; who, having accomplished cleansing for sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

II. WHEN OUR THOUGHTS ARE FIXED ON JESUS, WE ARE ABLE TO MAINTAIN A BIBLICAL HEADING BY WHICH WE GROW IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ONGOING MINISTRIES OF JESUS ON OUR BEHALF, 3:1-6.

A. Our heavenly calling is dependent on what Jesus Christ has done, is doing and will do forever.

B. We must fix our thoughts on Jesus so that we understand what it means that Jesus is the Apostle of our confession.

- (Hebrews 3:1 LSB) Therefore, holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession—Jesus.

i. Jesus is our Apostle—God’s primary messenger to us of the good news of salvation.

Apostle (noun)... ἀπόστολος [apostolos] ... messenger, sent one; one sent forth with orders.

Sent (verb-apostle)... ἀποστέλλω (apostellō) ... to send someone out, implying for a particular purpose; send a message, send word.

An apostle is one who is sent to represent God before men, and to speak and act on his behalf; a high priest represents men before God and offers a sacrifice for their sins. **Moses was the only Old Testament figure to fulfill both of these functions,** and as such he pointed forward to Jesus, whom we proclaim as the apostle and high priest of our confession. [Phillips, R. D. (2006). *Hebrews* (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.; p. 84). P&R Publishing.]

ii. As the Apostle of our confession Jesus was sent by the Father to deliver the good news of the kingdom of God.

- (John 17:18 LSB) **As You sent Me into the world,** I also sent them into the world.
- (Luke 4:43 LSB) But He said to them, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also, **for I was sent for this purpose.**”
- (Luke 10:16 LSB) The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me. **And he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.**

iii. Jesus was sent by God that we may know God and have eternal life.

- (John 17:3 LSB) And this is eternal life, **that they may know You,** the only true God, **and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

C. We must fix our thoughts on Jesus so that we understand what it means that Jesus is the High Priest of our confession.

- The Lord Jesus represents us before God.
- Jesus is the objective truth of our confession from which we must never drift away.

Confession ... ὁμολογία [homologia] ... profession, confession; an open avowal (true or false) of some belief or opinion.

iii. Our confession—we preach Christ crucified.

- (1 Corinthians 1:22–23 LSB) For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom, **23 but we preach Christ crucified,** to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness.

D. With our thoughts fixed on Jesus, we will pay much closer attention to the faithfulness and the worthiness of Jesus, 3:2-6.

- (Hebrews 3:2–6 LSB) **Who was faithful** to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. **3 For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses,** in so much **as the builder of the 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 ALL HIS HOUSE AS A SERVANT,** for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later, **6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope.**

 - Moses was faithful to God as servant in his house.
 - Jesus is superior to Moses because he is not merely the caretaker but the builder of the house.
 - Jesus—“*I will build my church.*” (Matthew 16:18b).
 - We are the Church—the house built by Jesus.
 - (Ephesians 2:19–22 LSB) So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, **and are of God’s household,** **20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,** Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, **21 in whom the whole building,** being joined together, **is growing into a holy sanctuary in the Lord,** **22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of**

God in the Spirit.

- v. We **know** that we are the house built by Jesus **if** we hold firmly to our confidence and hope in Christ.
- (Hebrews 3:6 NIV) But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, **if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.**

III. WHEN OUR THOUGHTS ARE TRULY FIXED ON JESUS, WE ARE MUCH MORE READY TO HEAR AND OBEY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE MOMENT HE SPEAKS TO US, 3:7-11.

- (Hebrews 3:7-11 LSB) Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, 8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, 9 WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS. 10 "THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS'; 11 AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'"

A. We are warned to hear his voice today.

- i. Obeying God in other areas does not compensate for refusing to hear and obey God now in the specific area to which he calls our attention.
- (Mark 10:19-20 LSB) "You know the commandments, 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'" 20 And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up."
- ii. We must hear God and obey him today—now, at this moment—and do his will without delay.
- (Mark 10:21-22 LSB) And looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 **But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving,** for he was one who owned much property.
- iii. Delaying hearing/obeying God's voice sets in motion the hardening of the heart, and the person becomes further obstinate and stubborn.

B. We are warned urgently in this text to make sure that we fix our thoughts on Jesus.

- i. Not fixing our thoughts on Jesus leads to the heart going astray and not knowing the ways of God.
- ii. Think about it: What better way to know the ways of God than to fix our thoughts on Jesus?

C. The faithful follower of Jesus will always have his spiritual compass set on Jesus.

D. Example: The ancient Israelites revealed that their hearts had gone astray and that they had lost sight of who God was when they grumbled.

- (Numbers 14:26-27 LSB) Yahweh spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 27 "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are **grumbling against Me?** I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me."

CONCLUSION: Today is the time to check your spiritual compass. Later may be too late. THE APOSTLE PAUL WANTS US ALL TO BE AWARE OF THIS: We need to hear this now. Most of them had the wrong compass setting and arrived across the river from the promised land with an unbelieving heart.

- (1 Corinthians 10:1-5 LSB) **For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers,** that our fathers were **all** under the cloud and **all** passed through the sea; 2 and **all** were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and **all** ate the same spiritual food; 4 and **all** drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5 **Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased. For THEY WERE STRUCK DOWN IN THE WILDERNESS.**
- (Matthew 7:13-14 LSB) **Enter through the narrow gate;** for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 **For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life,** and there are few who find it.