

**Living In
Contemplation
Of
Christ Jesus**

(Consider Christ Jesus)

From a Transcribed Sermon

by

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From the transcription of
Sunday Service, April 2, 2017

Edited by Mark Smith

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Consider Christ Jesus

INTRODUCTION



The emphasis of the book of Hebrews is, *Christ is better*. He is better than religion and religious forms. Taking it further, Christ is better than anything. Therefore, consider Christ Jesus.

The Greek word “consider” has its root in the Latin word for “star”. The idea being, to contemplate the stars. *Consider* suggests the idea of the astronomer, patiently, persevering, with very concentrated gaze, looking upon the stars, seeking to know more and more about them. ***That's what it means to consider Christ Jesus.***

Hebrews 3:1. *"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christian Jesus."* In this verse we are exhorted, we are urged, we are encouraged, to be doing something; *Consider Christ Jesus.*

In this message, Pastor Gordon explains that when God's people “consider Christ Jesus”, we will stay focused on Him. He explains how lost sinners should “consider Christ Jesus and their great need of Him. He is our only hope, and He is better than anything else in our life. We need to ***“consider Christ Jesus.”***



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Hebrews 3:1, "*Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christian Jesus.*" In this verse we are exhorted, we are urged, we are encouraged, to be doing something; consider Christ Jesus.

To consider means to think about in a very careful manner. It means to give earnest attention to, to take into account, to attentively weigh. It is something greater than a passing thought or a glance. It is to behold, to be occupied with and focused upon. The Greek word for consider comes from the Latin word for "star", the idea being, to contemplate the stars. This suggests the idea of the astronomer, patiently, perseveringly, with very concentrated gaze, looking upon the stars, seeking to know more and more about them. That is what it means to consider Christ Jesus.

The whole emphasis of the book of Hebrews is, Christ is better. Christ is better than their old religion and their old religious forms. Taking that a step further, Christ is better than anything. Therefore, consider Christ Jesus. The writer of Hebrews is calling the reader's attention to Jesus Christ. "Consider Christ" is a keynote of the book. I want to discuss in the message, "***Living in Contemplation of Christ - Consider Christ Jesus***". *Consider Christ Jesus* ought to be our life. I want to begin by covering the circumstances and the context of these verses and then discuss the actual act of "*considering*".

The book of Hebrews, of course, was written to Jews. These individuals had been saved by the grace of God, but they were living their lives under the influence and bombardment of unbelievers. Living in the midst of ritualistic religion, incessant threats, and persecution from their unsaved country men and family. Naturally, this brought much turmoil, much difficulty into their lives. This caused many of these saved Hebrews to

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really struggle. Because they were struggling, the writer is telling them they need to make a complete break from their old lives, and their old forms and ceremonies. However, they are struggling with making that complete break. Furthermore, there were others of these saved Hebrews, who had already forsaken Christ, already had lost their identification with Christ, and had gone back into the ways of Judaism. As you see, the nature of the circumstances were of struggling, wavering, and uncertainty. The writer emphasizes, "Christ is better." Christ is better than the unbelievers you're struggling with. Whatever it is that you're struggling with, Christ is better. "*Consider Christ Jesus.*"

The writer addresses them in such a way that would remind them of their salvation, in a way that would remind them of the responsibility that was incumbent upon them, their great privilege. Notice in our text, he refers to them as "*holy brethren partakers of the heavenly calling*". The word holy means set apart, separated, consecrated to God. He reminds them, immediately, that they have been set aside by God, for God. May we always remember that.

We that are saved have been set aside by God, and we have been set aside for God, for His glory! In other words, we're different! God made us different. Furthermore, it's another way of saying that my life has a supreme purpose. I've been set apart by God, for God. That gives my life a supreme purpose. The purpose of course is God.

He refers to them as "*holy brethren*", which is reminding them they belong to a family. They belong to the family of God. They belong to one another. Just like everyone else, they were born into a fallen, condemned family of Adam. But they no longer belong to that family. They belong to the family of God. They are brethren. It's a reminder that they stand in a very unique relationship with the Lord.

The writer also states that they are partakers. *Holy brethren, partakers.* A partaker is a sharer, a participant.

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Therefore, you have to be partakers of something. He says they are partakers of "*the*", something very specific, "*the heavenly calling*". They are partakers of the heavenly calling.

In our unsaved condition, we were held in the chains and grip of spiritual death, helpless and spiritually incapacitated. We were in bondage to Satan, imprisoned by him. Held in the chains of sin, evil, wickedness, guilt, ignorance, sorrow, and misery. We were in a state of condemnation, estrangement from God, and spiritual bankruptcy. We were helplessly trapped in depths of darkness. We sat in darkness, walked in darkness, were covered with darkness, and full of darkness. We lived as sinners against God.

Yet, while in that condition, there came the heavenly calling. It is a special calling. It is the only call that can pierce through the dense darkness and ignorance that we were in. It was a call that bore through the walls of our imprisonment and reached all the way down into the depths of sin, misery and condemnation. It was a call that reached us in our alienation from God and enmity against God, reaching all the way down into the depths of our helplessness.

It was a call that overpowered our heart and drew our will to embrace Jesus Christ. It was a call that resulted in deliverance and restoration. It was a call in which our sins were forgiven, burdens were lifted, and life was liberated. It was a call that made a radical and dramatic change in our life. "*Partakers of the heavenly calling.*" That very phrase would remind them of their salvation experience. Partakers of the heavenly calling. Philippians 3:14 refers to it as the high calling of God. There is no higher calling than the heavenly calling. All of us that are saved are participants in that calling.

This call is not limited to the call to salvation. It is a call that continues through out our saved life. It is a call that tells us to die to sin, to be crucified to the world, to live by faith, and serve, submit, worship, and fellowship with God. It is a call that

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tells us to live our lives for God.

It is a call that's unchangeable. We read in Romans 11:29, *"the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."* Oh, how thankful we ought to be God does not change His mind about this call. God will never go back upon His call. It is a call that is founded in His purposes. Romans 8:28, says that we *"are the called according to his purpose."* He called us and He did so with a purpose. That being to save our soul, and that we would live the rest of our life for Him.

Ephesians 4:1, says it is a call that is to be reflected in our lives. We see that we're to walk worthy. That is, we're to walk in a way that is becoming suitable to, a manner fitting *"of the vocation"*, of the calling, *"wherewith"*, by means of which, *"ye are called."* 1st Peter 2:9 says, *"that ye should show forth"*, that is in our lives, *"the mercies of [God] who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."* The whole teaching is that our behavior should correspond with our call to salvation. Our whole life should correspond to the call. Can you go back to a time and a place where you became a partakers of a heavenly calling? This would remind these Hebrews that they have been saved by the grace of God.

That brings us to the act that we are exhorted to do. He says, *"wherefore."* I love that word. You know there are a lot of words that ought to excite us and this is one of them. *Wherefore.* It is a word that most people just read over but it's an exciting word. It is an adverbial conjunction, which is a word that serves as a pivot. You could call it a hinge word that simply means, "for that reason."

It is a word that draws a conclusion from what has been said before. That makes it a word that takes us back. With that word, the writer is basically telling us this, "I've said all of these things and now allow me to put it all together for you." That's exciting. "Allow me to just put it all together."

"Wherefore" is a word that takes us back, specifically, to

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what is said in Hebrews 2:5-18. *“For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

“For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”

In those verses, we read of Jesus taking upon himself flesh and blood, how he left the glories, beauties, the purity, and

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the praises of heaven, and came to a world of hatred, malice, and rebellion against God. Jesus came to a fallen, perishing world.

Those verses tell us that the reason he did this was for the suffering of death. He came in behalf of, in the stead of wicked and vile sinners. He left all and gave all for guilty sinners, such as ourselves. He willingly and voluntarily was despised and rejected for us, enduring the hatred, slander, mockery, and all taunting, ridicule, and the brutality of man for you and I, the saved. He was made a curse for us, smitten and forsaken by God.

He came to stand. He was made flesh and blood so that Jesus Christ could stand between me and a Holy and a Righteous God, thereby protecting us from God's justified wrath. He came to loose and to spare you and I from the bondage and the gloom of sin. We read that in Hebrews 2:5-18, and then we come to "Wherefore." Paul is saying, "Allow me to put it all together for you. *Wherefore.*"

Wherefore. It's a hinge word. It is a word that turns the glorious truths of what Christ has done for us to the practical application. In other words, the writer is saying, "Because of everything that I've told you about Jesus, here's what you need to do. You need to consider Him." You need to set your mind upon Him. There are a million things that vie for our attention, but, oh, how we need to hear these words, "***consider Christ Jesus.***" You and I that are saved, set your mind upon Christ. Direct your attention to Jesus Christ. Be occupied, be focused upon Jesus Christ. Why? Because of who He is, because of what He became. Flesh and blood! And why? For you and I.

In this exhortation to consider Christ, notice how he's referred to. The Apostle. This is the only place where Christ is called the Apostle. Jesus alluded to it every time he said, "*the father hath sent me,*" in the book of John, But here, He is specifically referred to as the Apostle, the sent one from God. It means more than that. It means, one who represents God. You ought to consider Him because He's been sent by God. Lost

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sinner, you ought to consider Him because He's been sent by God and it concerns you. You ought to consider Him because He represents God. He speaks for God. He achieves God's purposes. He does God's will. He represents God to you and I. Wherefore, consider Him.

Furthermore, in this exhortation, Jesus is also referred to as the High Priest. What does the high priest do? He represents us to God. God sent Christ to represent Himself to us, but He is our High Priest. He represents us to God. He offers sacrifice and intercedes on my behalf, on our behalf. Remember the vest that the high priest wore? There were twelve different jewels in that vest, each one representing a tribe of Israel. The lesson there was, that when the high priest entered the most holy place, that the people of God were upon his heart. Christ is our High Priest. He represents us to God. He has us upon His heart. Wherefore, consider Him. The Apostle and High Priest.

Notice He's identified. It says there in Hebrews 3:1, our Apostle and High Priest is Christ, the anointed one of God. He is Jesus, the one and only anointed saviour of His people. Outside of Christ Jesus, we all come up short. "Well, Brother Dan, I'm doing the best I can." You keep doing that. I encourage you to do that. But know this, outside of Christ, you will come up short. You will always come up short. Outside of Christ Jesus, no one goes to heaven, there is destitution and ruin.

Because of Christ Jesus, the guilty can find pardon, the alienated and unrighteous can find nearness and righteousness. We that are partakers of this heavenly calling, have already received these things, we are partakers of these things. Because of Christ Jesus, you and I that were justly condemned and polluted, have justification and cleansing. Because of Christ Jesus you and I, that were enemies and unacceptable to God, have reconciliation. Every saved individual is a reconciled enemy. We were once enemies, but we've been reconciled and have acceptance with God. Because of Christ Jesus, you and I

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that were bankrupt and hopeless, have been made rich and we now have hope. Wherefore consider Christ Jesus.

Wherefore turn your eyes, mind, attentions, and focus upon Christ Jesus. He's the one who impacts, alters, and transforms death and darkness. *Consider Christ Jesus.* He's the almighty, the eternal, and immutable One. He does not change. He's infinite. He's omniscient. He's all sufficient. He's the one who is triumphantly above all and beyond all that is in your life. Whatever it is that's in your life right now, Christ is better, Christ is more, Christ is superior to. ***Consider Him!*** *Turn your mind upon Jesus Christ!*

For you and I that are saved, He is our saviour, redeemer, shepard, friend, and strength. He's greater than any problem, trial, difficulty, or need that I have. ***Consider Him!!*** Turn your mind upon Christ.

We're not to focus upon the difficulty. We're not to be ignorant of the difficulty, but that's not to be our focus. We are to consider Christ Jesus. Why? Because of who He is. Because of what He became for you and I. Because of what He did. Because you and I are saved through him. Because He is still relevant to our lives. *Consider Christ Jesus.*

It doesn't matter what our circumstances might be at the very moment. Consider Christ Jesus. In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the God head bodily. In Him is everything you need. Whatever your need is, He towers above our needs. Consider Him. See Him towering above all of our needs and all of our difficulties. Focus upon Him. *Consider Christ Jesus.*

To those that might be lost, you have thoughts concerning heaven and how man gets there. ***Consider Christ Jesus.*** You had better turn your eyes upon Him and trust Him. Consider Christ Jesus. We the children of God, live in a world that is contrary to Christ. We live in a world that is destructive to the life that God has called us to live. We live in a world that's sinking deeper and deeper and deeper into the abyss of

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destruction, into the abyss of misery and hopelessness. It is a world that is overrun with degradation, darkness, and idolatry.

The landscape of the world is evil and one of gloom. But, there is this One, the Apostle and High Priest Christ Jesus. That is to be the landscape of the child of God. Our landscape should not be the world. Our landscape needs to be Christ Jesus. We need to see everything in regard to that landscape, Christ Jesus. I'm here to tell you, *that* changes everything. Consider Christ Jesus.

Concerning the saved, turn your eyes upon Him, turn your minds upon Him. Fix your attention upon Him. In spite of everything else, that vies for your attention and pulls at your minds, consider Christ Jesus. It doesn't mean that you don't think about anything else. That can't be helped. But, in whatever it is you think upon, don't let it divert you away from Christ Jesus. Don't lose sight of Christ. Consider Christ Jesus. Do not be distracted from Christ. No matter what else is on our minds, don't allow it to push Christ out of your mind. If it does, you'll fall. You'll find yourself in a miserable state. Do not allow anything to push Christ out of your mind. Consider Christ Jesus.

We need to hear those words. We get fixated upon something. It can be a problem, it can be anything. Nevertheless, we need to hear those words, "**Consider Christ Jesus.**" Don't let whatever it is that's on your mind push Christ out. When that happens, guess what else happens? Fortifications against God are built in your mind. Those fortifications can be torn down, but wouldn't it be easier if we just didn't allow them to be built? The way to do that is to consider Christ Jesus.

What is it that has our affections and minds. Whatever it is that defines us, whatever it is that we are becoming more and more like, that's what has our mind. *Wherefore consider Christ Jesus.*

Consider Christ Jesus so much so, that we become like Him and are being drawn to Him. What will that do, to consider

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Christ Jesus? It will strengthen our faith. If you're going to serve God, you need faith. You need an abundance of faith. Considering Christ Jesus strengthens faith.

It also gives us the ability to persevere in the life that we are called upon to live. From Hebrews 12:3, we see that this contemplation of Christ strengthens us in the race. "... *consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, ...*" Consider Him. That's good advice. **Consider Him.** And it says there in Hebrews 12:3, "*consider him ... lest ye be wearied*"; exhausted, depleted, and drained; "*and faint in your minds.*" Consider Christ lest ye be wearied.

Considering Christ will prevent many pitfalls. If we consider Christ, we'll stay out of many pitfalls that are always there. He mentions several in Hebrews 3. In verse 8, he says, "*Harden not your hearts ...*" How do you do that? Consider Christ. Your heart doesn't grow hard considering Christ. Your heart grows hard considering what people have done, considering circumstances. Your heart has never grown hard considering Christ Jesus. Consider Christ Jesus. It prevents a hard heart.

In verse 12, it says, "*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, ...*" Considering Christ prevents unbelief. You just keep focusing and focusing and focusing on Christ and you will believe more and more and more. He talks about hearing His voice. He goes on and he talks about a failure to *enter in* because of unbelief. A failure to enjoy God and the blessings of God. How do we do that? By not considering Christ.

There's enjoyment in considering Christ Jesus. We say it over and over, people are not drawn away from God because of circumstances, other people, or problems, because Christ is bigger than all of those things. People become distanced from the Lord because they fail to consider Christ. They allow Him to be pushed out of their minds. Behold Christ.

We that are saved, *consider Christ Jesus.* It's really a

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shame that we, that are saved, would have to be exhorted to consider Christ Jesus. That we'd have to even be reminded about the one that saved our soul says much about us. What a shame. *What a shame!*

If you're lost, I hope and pray you can't get away from that name, Christ Jesus, and it's on your mind. As a lost sinner, He is the only hope that you have today. There is no other hope. I would tell any lost sinner, you be the best citizen you can be, the best person you can be, the best husband you can be, the best father you can be. However, that ***will not*** save your soul. Only Christ can save your soul.

If your lost, your greatest need is Christ Jesus. Whatever other needs you have, none of them even comes close to this most urgent need of Christ. I pray that you too would hear this heavenly calling, that it would penetrate through the walls of your imprisonment, drawing you to Himself, saving your soul. That's your only hope. ***Consider Christ Jesus!***

