



Sunday, June 13, 2021

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Hebrews 3:1-6

One of the greatest challenges to following Christ in our time is the number of distractions that consume our thoughts. Often, these distractions are not even weighty issues of how to endure suffering or repent of sin. Instead, we get distracted by superficial, transient things like social media or even our own feelings and desires, which can dominate our thoughts rather than thoughts of Christ and His work.

Not only that, we also live in the midst of a celebrity-saturated culture. We have made every kind of person into a celebrity who is either revered or entrusted with a degree of recognition and authority that they may or may not merit. We even make celebrities out of pastors and Christian leaders. Perhaps our preoccupation with human “greatness” or the unique spiritual gifting of certain individuals has led us to lose focus on Christ as well.

The challenge for the readers of Hebrews, then, is to fix our thoughts on Christ, who is greater than any human celebrity or thought leader. He is greater than angels or any other created being. May we hold fast to our confidence and hope in Him!

Context

This section follows the section speaking about Christ’s incarnation. By virtue of His incarnation, Christ is uniquely qualified to make propitiation for our sins and is able to help those who are being tempted (2:17-18). For this reason, we should not look to any human priest or other human authority for salvation. Not even the great Moses, the mediator of the covenant with Israel, compares with Jesus (how much less any other celebrity we might invest with some earthly authority?). So, the author tells us, let us look to Jesus and hold fast to our hope in Him.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Hebrews 3:1-6.

“Fix Your Gaze on Jesus”

“Day by day, dear Lord, of Thee three things I pray: to see Thee more clearly, to love Thee more dearly, to follow Thee more nearly, day by day.” – Richard of Chichester

Command *fix your thoughts*

Compare *Christ > Moses*

Continue *if we hold fast*

Discuss

- 1) What are your eyes “fixed on” most days? What consumes your thoughts?
- 2) How different is your life when you are fixing your thoughts on Jesus versus the other things that we fix our thoughts on?
- 3) For Jewish Christians in the first century, Moses would have been seen as the greatest person who ever lived. He was “idolized” by people as the one who mediated God’s covenant with humanity. Who are some other people besides Jesus that we are tempted to be devoted to or revere more than Him? Why is that?
- 4) What are the implications of a statement like “Jesus is the builder of the house” or “God is the builder of everything” for how we think about our ministry at South Church?
- 5) How do you know that you are persevering in the faith or “holding fast” to Christ? What are some signs that we should be looking for?