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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- The theme of Hebrews in a nutshell is the perfect Christ, supreme, superior, sufficient.
- We need nothing in addition to Jesus Christ.
 - And that is what the letter of Hebrews is designed to do.

- If the Holy Spirit is to show that Christ is better than anybody else,
- If He is to show that the new covenant is better than the old,
- Then the Holy Spirit must prove it.

- That Jesus Christ is better than all of the laws and ceremonies of Judaism.
 - If this is a better covenant, it must have a better mediator.

- And so the Holy Spirit **begins to do that.**

- **In chapter 1,**

He says that Jesus Christ is better than

everybody and **everything.**

- In **chapter 2** then, He says that **Jesus Christ is better than angels.**

- In **chapter 3,** He says **Jesus is better than Moses.**

- **The theme is:**
- ***“Consider the apostle and high priest of our profession, Jesus.”***
(Hebrews 3:1)
- **Consider Jesus.**

- That's the theme of
Hebrews

in two words:

Consider Jesus.

- That's what it's all about.
 - And particularly as
he compares
to Moses.

- Moses,
the greatest of all.
- We need to find out
what the Jews
thought about Moses.
 - If Jesus
is better
than Moses,
 - We must know
a little bit about
who Moses was.

- **Why** is it so important to prove Jesus better than Moses?
- **Because** the Jews so highly esteemed Moses.
 - He was esteemed **above any other Jew** who ever lived.

- He was the man to whom God spoke mouth to mouth.
- He was a man who saw the glory of God.
- The glory of God illuminated his face.
(**Exodus 33-34**)
- He was the one who led Israel out of Egypt.
- He was God's man.

- Beyond that, the greatest thing in the mind of a Jew was the law.
- And Moses was the one who gave the law.
- And Moses and the law were synonymous.

- The Jew and the law were the two things that went together.
 - Paul says in Romans 2 that the Jew makes his boast in the law.
 - The Old Testament commandments and rituals were the Jews' priority.

- Moses had delivered not only the **Ten Commandments,**
- He had penned the **entire Pentateuch,** which lays out all the Levitical laws and all the laws **that governed everything they did.**

- So Moses was the great law-giver.
- The law was number one for the Jew.
- The most important thing in their lives.

- God spoke to the prophets in visions,
- But to Moses He spoke mouth to mouth.

- He spoke to him in **a burning bush.**
- He spoke to him **on Sinai**
 - Moses stood **far above**
any other man
who ever lived,
in the mind of the
Jewish people.

- The hand of God preserved him as a baby,
- Dug his grave at the finish.
- And between these two points, there is nothing but miracle after miracle after miracle.

- It was Moses who led the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- It was Moses who led them through the wilderness.
- It was Moses who instructed them from the mouth of God.
- It was Moses, Moses, Moses.

- It was Moses who gave:
 - The plans for the tabernacle,
- The Ark of the Covenant
 - And so to the Jew,
Moses is the great One.
 - There is
none like him.

- And as great as Moses
was
the Holy Spirit
calls on us
to gaze on Jesus,
who is far greater
than Moses.

- The Holy Spirit now presents evidence to support Christ's superiority.
- He says that Jesus is superior:
 - In His office,
 - In His work,
 - In His person.

- **Superior in His office:**

- He is

- **apostle**

- and

- high priest.**

- Superior in

- His work:**

- He is the builder of the house.

- Superior in His **person:**

- **He is the Son.**

- Hebrews 3: 1

Note the very first word,
“Wherefore.”

- What does this mean?

- It takes us in
two direction?

- A hinge to what has been said
and to what will be said.

- “Wherefore”,
on the basis of
what the Holy Spirit just said.”

- “Consider Jesus.”

- What have you just said?
 - That we see Jesus,
the captain
of our salvation (**Heb 2:10**)
- The creator of all things (**Heb 2:10**)
- The one who destroyed
Satan and death
(**Heb 2:14**)
- The one who delivered us from
bondage and the fear of death (**Heb 2:15**)
- “Wherefore, consider Him.”

- It is difficult for us Gentiles to relate to a Jew coming out of Judaism.
- And we don't understand the temptation to hang on to the old things.

- Although we don't relate to Judaism,
- We do find ourselves very often lured into believing that our faith and especially our works are what it's all about,
- That somehow God expects more.

- He expects us to do more.
- Have I talked to enough people?
- How many have been baptized because of me?
- Have I done this or that?
 - Am I “Cold or Hot”?
(**Rev 3:15**)

- And while we accept God's free grace we kind of hang on to an artificial kind of legalism.
- So the statements of Christ sufficiency shatters all legalistic efforts, whether Judaistic or not.

- The next thing we want to look at: **“Holy brethren”**.
- A fantastic statement.
 - **Holy**.
 - **1 Peter 2:9**
**But you are a...
holy nation,**

- Holy
- Not because of your works,
- But because of our position.
- Sanctified, set apart,
- Made holy in Christ.
- ***“To them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:”***
(Jude 1:1)

- Let me illustrate that from **Hebrews 10:10.**
 - “**By which will we are sanctified**”
 - That means **made holy.**
 - “***We are made holy through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all.***”
 - When you **received Christ,** you were made holy.

- **Hebrews 10:14**,

***“For by one offering,
He hath perfected forever
them that are made holy.”***

- **Verse 17-18**,

***“And their sins and iniquities
will I remember no more.***

- ***Now where remission of these is,
there is no more offering for sin.”***

- This is something
Moses could never offer.

- Not only are we “**holy brethren**”
 - We have a “**heavenly calling**”.
(**Hebrews 3:1**)
- As you read carefully through the book of Hebrews, you find out that **just about everything** the author describes is heavenly.

- We have a heavenly Jerusalem,
(Heb 12:22)
- “Heavenly gift”
(Heb 6:4)
- Heavenly country
(Heb 11:16)

- **Eph 1:3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*
- **1:4** *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*
(**Ephesians 1:3-4**)
 - A “**Blessing**”
Moses could never offer.

- **This is a terrific statement.**
- Note the **superiority** of Christianity to Judaism.
- **Judaism** was an **earthly calling** with an earthly inheritance.
- **Circumcision** on the eighth day, and you'll inherit the land that "**flows with milk and honey**".
 - **Christianity** is a heavenly calling with a **spiritual** and **heavenly inheritance.**

- Why would anybody want to hang on to the earthly, when they have the heavenly?
- That is the argument of Hebrews.
- So the author says “Consider Jesus”.

- Jesus made a classic statement when He said, “*Learn of me.*”
- He didn’t say, “Learn about me.”
- So what do we learn?

- **Matthew 11:28**
Come unto me,
all you that labor
and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.
- **11:29** Take my yoke upon you,
and learn of me;
for I am meek and lowly in heart:
and you shall find
rest unto your souls.
- **11:30** For my yoke *is* easy,
and my burden is light.

- Jesus spoke to men desperately trying to find God
 - And desperately trying to be good,
- And who were finding the tasks impossible
 - And who were driven to weariness and despair.

- Jewish leaders had added over **600 commandments:**

- **248 positive**

- **365 negative.**

- Imagine trying to observe **all** of them.

- That's what Judaism offered.

- For the orthodox Jew religion was a thing of burdens.
 - Jesus said of the Scribes and Pharisees:
"They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders"
(Matthew 23:4).

- To the Jew religion was a thing of endless rules.

- A man lived his life in a forest of regulations which dictated every action of his life.

- He must listen for ever to a voice which said, "Thou shalt not."

- Jesus says,
"Come unto me all you who are exhausted."
- Exhausted with
the search for the truth.
- The Greeks had said,
"It is very difficult to find God,..."
- Zophar demanded of Job:
***"Can you find out
the deep things of God?"***
(Job 11:7).
- It is Jesus' claim
that the weary search for God
ends in himself.

- Jesus invites us to take his yoke upon our shoulders.
- The Jews used the phrase “the yoke” for entering into submission.
- They spoke of the yoke of the Law,
- The yoke of the commandments

- But Jesus says,
"My yoke is easy."
- The word "easy"
in Greek means
well-fitting.
- Augustine, in one of his sermons,
beautifully compares
the yoke of Christ
to a bird's plumage,
- **An easy weight which**
enables one to
soar to the sky:

- So then the invitation is:

- Today

- if you will
hear his voice,

- Harden not

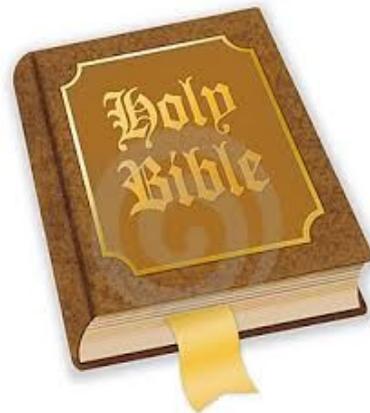
- your hearts,
(Hebrews 3: 7-8)

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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