

# A Greater Glory

JESUS IS GREATER: An Exposition of Hebrews #4 - Pastor Gary Combs - October 22, 2023 - Hebrews 3:1-6

**INTRO:** Good morning church! We're continuing our series, "JESUS IS GREATER: An Exposition of Hebrews." Our theme verse is:

Hebrews 1:4 (NLT) This shows that the Son is far **greater than** the angels, just as the name God gave him is **greater than** their names.

Today, we'll be looking at Hebrews 3:1-6 in a sermon entitled, "**A Greater Glory.**"

What is "glory?" The dictionary defines it "high renown or honor won by notable achievements, magnificence or great beauty, that which results in high praise and even worship." We all have a tendency to give glory and honor to something or someone. It's human nature. Seeing something or someone as glorious, we honor them with our admiration, our words, even our pocketbooks...

**ILL:** These days this is most obvious in the glory we give to artists and athletes. Perhaps the latest and greatest example of this is the power couple, Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce. Taylor Swift is a household name in the music industry, and for good reason. The American singer, songwriter, and producer has a net worth of \$600 million and will soon be a billionaire. Her "Eras" tour is projected to generate \$2 billion globally, making it the greatest and most successful musical tour of all time. The nearly 3-hour movie of the tour performance is now in theaters and I've been hearing the buzz even in our church lobby from those who've already seen it twice!

Travis Kelce, the star tight end for the Kansas City Chiefs and Swift's new beau, boasts a net worth of \$30 million. Kelce has excelled in the NFL. His illustrious career includes pivotal roles in the Chiefs' two Super Bowl victories. Signed in 2013, in 2020, he inked a lucrative four-year extension amounting to \$57.25 million. He averages another \$5 million a year in endorsements, but this year his earnings should double or triple due to his romance with Swift. Taylor's fanbase called the "Swifties," have already increased Kelce's social media presence by 400% and his numbers keep climbing. The NFL has even reported that having Taylor Swift in the stands watching Travis has increased their attendance and earnings.

**Need:** We give glory and honor to those we focus on most often, those we admire and look up to. I suppose we do it because we were created for it. We admire a glorious sunrise or sunset over the ocean. We lose our breath looking out over a mountain range topped with snowy peaks. We lay on our backs in wonder, gazing at the vastness of the starry sky. We have an eye for beauty. We have a desire for glory. But we tend to lower our eyes to the lesser reflections of glory rather than focusing on the truly glorious One, who is the source of all glory. As the apostle Paul wrote,

Romans 1:20-23 (NIV) <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they neither **glorified** him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the **glory** of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

**Trans:** That's what the sermon today is about. It's about getting our eyes back on the truly glorious One, Jesus!

**BODY:** In the book of Hebrews chapter 3:1-6, the author told the Hebrew background believers to closely consider Jesus to see that He is worthy of more glory than all, even Moses. We can consider Jesus to see that His glory is greater than all. Why is the glory of Jesus greater than all? The text gives **three reasons** why the glory of Jesus is greater.

**Read text:** Hebrews 3:1-6 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, <sup>2</sup> who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup> For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup> (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) <sup>5</sup> Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup> but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

# A Greater Glory

JESUS IS GREATER: An Exposition of Hebrews #4 - Pastor Gary Combs - October 22, 2023 - Hebrews 3:1-6

## WHY JESUS IS WORTHY OF THE GREATEST GLORY:

### 1. Because He is the Builder of God's house.

**EXP:** (1-4) First, notice the phrase “more glory” and “much more glory” (3). Who has greater glory? “Consider Jesus” (1). His glory is infinitely greater than all! Then notice the word “house” (2,3). Whose house? “God’s house” (2). Who is its “builder” (3)? “Jesus” (3) is its Builder.

“**Therefore**” (1) - The author has spent 2 chapters establishing the superiority of Jesus over all prophets, priests, kings, and angels. Now he will make the case that Jesus is greater than the lawgiver, Moses.

“**Holy brothers**” (1) - “Holy” because through Jesus they were “sanctified” (2:11). “Brothers” because He is “not ashamed to call them brothers” (2:11) for through Him they “share in a heavenly calling” (1).

“**Consider**” (1) (κατανοέω, *katanoēō*) (Imp) - In ch. 2:9, we read “We see Jesus.” Now we read, “Consider Jesus.” “It means to “observe carefully” or “pay attention to”—not simply to momentarily think about, but to deeply contemplate... Don’t just give Him a fleeting glance or knowing nod. Observe Him. Pay attention to Him. Get to know Him.” (Swindoll, Charles R., *Insights on Hebrews*, p. 46). Fix your thoughts upon Jesus!

“**Apostle**” (1) (ἀπόστολος, *apostolos*) - Lit., “one sent.” This is the only place where it refers to Christ.

John 20:21 (ESV) Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

“**High priest**” (1) (ἀρχιερέυς, *archiereus*) - high priest. Mediator. Moses was God’s “apostle” to Israel and Aaron was God’s appointed high priest. Christ is both and is greater than both! They were mere types.

“**Confession**” (1) (ὁμολογία, *homologia*) - Lit., “same word.” Confession. Here, “the person whom one confesses, namely Jesus” (Allen, *NAC Hebrews*, p.240). My translation: “Consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest whom we confess, and how He was faithful to God the Father, who appointed Him...”

“**Faithful**” (2,5,6; 4X) (πιστός, *pistos*) - trustworthy, faithful, of persons who show themselves faithful.

“**God’s house**” (2; 7x) (οἶκος, *oikos*) - OT: the Tabernacle or Temple. NT: the Church, the people of God.

1 Timothy 3:15 (NKJV) ...I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

“**Counted worthy**” (3) (ἀξιόω, *axioō*) - to think meet, fit, right, to judge worthy, deem deserving.

“**More glory**” (3; 2x) (πλειονος δόξης, *pleionos doxēs*) - greater in quality, superior, more excellent in splendor, brightness, magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace, majesty.

“**Builder**” (3,4) (κατασκευάζω, *kataskeuwō*) - one who constructs, builds, equips. Christ is the “builder,” not only of the Church, but since He is God, He is the builder (creator) “of all things” (4), including Moses.

“**More honor**” (3) (τιμή, *timē*) - a valuation to set a price, value, high respect, great esteem, regard, worth.

**ARG:** **Jesus never asked us to “build” the church, but to “be” the church. He is the Builder!**

Matthew 16:15-18 (ESV) <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

**ILL:** Just as Michelangelo is worthy of more glory than St. Peter’s Cathedral at Rome; and Galileo is worthy of more praise than the telescope, Fulton more than the steam-engine, Bell more than the telephone, Edison more than the lightbulb and Elon Musk more than PayPal, Tesla, or SpaceX. So Jesus, the Architect and Builder of the Church, which is the people of God, is worthy of greater glory!

**APP:** Consider Jesus. Meditate on Him. Think on Him. Give Him your closest contemplation. He is the Builder of God’s house, which is the Church, the family of God. We “share” (1) in this as members of God’s house. Consider Jesus and recognize that He is worthy of the greatest glory!

# A Greater Glory

JESUS IS GREATER: An Exposition of Hebrews #4 - Pastor Gary Combs - October 22, 2023 - Hebrews 3:1-6

## 2. Because He is the fulfillment of God's Word.

**EXP:** (5) Look at v.5. Moses was faithful “in all God’s house as a servant.” He was not its builder, he was in God’s house as a servant. To do what? “To testify to the things that were to be spoken later.”

“**Servant**” (5) (θεράπων, *therapōn*) - root for “therapy.” An attendant, servant. Spoken of Moses discharging the duties committed to him by God. And he was a “faithful” servant. Hebrews doesn’t diminish Moses’ glory, but gives him his due honor, while showing how much greater is the glory of Jesus. V. 5 is near quote of:

Numbers 12:7 (ESV) Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house.

“**Testify**” (5) (μαρτύριον, *marturion*) - a noun. Testimony, witness. Better translation KJV: “Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward.”

John 5:46 (ESV) For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.

“**Spoken later**” (5) (λαλέω, *laleō*) (future participle) - words spoken later. Jesus is the last and final word. (Heb. 1:2: “but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son”). Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s Word. “Every ordinance under the law was typical; everything bore a testimony to the things which were to be spoken after; i.e. to Jesus Christ, his suffering, death, and the glory which should follow; and to his Gospel in all its parts” (Clarke’s Commentary). Moses, the Law, the Tabernacle— all were types pointing to Jesus.

**ARG:** **Jesus didn’t come to abolish the Law** (the Testimony of Moses) **nor the Prophets, but to fulfill them.**

Matthew 5:17-18 (ESV) <sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

**Even when they arrested Him, Jesus was aware that He was fulfilling Scripture.**

Mark 14:49 (ESV) Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.

**ILL:** Moses gave them water from a rock, but Paul said, “the Rock was Christ” (1 Cor. 4). Moses gave them bread (manna) from heaven, but Jesus said, “I AM the living bread that came down from heaven” (John 6:51). Moses delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt, but Jesus delivers us from slavery to sin (Heb. 2:15). Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness that Israel might look upon it in faith to be healed, but Jesus was lifted up on a cruel cross on Mt. Calvary that we might look upon Him and be saved!

**APP:** Consider Jesus. Meditate on Him. Think on Him. Give Him your careful contemplation. He is the fulfillment of God’s Word. His glory is greater than all. Consider Jesus and see that He is worthy of the greatest glory!

## 3. Because He is the Son over God's house.

**EXP:** (5-6) We have seen that Moses was a faithful servant in God’s house (5), but now we see that Jesus is a faithful SON over God’s house (6). The two are not equal. Moses was great. Jesus is infinitely greater!

“**Son**” (6) (υἱός, *huios*) - Moses was a servant of God, Christ is the Son of God. He is the Heir and Ruler **OVER** the house of God. Moses was in the house, but Christ is **OVER** the house. He owns the house.

“**We are His House**” (6) - This house includes Moses and all believers. We belong to Jesus.

Ephesians 2:13 (NLV) But now you belong to Christ Jesus. At one time you were far away from God. Now you have been brought close to Him. Christ did this for you when He gave His blood on the cross.

“**If indeed**” (6) - Not a condition of salvation, but an evidence of it. My translation: “Since we are His house, let us hold fast to our confidence and keep on glorying in our hope in Christ Jesus!”

“**Hold fast**” (6) (κατέχω, *katechō*) - to hold fast, keep secure, keep firm possession of

“**Confidence**” (6) (παρρησία, *parrēsia*) - cheerful courage, boldness, assurance.

# A Greater Glory

JESUS IS GREATER: An Exposition of Hebrews #4 - Pastor Gary Combs - October 22, 2023 - Hebrews 3:1-6

“**Boasting**” (6) (καύχημα, *kauchēma*) - rejoicing, that of which one glories, reason for glorying or boasting.

“**Hope**” (6) (ἐλπίς, *elpis*) - expectation of good, joyful and confident expectation. Our hope is in Christ!

**ARG:** **Christ is the Builder of, the Son over, and the Cornerstone under God’s house. We are His house!**

1 Peter 2:4-5 (NLT) <sup>4</sup> You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. <sup>5</sup> And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.

**As His house, whether we live or die, we honor and give glory to Jesus for we belong to Him!**

Romans 14:8 (NLT) If we live, it’s to honor the Lord. And if we die, it’s to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

**APP:** Consider Jesus. Meditate on Him. Think on Him. Give Him your careful contemplation. He is the fulfillment of Son over God’s house. His glory is greater than all. Consider Jesus and see that He is worthy of the greatest glory!

**CONCLUSION:** This has not been a “what to do” or “how to” sermon. This is a “Consider Jesus” sermon. Will you take a close look at Him today? Focus on Jesus. Look to Jesus.

**ILL:** Have you heard the story of Lilius Trotter (1853–1928)? Originally from London, England, she was an anointed artist with great potential. Famous art critics saw her early work and were even willing to invest in her training. But while she loved art, she also felt a calling from God to reach the lost. Having heard about the unreached people groups in Algeria, North Africa, she felt called to go. Responding to this calling would come at a great cost as it would require her to lay down her budding career as an artist. As she responded to this call, no mission agencies would send her there or support her mission. Not deterred, she decided to still follow the call of God to Africa and go by herself. She lived among the Algerians for forty years. There, in the desert, Trotter knew what it was like to be stripped from every distraction and to focus upon the face of Jesus. She had laid her life down for that one purpose. While living there in the desert, she wrote a poem whose last stanza went like this:

“Turn full your soul’s vision to Jesus, and look and look at Him, and a strange dimness will come over all that is apart from Him, and the Divine attraction by which God’s saints are made, will lay hold of you. For “He is worthy” to have all there is to be had in the heart that He has died to win.” (From “*Focussed: A Story and a Song*” by Lilius Trotter).

You may not have been familiar with Lilius Trotter, nor her poem, but perhaps you have heard the song inspired by her poem, which was written in 1922 by Helen Lemmel. It goes like this:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.

Will you consider Jesus...

- (1) The Builder and Founder of our salvation and faith?
- (2) The Last Word and Fulfillment of our Scriptures, God’s Word?
- (3) The Son and Sovereign over God’s house and Lord and Savior over your life?

Will you consider Jesus today!

Let’s pray.