

Scripture Reference: Hebrews 12:2-3

Date: February 2, 2014

Title: "Consider Jesus"

Focus: The necessity of Jesus as the focus of personal attention

Intro:

1. In chapter 11, the writer of Hebrews talks about those who have lived a life of faith. When he gets to chapter 12, the discussion turns to learning from their example and running our own race of faith well.

2. In living a relationship with God well, he asks readers to "Consider Jesus." This is the meaning of "Fixing our eyes on Jesus." In calling readers to intently turn their attention to the Son of God, the author believed a person will not "grow weary and lose heart" in being faithful to God.

Body:

Jesus is the Central and Essential Element of the Christian Faith.

The author calls Jesus "the author and perfecter" of our faith. What does this mean?

Author; The idea of "author" is not that of a writer. Paul is using here athletic imagery. He has called them to "run with endurance the race set before" them.

In keeping with that, he uses a word that conveys the concept of Jesus as the one in the preeminent position of the race, the one out in the lead. It is He who has blazed the trail.

Jesus is the example to be followed by anyone seeking a relationship with God. There is no one else a person desiring a relationship with God should study other than Jesus.

Perfecter; As the pathfinder of our faith, there is no better example for those seeking a relationship with God than Jesus.

Jesus is both way out in front on this issue and providing the perfect example for those who are following.

His perfect example is in all matters of life, faith, and practice.

The task is finished. Therefore, He is now seated at the right hand of God.

"Consider Him!" Paul Asserts

Jesus lived in the real world. He dealt with the struggles and obstacles that are familiar to all people (Heb. 4:15).

He came through it all showing humanity it is possible to have a relationship with God.

People say that is not their experience. These people have not studied Jesus and followed His example.

Trying to find life without God will only lead to frustration and weariness.

It is the person who places his confidence in Jesus, and follows His example that finds "*will find rest for [their] souls*."

Closing:

1. Jesus must be the singular and exclusive focus on those seeking a relationship with God

2. How is this done? By spending time with Him in prayer, study of His word, worship, and personal devotions.

3. Remember Jesus' words, "*Apart from Me, you can do nothing*" (John 15:5).