

“Our Heavenly Calling”

Hebrews 3:1

God's calling drastically changes a person. When I say “yes” to Jesus I don't simply accept His offer of salvation, I accept His plan for my life without even knowing where that plan will carry me or what changes He'll want me to make. When I say “yes” to Him, I enlist myself into a program which will require me to give up my old ways and discard the goal I had for my life, to let my very personality radically be remolded, and to make the focus of everything I do from now on be for someone else's benefit. Sounds pretty dangerous doesn't it? And it would be dangerous if I were saying “yes” to anyone but God, but He's the one Person I can safely give over such control to, because no one else formed me in my mother's womb, or numbered my days, or knew me before the foundation of the world. And no one else loves me like He does, or understands the true meaning of life like He does. So as dangerous as the call may seem, it's far more dangerous to say “no” to Him, because that means we won't give up our old ways and will be living for our own foolish goals. Our personalities won't become more loving, kind and pure, but will get more selfish as the years go by. Today as we look at our “heavenly calling” we'll gain a better understanding of what it is to which we've said “yes.”

A. OVERVIEW: 3:1-6

Verse 1: By confessing Jesus we have become partakers in His “heavenly calling.” God called Him to be our Apostle and High Priest, and we who confess Him now share His calling.

Verse 2: Up until now Israel thought of Moses as their apostle and high priest, and he faithfully carried out the assignment God gave him, just as Jesus did.

Verse 3: But Jesus deserves far more honor because what He did is the reason the family of God exists, while Moses is simply a faithful member of that family.

Verse 4: God the Father is the One who ordered the “house” (family of God) to be built, and it ultimately exists because of Him.

Verse 5: What Moses did only had meaning as prophetic symbols pointing to the Son of God who was to come (as we will see in chapter 10) (Mt 5:17; Lk 24:27, 44; Col 2:16)

Verse 6: Moses was a servant in the Father's household, but Jesus is His Son, and the Father has placed His household under His Son's authority. So Jesus is Moses' Lord and ours so long as we continue to place our faith in Him.

B. TWO MODELS

1. Moses:

- Apostle (Ex 3:10)
- High priest (Ex 32:10-14)
- Mt. Sinai to Egypt

2. Jesus (Heb 4:14)

- Apostle: heaven to earth
- High priest: intercedes (Heb 7:25)

Definitions:

Apostle: sent on a mission by God

High Priest: intercede on behalf of God's people



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C. WHAT IS OUR CALLING?

God is the One who calls us. "He has set us apart for Himself, He has made us members of His family, and He has called us to share in His eternal rest" (F.F. Bruce, Hebrews, p. 55). We are called:

1. To join Him:

- "Sons in glory" (Heb 2:10)
- Luke 14:15-24 – "a big dinner"
- Matthew 22:1-14 – a wedding feast for His Son (Rev 19:9)
- Notice everyone willing is included. God is a "more the merrier" God.
- "Many are called (invited), few are chosen" (fit to enter: indifferent or no wedding garment)
- Question: Have you answered His call or are you too busy? Are you a regular church-goer but you've never really surrendered to Jesus?

2. To serve Him:

- Transformed goals: Jesus' calling becomes our calling ("partners")
- Many "church-goers": I'll do whatever I have to do to get where I want to go (tithe, pray, Bible...). I'll jump whatever hurdles so I can achieve my goals.
- Baal worship
- 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15 – "For the love of Christ..."
- Romans 14:7-9
- We too become "apostles" (missionaries, sent ones) and high "priests" (intercessors), God will interrupt our lives and say, "I'm sending you there." It may or may not involve a physical relocation, but we will know that God has sent us to this place and to these people. And the most important ministry we will do is pray for them and bring them over and over again to the blood of Jesus Christ.
- Matthew 25:24 — Parable of talents: to labor for another man's benefits.

Q: Have you let go of your own goals for your life and made your highest goal fulfilling God's plan? What are you living for: others or yourself, people or things, this world or the next?

3. To reflect Him:

- Become like Him
- Romans 8:28-30
- "That we would be holy and blameless before Him" (Eph 1:3, 4)
- How does this happen? (2Co 3:18)
- Exodus 34:30-35

Q: Have you made room in your life for regular time to behold Him face to face and speak to Him? (worship, Word, prayer)

D. QUESTIONS

1) At what point in your life did you replace your goals for your life with God's? If it hasn't happened yet, what holds you back? If it has, tell us what difference it made.

2) Name an attitude that God has changed in you.