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Prayer Meeting Address by Mr.J.Delves at "Ebenezer", Clapham
on Monday evening 22.6.64

Reading: Hebrews 3

The Apostle's point, evidently, is to show that Christ is more worthy than Moses and making reference again to the children of Israel and their provocation and God's judgment upon them on account of their unbelief and rebellion, points out that they are worthy of greater judgment. To rebel against God, discredit His word and are hardened in their own sin and unbelief and this point he uses as a warning because evidently in those days there were some who fell away from the profession they had made. This moved the apostle to affirm that continuing steadfastly is an evidence of the reality of our profession and of union with Christ. Hence he says "Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end", and so in verse 14 "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end". The term 'confidence' sometimes refers to the profession of their faith, that is the open profession of confidence they had made in which the apostle exhorts them not to cast away, "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward", and so here he says, "We are made partakers of Christ". I do not understand him to mean that stedfastness makes us partakers, as though it rested upon some performance of our own in that sense but rather that it bears its own witness and testimony and confidence of being partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence, that is holding fast to that which we have made profession of and have professed to have some experience of, which produced in us a confidence. Therefore, it is very sad to cast that away.

My point here particularly is his exhortation to consider, "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider". There are many things worthy of consideration in regard to the things of God and His truth and Gospel but no subject is of parallel importance or of greater value, or is more worthy of consideration than the Lord Jesus Christ who is here termed the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Jesus Christ". By an Apostle in this sense we understand His prophetic office to which He refers Himself in the prophecy by Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek" (Is.61.1) This designates His prophetic office and it is a great point to consider, or to let the mind dwell upon, it is amazingly profitable because it incorporates that Gospel which Christ is, and besides this the words He speaks particularly

His own words, for He is said to speak a word in season to those that are weary His prophetic office comes into the heart of a believer sometimes in speaking a seasonable word in a time of trouble and distress and though often it is Scripture, yet sometimes it has been in the substance of it, in a line or verse of a hymn which confirms that Scripture but it is that which comes into the heart like a voice, His voice, that has in it instruction, and always carries with it something worthy of our consideration. Also His Priesthood of which I have spoken very considerably because this lies at the foundation of our hope, our confidence, our comfort, our joy and everything else because if the atonement of Christ is taken away we have no standing ground beside, although not in the profession of some people, for ourselves I believe we can say that we feel it to be vital and real and essential and, has at times been a sweet and solid comfort in the heart and this is a great matter for consideration. "Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession", because it is a profession of Him, a profession of faith in Him, of confidence, of love to Him and reliance upon Him, so it is indeed a profitable meditation when the heart is led in that direction.

And also His Kingly office, for He is Prophet, Priest and King and each of these have relation to experience and come into it, and so the Kingly office of Christ operates in the heart in bringing the subject to subjection to His divine will, to be still and know that He is God. It is that divine power that brings him out of the world that lieth in wickedness, produces in him a will to fall at Christ's feet and produces a desire for Him to reign over us as King and accomplish His will in us.

So here the apostle says "Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus". So that if our profession is a real one Christ is the substance of it in our experience and it is greatly confirming too at times, to have a little sweet revealing of His glorious Person and work by the Holy Spirit opening it up, which moves the affections, makes Him precious, relieves the burden and brings with it a hope and prospect of eternal life.
Amen

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