

**Hebrews 3: 3-6; “Christ – Worthy of More Glory”, Sermon # 13 in the series – “Holding Fast our Confession”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. (A Communion Sermon)**

Christ Jesus our Lord has been counted worthy of greater glory than Moses our text says. The Jews, to whom this treatise was written, were in great danger of going back to Judaism after having received the gospel and having made confession of their faith in Christ. One of the main reasons that they had fallen into this danger was their great veneration of Moses. They had placed him on the same level as the Lord Jesus, or perhaps had placed him on an even higher level. And so the task of the Apostle Paul was to show them that Christ was considerably greater than Moses; that He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses for the following reasons. First, He who built the house has more honor than the house. Second, Moses was faithful as a servant, but Christ was faithful as a Son. And third – Moses could give instruction but he could not give grace to be saved or to persevere to the end of your life, but Christ most certainly can. We will use these truths to make application to our own spiritual life in Christ as we approach the Lord’s Table.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Christ is worthy of more glory than Moses in that He who built the house has more honor than the house.** (verse 3)

“For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.” This verse is a continuation of the argument which began at the beginning of this chapter; which was, that “Christ was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.” Both Christ and Moses were faithful to what they were called to do by God in God’s house, but Christ was considered worthy of more glory because He is the builder of the house. The “house” which is being spoken of here is the house of God, the Church of the Living God. It is composed not only of all those who have believed in Jesus Christ since His coming into the world, but it is also composed of all those persons who believed in the promise of His coming from the foundation of the world. You will notice that in verse 2, it says that Moses also was faithful in all His house. The “H” in His is capitalized in the NAS and the NKJV, which means that it is God’s house that is being spoken of, not Moses’ house. In the ESV it is translated, “God’s house”. And more specifically, as we look at verse 3, we can see that it is Christ who is the Builder of this “house”, although it is not to the exclusion of the Father and the Holy Spirit. By way of application, you and I need to understand that the great issue in service and ministry to God is faithfulness, and specifically faithfulness in relation to God’s house.

We want to examine this more carefully and so I would have you turn over with me to Numbers Chapter 12, verse 1. “Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against

Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman.” “So they said, ‘Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses?’” “Has He not spoken through us also?” “And the Lord heard it.” “(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)” The context here is that Miriam and Aaron have spoken against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married. I personally believe that the woman that the text is speaking of was Zipporah, the only wife of Moses who is named in the Scripture. If we can gather some things from the previous chapter, Chapter 11, I think that we can reasonably conclude that Miriam and Aaron thought that it was because of Zipporah’s influence upon Moses that certain people were being allowed into the number of those 70 elders of Israel who were permitted to prophesy in the camp; people whom they did not have a part in choosing. It appears from Exodus Chapter 2, that Zipporah was a Midianite woman, one who came from the general area of Ethiopia. When she lived with her father, she was formerly a native of Arabia Chusea, in which country Midian was. Her tents were the tents of Cush or Cushan, and her curtains the curtains of Midian. And these things are spoken of together in Habakkuk 3: 7. Miriam and Aaron derogatorily referred to her as an Ethiopian woman. Perhaps the men whom they were objecting to were the men named “Eldad” and “Medad” of verse 27 of Chapter 11. (See Gill or Henry on this)

Anyway, they asserted themselves in verse 2 and they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses?” “Has He not spoken through us also?” “And the Lord heard it.” “Now Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.” “Suddenly the Lord said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, ‘Come out you three to the tabernacle of meeting!’” “So the three came out.” “Then the Lord came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam.” “And they both went forward.” “Then He said, ‘Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.’” “Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house.” “I speak with him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the Lord.” “Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?” You see, this was what Moses was called to do. He was called to be faithful to humbly and patiently lead the children of Israel and to be faithful to God in relation to ministering to them. Back in Chapter 11, verse 28, when Joshua had said “Moses, my lord, forbid these men to prophesy,” Moses said, “Are you zealous for my sake?” “Oh, that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!” Do you see how faithful that Moses was in this difficult situation? When it came to others being able to exercise true and profitable spiritual gifts, his desire was for it. He did not desire to lord his leadership over the people, but if it would promote the truth, and lead to righteous living, and bring glory to God, he would have others to also prophesy and lead. He was not at all zealous to promote his own glory. And

He was faithful in this wonderful way of patience and humility. There were times when God's honor was at stake, such as when the people made a golden calf and worshiped it. At those times he was bold as a lion. But here, when his own honor and position as a leader is questioned, he is very meek.

This is a great part of what it means when it says that he was faithful in all of God's house. He was a faithful godly man in God's house, as a part of God's house. He humbled himself to think of himself as one of God's people. He did not see himself as just the leader of God's people. He was faithful with the children of Israel in bringing them out of their bondage in the land of Egypt and in leading them through their 40 years of wilderness wanderings. He bore with them patiently, and prayed for them when they sinned against God, and even "stood in the breach" of God's anger, as an intercessor in prayer for the people so that they would not be destroyed. He was a wonderful type of Christ in a number of important ways. He was the deliverer of his people. He was also the greatest prophet of his day among his people. He was a mediator with God to them, and a shepherd who guided them skillfully. He many times suffered in doing what was right, in order to teach them, his people. But if you will turn over to Deuteronomy Chapter 18, verse 15, you will find a prophecy of One who was far greater, One who has been counted worthy of more glory than him, One whom Moses Himself foretold would come. "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren." "Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.'" "And the Lord said to me: 'What they have spoken is good.'" "I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him." "And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him." You see here that the Father is pointing the Jewish people on to their Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession was faithful in all that God the Father appointed Him to do. And what God appointed Him to do was to become both a sinless and a perfectly righteous Savior for all of God's Elect people in order to redeem them from their bondage in sin. He would be perfectly righteous in all that He did. Even though He existed in the form of God, and did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, yet He would take upon Himself the form of man. He would become a man in order to build God's house, the house of the Church. He would lay the foundation of this great house and temple of God with His obedience to God's holy law. Not one commandment would be neglected, but all would be perfectly lived out and fulfilled to the glory of God. He would humble Himself and become obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. He would live His righteous life in order that the merits of that life could be imputed to you and I who believe. And He would die the horrible death on the

cross so that our sins could all be forgiven. And God would crown Him with glory and honor and seat Him at His right hand in the glory to be forever able to make intercession for us. Jesus is so much greater than Moses. Moses delivered his people from their physical bondage and led them very well in most of their difficult situations. But there was one time where he grew impatient with them and did not honor God before them, and as a result he could not enter the Promised Land with. Moses is a wonderful picture of the law. The law came through Moses. He could lead, and he could teach them, and he helped to deliver them from many earthly evils. He was instrumental to bring some of them to the earthly Promised Land. But He could not bring them out of their spiritual bondage to sin and the devil. He could not change their hearts. He could not deliver them from the world (this present evil age). He could not deliver them from the power of their flesh (the power of sin). But Jesus Christ our Lord does all of these things because He is the builder of the house. Indeed, as the Builder of all things is God, even so Jesus Christ is God. Moses was faithful in all of God's house assigned to him, but he could deliver no one from sin, and death, and hell. But Jesus Christ can, and He will for all those trusting in Him. Let us remember this as we come to the table today. There is no one who can compare to our Lord Jesus. There is none so lovely in His righteousness, there is none so brave and courageous in His sufferings. He accomplished all in relation to our salvation, our being righteous in God's sight, and our knowing the power to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. Moses was the meekest man in all the earth in his day, but the Lord Jesus says categorically, "Come unto Me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle (meeker than Moses) and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Moses could never say something like this because even though he was part of the house, he was not the builder of the house.

**Now 2ndly - Moses was faithful as a servant, but Christ was faithful as a Son.**

(verse 5 and 6a)

"And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, but Christ as a Son over His own house..." Moses is often in the Scriptures called "the servant of God". Here we find it said that Moses was faithful as a servant in all of God's house, as a testimony. The Old Testament Scriptures written down for us were to be a testimony of God's faithfulness to Moses and the Old Testament people of God. And those same Scriptures would also record the testimony of Moses' faithfulness to God, that he was God's servant. Faithfulness, as I have said, is the issue of living the Christian life. At the end of our lives, when we die, we will be immediately brought to God for judgment. "It is appointed unto men once to die, and then the judgment. If we have believed in the testimony of God, we shall be brought into the blessedness of His presence to dwell with Him forever. If we have been faithful

to be God's servant in the way that we live our lives, we shall hear from the lips of our Savior, "Well done, good and faithful servant." "Enter in to the joy of your Lord." These are the words that we should labor toward and greatly desire to hear. When we think about Moses, we should realize that here was a man who was faithful to God. He was reluctant to become God's servant; to lead and speak to the people of God in the beginning. But God showed him great and mighty things and persuaded him by grace to become His servant. I would say that this would have been the epitaph on his grave stone, if God had permitted him to have one; "Moses – the servant of the Lord". He is called this no less than 19 times in the book of Joshua alone. But let me show you a few verses which will teach more of what it means to be a servant. Exodus Chapter 14, verse 26 – the day of their deliverance from Egypt. "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.'" "And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it." "So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea." "Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them." "Not so much as one of them remained." "But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left." "So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore." "Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses." That is they believed in the Lord's good work for them, in delivering them from their bondage to Pharaoh and their slave labor in Egypt; they believed the testimony of Lord through Moses to them; they believed in both the Lord and His servant Moses. And Moses as the faithful servant of the Lord, not only served the Lord faithfully among God's people Israel (His house) he also as God's servant wrote down the words and the works of the Lord in 4 of the 5 books which are referred to as the Pentateuch, the first 5 books of the Bible. These are testimony of God's faithfulness to Israel, God's faithfulness to Moses himself, and Moses' faithfulness to do all that the Lord commanded him. They were also written down to be a type of Christ and His Church. This does not mean that Moses' obedience was perfect, but rather Moses was able to be faithful to be obedient to the degree that he was, by the grace of God given to him. This is always the case for every leader in God's house, His Church, and every faithful follower of Christ. We have already mentioned the one incident which prevented Moses from going into the Promised land. Let us see how even though Moses failed, he was faithful to repent and to ask God to allow him to come into the Promised Land so that he could continue to serve Him.

Deuteronomy 3: 24. "O Lord God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who

can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds?” “I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.” “But the Lord was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me.” “So the Lord said to me: ‘Enough of that!’” “Speak no more to Me of this matter.” “Go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift your eyes toward the west, the north, the south, and the east; behold it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan.” “But command Joshua, and encourage him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.” Notice how Moses is not angry with the Lord that he has been told that he will not be able to go into the Promised Land. He still thinks of himself as God’s servant and calls himself that. And yet he still pleads that God would let him somehow continue to serve Him by allowing him to go into the Promised Land. Did God refuse to forgive Moses his sin at the waters of Meribah where he called the people rebels and struck the rock twice instead of speaking to it? No, God forgave him of this sin. He had not “believed God”, it says in Numbers 20, verse 12, “in order to hallow God in the eyes of the children of Israel”, and that was why he could not enter. Moses was faithful, but Moses was not perfect; he was not without sin. How then was Moses saved? He was saved by grace through faith in the Christ who was coming, and who would be sinless and faithful. Moses struck the Rock and water came out for the people. The Rock represented Christ. Moses struck the Rock twice. His sins would have to be atoned for by Christ’s being crucified. And what came out of the Rock when it was struck? The water of life, even eternal life for those who believe. The law came through Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. Christ was faithful as a Son who became a servant. He was God’s only-begotten Son and yet He veiled His glory to come and humble Himself to obey God’s law perfectly. It says in Romans Chapter 15, verse 8 – “Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: “For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.” “And again he says: ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!’” “And again: ‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!’” “Laud Him all you peoples!” This is what we have come to do today, to come down front now, and to partake of this Supper remembering that Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many. He came as God’s Son to serve unto death so that we could have eternal life and become sons and daughters of God. Let this be what we remember and rejoice in as we partake of the Supper.

**Now 3rdly – I would have you to see that Moses could give instruction but he could not give grace to be saved or to persevere to the end of your life, but Christ most certainly can.**

It says in verse 6 – “Christ was a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.” I hope that you can now see that Moses was faithful in God’s house, and that his

faithfulness was and is a testimony of what we have now come to fully enjoy under the New Covenant in Jesus Christ our Lord. We now have the spiritual substance of which they only beheld in shadow and types. What Israel went through at the Red Sea was a type of the great deliverance which we have in Jesus Christ. Christ delivers us from the greater Pharaoh, the devil. Christ delivers us from the greater Egypt, the world. And Christ delivers us even from what many of those Israelites were not delivered from; murmuring and complaining at the circumstances which we find ourselves in. Moses could give them instructions in this regard, but he could not change their hearts. But now that we have believed in Christ, we have received grace which changes our hearts. What have we come here to do, right now at this table? We have come here to break the bread and drink the cup and remember that Christ had to die for us. We are here because we are holding fast and holding forth our confidence in Christ Jesus, who has died for all of our sins, and who will deliver us from all of our sins. But it is more than that. We are here today to celebrate all the great grace which He has given to us and all those great things that He continues to do for us and will do for us all the way through this life and into the next. We are here, “holding fast our confidence in Him”. Our confidence is not in ourselves. We are rejoicing in the hope, the sure hope, that we have that Christ will deliver us from everything evil that we find in ourselves and every evil deed that other people may do against us. We will rejoice in this hope and hold this hope firm unto the end; that is until the end of our life. Dear believer will you not do this now as you partake of the bread and the cup? And will you realize that because Christ has served you by living a perfectly righteous life and dying a perfectly God-satisfying sacrificial death, that you can God’s servant in righteousness now in the way that you live your life? Listen to Galatians 4: 4-7. “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” “And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’” “Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” Let us remember this as we partake the Supper, that we are no longer slaves of sin, but servants of God, and even more; we are seen by God as sons and heirs and even His friends.