

Looking To Jesus

Introduction: Throughout the New Testament we find a great emphasis upon Jesus. This is to cause us to turn our eyes to Jesus, but we want to remember that the purpose of this emphasis was not to give us more information about Jesus. Looking to Jesus is intended to transform our lives. Let us consider this idea throughout the book of Hebrews so we can see the importance of turning our eyes upon Jesus.

I. Beholding the Glory of the Lord:

- A. Paul describes witnessing the glory of the Lord is intended to transform us: 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - 1. Throughout this context, Paul has been contrasting the Old and New Covenants (1-11).
 - a. Paul defends his ministry, reminding them they are the fruit of his labor (1-3).
 - b. He is a minister of the new covenant, and shows the difference between the two (4-11).
 - c. Israel (by heritage) continued to read the law with a veil over their heart (12-15).
 - d. However, in Christ, that veil is taken away and we can see what the old covenant was truly pointing to the whole time, Jesus (16-18).
 - 2. We find in the third chapter of Galatians that Paul shows that the law was always intended to bring us to Christ: Galatians 3:24
 - 3. Therefore, as we behold the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image: 3:18
- B. Beholding Jesus:
 - 1. When Paul speaks of beholding Jesus, he's not speaking of a mere glance. It means to look with intense, sincere, and undivided attention that fully encompasses the object of focus.
 - 2. The goal of beholding Jesus is to be transformed to His image: Romans 8:29, 1 John 3:1-3

II. Looking to Jesus:

- A. In the book of Hebrews, the author is calling the readers to endure.
 - 1. They had faced trials and either were currently facing more or the prospect of more was present. The book was written as a call to endurance.
 - 2. The main thrust of the letter is to see Jesus more clearly. The reality is, if you truly saw Jesus and understood who He is, you'd never turn away from Him or give up on Him.
- B. Jesus is better in every way to everything that has come before:
 - 1. Jesus is the better messenger: 1:1-3
 - 2. Jesus is better than the angels: 1:4-2:18
 - 3. Jesus is better than Moses: 3:1-6
 - 4. Jesus provides better rest than Joshua: 3:7-4:13
 - 5. Jesus is a better High Priest: 4:14-5:10, 7:1-28
 - 6. Jesus mediates a better covenant: Hebrews 8, Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - 7. Jesus offers a better sacrifice: Hebrews 9:25-10:18
 - 8. Jesus provides us access to the Father: 10:19-23, Matthew 27:51) was a symbol that
 - 9. Jesus brings a better kingdom: 12:22-29
- C. Living by faith, Looking to Jesus: 10:35-12:2
 - 1. The author encouraged his readers to draw near to God through Jesus. He goes on to show the importance of endurance in difficult times: 35-36
 - 2. While difficult times will come, the righteous one will endure because he lives by faith.
 - 3. We have many examples of those who through faith and patience inherited the promises (6:12).
 - a. What these great examples of faithfulness have in common is they looked to Jesus to help them through their lives.
 - b. When we look forward to Jesus in the same way, we can receive divine approval and be made perfect along with them.
 - 4. Fixing our eyes on Jesus:
 - a. The idea is like putting blinders on so as to not be distracted by the things around us.
 - b. In order to fix our eyes on Jesus, we must lay aside sin so we can look with clarity.
 - c. We must run with endurance by looking at Him who finished the race.
 - d. Keeping our gaze fixed upon Jesus because He endured far more than we do, and He has been exalted and seated in triumph at the right hand of God.
 - e. Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus is the only way we will be able to join Him at the heavenly throne.

Conclusion: Throughout the New Testament we find the exhortation to turn our eyes upon Jesus. If you are weary and troubled, if you can't see any light in the darkness, look to the Savior for His light, and abundant life. 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.