

## MEMBERS OF GOD'S HOUSE (v. 6b)

*And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.*

1. According to the writer of Hebrews, how do we know we are God's house?
2. The writer of Hebrews is not alone in his warning. In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he writes, "By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain (1 Corinthians 15:2)." He tells the believers in Colossae, "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—<sup>23</sup> if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel (Colossians 1:21-23)"

Reformed theologians refer to this concept as "perseverance of the saints." Those who have genuinely trusted Christ will remain faithful to him because God enables them to remain faithful.

How is this different from the concept of "once saved always saved?"

What is scary about this idea?

What is encouraging about this idea?



We live in an age of fierce loyalties. Many are loyal to our president. They wave his flags and hold out hope for a better vote count. In my neighborhood, people are passionate about college football. My next-door neighbor has a thirteen-foot inflatable Bevo that comes out on game days. He towers above the neighborhood, flashing a hook 'em horns sign to everyone who drives by. The neighbor next to him is proudly flying an Oklahoma flag. Aggies and Razorbacks are well represented down the street. Passions are at their peak on game days, but we are usually speaking to each other again by Wednesday. Some people are passionate about Bible teachers. They buy their commentaries, feverishly pour over the notes in their Study Bibles, and listen to their sermons online.

As passionate as we are, none of our passions prepare us for the fierce loyalty a faithful Israelite held for the Law of Moses and Moses himself. The writer of Hebrews wants us to know that as remarkable as the Law was, and as significant as Moses was, we have a far more definitive revelation of God's heart and character in Jesus. Both Jesus and Moses were faithful in God's house. While Moses was a member of God's house, Jesus is the builder of the house. While Moses was a Servant in God's house, Jesus is the Son over the house. And by the way, we are the house the writer of Hebrews has in mind.

## FAITHFUL IN GOD'S HOUSE (vv. 1-2)

*Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.*

1. What stands out about the way the writer of Hebrews describes believers in this passage?
2. What stands out about the way he describes Jesus?
3. The key command in this passage is “fix your thoughts on Jesus.” What do you think it means to “fix our thoughts on Jesus?” Why is this important?
4. What are some of the things that tend to occupy our minds when they are not fixed on Jesus?
5. How will fixing our thoughts on Jesus better equip up to deal with the chaos, uncertainty in our world?
6. The key to unlocking Hebrews 3:1-6 is Numbers 12:4-9. Moses’ older brother and sister challenge his leadership. After all, Aaron was the high priest, and Miriam had been a prophetic leader. Their challenge gets a bit personal. Miriam criticizes Moses’ wife for not being an Israelite. Aaron and Miriam complain that God speaks through them as well as Moses. It is God who speaks up on Moses’ behalf.

*At once the Lord said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them went out. <sup>5</sup> Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward, <sup>6</sup> he said, “Listen to my words:*

*“When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams. <sup>7</sup> But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. <sup>8</sup> With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”*

*<sup>9</sup> The anger of the Lord burned against them, and he left them (Numbers 12:4-9).*

We find our key phrase tucked away in verse 7, where God refers to Moses as his servant and declares, “He is faithful in all my house.”

How was God’s relationship with Moses different than his relationship with other prophets?

How is God’s relationship with Jesus similar to God’s relationship with Moses?

How was Moses faithful in his generation?

How was Jesus faithful in his generation?

How does Jesus’ faithfulness (and Moses’ faithfulness) encourage our faithfulness?

## THE BUILDER OF GOD’S HOUSE (vv. 3-4)

*Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.*

In 1 Samuel, God forewarns Eli, “I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his house (1 Samuel 2:35).” He promises David, “The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: I will raise up your offspring to succeed you and establish his kingdom (2 Samuel 7:11-12).” Paul tells us, “you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household (Ephesians 2:19).”

1. What do you think God has in mind when he talks about building or establishing a house?
2. What was Moses’ role in building God’s house?
3. What is Jesus’ role in building God’s house?
4. What is our role?
5. Why do you think the writer of Hebrews makes the subtle transition from describing Jesus as the builder of the house to reminding us that God is the builder of everything?

## THE SON OVER GOD’S HOUSE (vv. 5-6a)

*“Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house,” bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. But Christ is faithful as the Son over God’s house.*

The writer of Hebrews tells us that Moses “was faithful as a servant... bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future.” The opening line of Hebrews reminds us, “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son (Hebrews 1:1-2).” Moses spoke of a time when God would send a prophet like himself. “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him (Deuteronomy 8:15).”

1. What are some ways that the Law points us to Jesus?
2. What are some of the ways Moses himself points to Jesus?
3. How is Jesus a prophet like Moses?
4. How is Jesus far more than a prophet like Moses?