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The Builder of the House

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus - **October 9, 2016**

Hebrews 3:1-6; Matthew 7:24-29

Introduction: The main object of the epistle is to commend (make more acceptable) the CHRISTIAN religion to those who were addressed in it, in such a way as to **PREVENT defection** FROM it. This is done, principally, by showing its **superiority** to the Mosaic system. The great **danger** of Christians in Palestine was of relapsing into the JEWISH system. The imposing nature of its rites; the public sentiment (thought prompted by passion or FEELING) in its favour; the fact of its antiquity, and its undisputed Divine origin, would all tend to that. To **counteract this**, the writer of this epistle shows that the gospel had **HIGHER** claims on their attention, and that, **IF** that were **REJECTED**, **RUIN** was inevitable. From this train of **reasoning**, the inference is drawn in Hebrews 2:1-4, that we ought to give diligent HEED to what had been spoken. The Great Author of the Christian scheme had peculiar claims to be heard, and there was peculiar **danger** in disregarding his message. (Source: Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/)

Thought 1. The ability to **defect** FROM faith IN Jesus BACK into **UNBELIEF** was first spoken of by Jesus himself in the parable of the Sower and also the night of his betrayal.

Luke 8:15, They on the **ROCK** are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which **for a WHILE believe**, and in time of **TEMPTATION FALL AWAY**. (See also Matthew 13:20-21)

Temptation defined 3986, a putting to proof (by experience of EVIL).

Fall Away defined 868, desert (leave a person, 1913 Webs.):-- **withdraw self.**

John 16:1, These things have I spoken unto you, that YE should **not** be **OFFENDED** (**entice to APOSTASY** (departure from one's FAITH)).

Hebrews 3:1, Wherefore, **holy brethren, partakers** of the heavenly calling, **CONSIDER** the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus...

Consider defined 2657, to observe (behold with some ATTENTION) **fully:--behold.**

Attention, the application of the MIND to any object of sense, representation, or thought; notice; **EXCLUSIVE** [possessed and enjoyed to the exclusion of others] or special consideration (meditation [CLOSE or **CONTINUED thought**]).

NOTE: Holy brethren - The name "brethren" is often given to Christians to denote that they are of ONE FAMILY. It is "possible," also, that the apostle may have used the word here in a double sense - denoting that they were his brethren as "Christians," and as "Jews." (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/hebrews-3.html>)

NOTE: Consider is a common word in English, but it has a rich etymological significance, being formed from two Latin words, "**con**" (**with**) plus "**sideris**" (**stars or constellation**), thus having a literal meaning related to observing the stars. One who takes the time to behold the beauty and majesty of the night sky is literally **WITH THE STARS** in his **thoughts** and **emotions** and **CANNOT FAIL** to **receive** deep impressions of awe, wonder, and appreciation. It is with this very attitude that people are invited to CONSIDER Christ.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/hebrews-3.html>)

Thought 1. In his words, Paul is telling us he understood the requirements of the spiritual principle of "keeping (guarding/ protecting) our heart (MIND). Along with Proverbs 4, key verses in Isaiah 26, also give CLEAR instructions on HOW to do so.

Proverbs 4:20-27, My son, attend to **MY** words; incline thine ear unto **MY** sayings. Let them NOT depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are **life** unto those that find them, and **health** to all their flesh. **keep (guard, PROTECT, maintain)** thy **HEART** with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. **Ponder** the path of thy feet, and let ALL THY WAYS **be established**. Turn NOT to the right hand nor to the left: **remove thy foot** from EVIL.

Heart defined 3820, used (figuratively) very widely for the FEELINGS, the WILL and even the intellect; understanding, MIND.

Isaiah 26:3-4, Thou wilt keep him in perfect **PEACE**, whose **MIND** is **STAYED** on thee; because he **TRUSTETH in thee**. TRUST ye in the Lord for ever: for in **the Lord (Jah) JEHOVAH (self-Existent or Eternal) IS** everlasting **strength...**

Hebrews 12:1-3 ...SEEING we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every **weight**, and the **sin** which doth so easily beset us, and let us **RUN** with **PATIENCE** the race that is set before us, **LOOKING** unto **Jesus** the author and finisher of our **FAITH**; who for the **JOY** that was SET before him endured the cross, **DESPISING** the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For **CONSIDER him** that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be **wearied** and **faint (relax [GIVE UP: STOP])** in your **MINDS**).

Patience defined 5281, cheerful [or hopeful] endurance (1. a state or quality of lasting or duration; lastingness; continuance. 2. a continuing under PAIN or distress without resistance [the quality of NOT yielding to force or external pressure]).

Despising defined 2706, to THINK (have the MIND OCCUPIED on some subject) **against** (in opposition), **disesteem** (disregard [to slight] [to disregard from the consideration that a thing is of LITTLE VALUE and UNWORTHY of notice]).

Hebrews 3:2, Who was **faithful** to him that **appointed him**, AS also **Moses** was **faithful** in all his house.

NOTE: In Hebrews 2:17, Jesus had already been mentioned as a merciful and faithful high priest, and it is **his "faithfulness"** that needed stress here. Note how delicately the inspired writer defers to the deserved **honor** of **Moses**, whom he did NOT belittle or diminish in any way. Both Moses and Jesus were FAITHFUL to deliver God's message to people, each in his own way, and each in his own capacity.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/hebrews-3.html>)

NOTE: To him that appointed him - The meaning is, that he was **faithful to God**. Perhaps Paul urges on them the necessity of considering “**his fidelity**” in order to keep “them” from the **danger** of **apostasy** (total desertion, or departure from one's FAITH or religion). A leading object of this Epistle was to **preserve those** whom he had addressed from **apostatizing** FROM God amidst the temptations and trials to which they were exposed. In doing this, what could be a more powerful argument than to **direct their attention** to the **unwavering constancy** and **fidelity** of the Lord Jesus?

2 Thessalonians 2:3, Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **falling away (defection from truth, APOSTASY)** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition...

1 Timothy 4:1, Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **SOME** shall **DEPART** from **the FAITH**, giving HEED to **seducing (misleader)** spirits, and doctrines of devils...

The “importance” of such a VIRTUE in the Saviour is manifest. It is seen everywhere; and all the great interests of the world depend on it. A **husband** should **maintain** inviolate (unbroken) **fidelity toward a wife**, and a **wife toward HER husband**; a child should be faithful to a parent, a clerk and apprentice to his employer, a lawyer to his client, a physician to his patient, an ambassador to the government that commissions him.

No matter what may be the **temptations** in the way, in ALL these, and in all other relations, there should be inviolate (UNBROKEN) fidelity (faithfulness). The **welfare** of the **WORLD depended on the faithfulness** of the **Lord Jesus**. Had he failed in that, ALL would have been lost. His fidelity was worthy of the MORE attentive consideration from the numerous **temptations** which beset his path, and the attempts which were made to turn him aside from his devotedness to God.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bnb/hebrews-3.html>)

Hebrews 3:3, For this **man** was **counted worthy** of **MORE glory** than **Moses**, inasmuch as he who hath **builded the house** hath more honour than the house.

Thought 1. Notice that NOT only was Jesus worthy of “GLORY”, but Moses was as well! So, even though it's a common saying that “To God be ALL the glory”, the scriptures that he inspired to be written reveal what his mind is about “glory.” We'll see, he's DUE glory, FIRST, then, those who HE SAYS are also “DUE glory”, as well.

Psalms 29:2, Give unto **the LORD** (Yahweh) the **GLORY** DUE unto his name...

Matthew 5:16, Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your **good works**, and **GLORIFY** your Father which is in heaven.

1 Samuel 2:30, Wherefore the LORD (Yahweh) God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for **THEM** that **honour (GLORIFY) me** **I WILL honour (GLORIFY)**, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

Psalm 84:11 ...the Lord will GIVE GRACE and **GLORY:** no GOOD thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Proverbs 3:35, The WISE shall inherit **GLORY:** but **shame** shall be the **promotion** of FOOLS.

Proverbs 15:33, The **FEAR (reverence)** of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before **honour (GLORY)** is HUMILITY.

NOTE: For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses,... Moses was

counted WORTHY of GLORY and honour, and had it given him, BOTH by God and by men; by God, as appears from the work he called him to, to deliver his people Israel, to reveal his mind and will to them, and to RULE and GOVERN them; and from the favours he showed him, as the **miracles he did by him**, the near converse he admitted him to, and the view he gave him of his glory, which he made to pass before him, and his regard to him at his death and burial, as well as the testimony he gave of him...

...but **Christ** is **WORTHY** of **MORE GLORY** than **Moses**, and has it given him by God, angels, and men: he is a greater Saviour than Moses; Moses was but a **temporal saviour**, but he is the **author of spiritual and eternal salvation**: he is a GREATER PROPHET than Moses, being the **only begotten Son of God**, who lay in the bosom of the Father, and has declared him, his mind and will, his Gospel, grace, and truth, as Moses never did: he is a greater King than he, being made higher than the kings of the earth: **he did more miracles** than **Moses**, and had a greater testimony from God than he had, as that he was his beloved Son, and to be heard; he was also **raised, from the dead**, and is **set down at the right hand** (side) of **God**, and is **appointed Judge** of ALL; he is ministered to, and worshipped by angels, is BELIEVED ON by men, who ascribe the **WHOLE GLORY** of their salvation to him.

Inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house; this "house", or "temple", as the Arabic version renders it, is the church, of which Christ is the builder; though NOT to the exclusion of the Father and the Spirit, who are coefficient (cooperating) builders with him, nor of ministers of the Gospel as instruments, nor of believers in a private capacity, who build up one another; but he has the chief concern in the building, which lies in the **CONVERSION of souls**, and in the **EDIFICATION** (moral, intellectual, or spiritual improvement) of them, and is carried on by his Spirit in the ministry of the **WORD** and ordinances, and from hence he has a glory; see Zech. 6:12 a greater glory than Moses, seeing he was but a part of this house, at most but a pillar in it; but **Christ is the builder, foundation, and cornerstone**.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/hebrews-3.html>)

Hebrews 3:4, For every house is **builded** by some man; but he that **built ALL things is God** (**the supreme** [highest] **Divinity**, Yahweh).

NOTE: ... **he that built all things is God**. This verse is engraved in letters of stone over the principal portal of the Central Church of Christ, Houston, Texas. The thought expressed is a teleological (pertaining to the doctrine of design) thunderbolt; it is the **ancient and indestructible argument from design**, bluntly and unequivocally stated, first in the truism that every house has a builder, and secondly in the deduction that the far **greater house** of the **whole universe** likewise has its builder who can be none other than God. A noted research chemist, Thomas David Parks, said:

I see ORDER and DESIGN all about me in the inorganic world. I cannot believe that they are there by the haphazard, fortunate coming together of atoms. For me this design demands an intelligence; and this intelligence I call God.

Christians ought not to be ashamed of the argument from design; for here it is in the **word** of God itself, commending itself to the **unbiased mind**, and standing absolutely uncontradicted by any vaunted achievements of science. The most determined **atheist** (one who disbelieves or denies the existence of a God, or supreme intelligent Being), in his tenderest and most thoughtful hours, cannot escape the persuasive eloquence of that argument from **design** which **demand a Designer**.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/hebrews-3.html>)

Psalm 127:1, **Except the LORD (Yahweh) build the house, they labour in VAIN** that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Hebrews 3:5, And **Moses** verily was **faithful** in all his house, as a **servant**, for a testimony of those things which were to be **SPOKEN** after...

NOTE: This designation of **Moses** as a **servant** is founded on the word of God himself (Numbers 12:7); and this entitled the author of Hebrews to conclude that Moses was NOT the great lawgiver through any power and ability of himself alone, but that it was his capacity as God's representative and as a vessel for the conveyance of God's message that his noble work was achieved.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/hebrews-3.html>)

Numbers 12:5-7, And **the LORD** (Yahweh) came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called **Aaron** and **Miriam**: and they both came forth. And he said, Hear now my words: **IF** there be a **prophet** among you, I **the LORD** (Yahweh) will make myself known unto him in a **VISION**, and will speak unto him in a **DREAM**. **My servant** Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

Thought 1. This is the main set of verses that makes clear WHY God (Yahweh) gives certain people dreams and visions on a "regular basis." They are a "SIGN" to confirm to them of being called and chosen as a "prophet or prophetess" of God (Yahweh). So today, any Christian that has this taking place, after reading these verses, **MUST AGREE**, IF "they're honest" that they are a minister of Christ in the office of the prophet or prophetess.

Jeremiah 1:4-5, Then the **word** of the Lord came unto me, saying, **Before I** formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the WOMB I sanctified thee, and **I ordained** thee a **prophet** unto the nations. ...Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what **SEEST thou?** And I said, **I SEE** a rod of an almond tree. Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well SEEN: for I will **hasten (watch) my word** to perform it.

Daniel 1:17, ...Daniel had **understanding** in all **VISIONS** and **DREAMS**.

Acts 16:9-10, And a **VISION** appeared to **Paul** in the **night**; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the **VISION**, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Hebrews 3:6, But **Christ** as a **SON** over his own house; whose house are we, **IF** we **HOLD FAST** the **confidence** and the **rejoicing** of the **HOPE (expectation)** FIRM unto the **END**.

NOTE: Reiterating the **supremacy** of **Christ**, the author, on the basis of a bold deduction, names Christians themselves as components of God's house, "whose house we are"! The old Israel is no more. The Son having been revealed, men are no longer under a **servant**, even so true and faithful a servant as Moses (Rom. 2:28; 9:6-8; Gal. 6:15; John 8:39).

IF we hold fast our boldness emphasizes the necessity of **perseverance** in the Christian life, if one is to win the crown. ... Thomas was aware of this when he wrote:

Weakness is a spiritual peril; and this emphasis on boldness and glorying is a significant reminder that only as we **CONTINUE courageous** and **confident** can we **EXPECT** to be **firm** unto the **END**. There is an old saying about "whistling to keep up the courage"; and there is no doubt that in things spiritual the secret of courageous and steadfast living is to be bold and to glory **constantly** in our Christian hope.^[6]

Thus there devolves upon the BELIEVER himself a **frightful responsibility** for the **preservation** and **development of his own faith**; and this coincides with the fact that **FAITH**, rather than being exclusively intellectual, also rests upon and flows out of **moral considerations** of the highest order (John 3:19).

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/hebrews-3.html>)

Hebrews 3:12-14, Take heed, brethren, lest there be IN any of you an **evil heart of unbelief**, in departing **FROM** the **living God**. But exhort one another daily, while it is called **To day**; lest any of you be **hardened** through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, **IF** we hold the **BEGINNING** of our **CONFIDENCE stedfast** (constant, resolute [steady]) unto the END...

Hebrews 6:4-6, For it is **impossible** for those who were once **enlightened**, and **have TASTED** of the heavenly GIFT, and were **made partakers** of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **IF** they shall **FALL AWAY**, to **renew** them again unto **repentance**; seeing they **CRUCIFY** to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Hebrews 10:26-29, For if we **sin willfully AFTER** that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain **fearful** looking for of **judgment** and **fiery indignation**, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted **the blood** of the **covenant**, wherewith **He WAS sanctified**, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Matthew 7:21-23, *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall ENTER into the kingdom of heaven; but he that DOETH the will of MY Father which is in heaven. Many will SAY to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have CAST OUT devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I NEVER KNEW you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Thought 1. The WILL and commandment of God, our Father, to all humans is to BELIEVE (entrust their spiritual well-being) to Jesus. And constantly do so. ALL believers on Jesus know HIM and the Father, and are known by THEM. An example of people who're NOT believers that Matthew 7:23 is speaking of is found in Acts 19. They thought they were working in the "name of Jesus", but really didn't KNOW him, nor did he KNOW them.

Acts 19:13-15, Then certain of the vagabond Jews, **exorcists**, took upon them to CALL OVER them which had EVIL SPIRITS the **NAME** of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by **Jesus** (Yahshua) **whom Paul preacheth**. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the **evil SPIRIT** answered and said, **Jesus I KNOW, and Paul I KNOW; but WHO are ye?**

1 John 3:23, And THIS is HIS commandment, That we should **BELIEVE on** the name of his Son Jesus Christ and LOVE one another, AS he gave us commandment.

Matthew 7:24-29, *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and DOETH them, I will liken him unto a WISE man, which built his house upon a ROCK: And the RAIN descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell NOT: for it was founded upon a ROCK.*

And every one that HEARETH these sayings of mine, and DOETH them NOT, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the RAIN descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one HAVING authority, and NOT as (like) the scribes.

Thought 1. The attention here should be upon the revelation that the TRUE ROCK is HEARING and DOING the WORDS or teachings of Jesus Christ. This point is missed by many. Other verses that make this same point are found in James 1:22-25.