

Hebrews, Part 1: Consider Jesus, your Merciful High Priest

Lesson 10: Chapters 3 and 4

● House

- Within the comparison of Jesus with Moses

● Partakers

- of Christ and the heavenly calling

House

Today, many people refer to the church as the “house of God”. Is this what the author of Hebrews referring to in Hebrews 3:2-6?

οἶκος (oikos). noun. masculine; house, household. Refers both to the building where a family lives and to the family itself as the social group living there.

Partaker

Verse 3:1 calls us “holy brethren partakers of a heavenly calling and verse 3:14 says we have become “partakers of Christ”

But what is meant here by “partaker”?

μέτοχος (*metochos*), noun. masculine; companion, partner, sharer in

House of God – cross references

Ephesians 2:11-22

- Christ Jesus is the cornerstone of this house.
- God's household here is described as Jew and Gentile believers who are in one body in Him.
- Christ's body is building into a holy temple, a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

House of God – cross references

1 Peter 2:4-5

- He said Jesus is the living stone, and believers are living stones being built as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood.

House of God – cross references

Romans 16:5 and Colossians 4:15

- Romans 16:5 “greet the church that is in their house.”
- Colossians 4:15 “the church that is in her house.”

House of God – cross references

Hebrews 10:21

- “we have a great priest over the house of God,”

House of God – cross references

In light of these verses how would you define the house of God?

- The “House” is the Church

House of God

What have you learned about “God’s house” from Hebrews 3?

- Moses was a faithful servant in God’s people, the house of Israel.
- Jesus is the faithful Son over God’s house, the Church.

Partakers of Christ – cross references

John 6:48-51

- Jesus said that He is the bread of life. Whoever eats this bread shall live forever.
- Those who believe in Him partake of him as the bread of eternal life.

Partakers of Christ – cross references

John 14:16-20, 23-24

- John wrote that all believers have the Holy Spirit and that as He is in the Father, we are in Him, and He in us.

Partakers of Christ – cross references

Romans 8:9-11

- Paul says that the Spirit dwells in believers.

Partakers of Christ – cross references

Ephesians 2:20-22

- Paul says we are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Partakers of Christ – cross references

Colossians 1:24-27

- Paul says that Christ's body is the church and in verse 27 says "this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"

Partakers of Christ – cross references

From these verses what does it mean to be a partaker of Christ?

- To be a Holy Spirit indwelt believer in Jesus Christ

Partakers of Christ

If the House is the Church which is the Body of Christ which is made up of believers in Him, those **believers are called “partakers of a heavenly calling” who hold fast until the end.**

Partakers of Christ

In Hebrews 3:6, 14 speak of true believers (partakers) are the ones who hold fast (persevere) until the end

How is that done?

- Let's look at the following verses for clarification.

Partakers of Christ

What does Jesus' priesthood in Hebrews 4:14-16 say about our perseverance?

- They don't harden their hearts
- They hold fast to their assurance in Christ
- They hear His voice

Partakers of Christ – cross references

1 John 2:19

- They stay in fellowship with other believers

Partakers of Christ – cross references

John 8:31

- They continue in God's word

Partakers of Christ – cross references

Matthew 10:22

- They endure persecution

Partakers of Christ

Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

NASB

Partakers of Christ

Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

NIV

Partaker & The Doctrine of the Union with Christ

- According to the NT, the religious experience of the earliest Christians was derived from and dependent upon Christ. This experience of the risen Christ indwelling the believer by the Holy Spirit.
- Both John and Paul often (over 200 times) to refer to this as: “Union with Christ”, “In Christ”, “In Jesus”, “In the Lord”.

Partaker & The Doctrine of the Union with Christ

- In Ephesians, the phrase “in Christ” is used 34 times, predominantly signifying Christ as the channel through whom God works his will, elects, redeems, forgives, blesses, imparts new life, and builds up the church.
- I would propose that the author of Hebrews uses “partakers” in much the same way as Paul does with “In Christ”, particularly in the book of Ephesians.