

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

FIX YOUR THOUGHTS ON JESUS

Hebrews 3:1 “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.”

Today’s devotional verse is addressed to Christians, believers in Jesus Christ, who have this status by virtue of having been called by God into a faith relationship with His Son. Having this relationship with Jesus in turn means they also have the same with Yahweh, their heavenly Father. “Therefore,” the holy writer calls them “holy brothers and sisters who share in the heavenly calling. . . .” By virtue of God having set them apart He has dedicated and consecrated them to His service.

“Fix your thoughts on Jesus . . .” exhorts the holy writer. He calls them to careful, diligent, faithful study of the Gospel about Jesus their Savior and Lord. This exhortation is very relevant to you and all Christians. There are many distractions to divert your attention away from Jesus. St. Paul, under constant attack and attempts to divert him from his ministry and personal faith wrote, “Brothers and sisters . . . I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:14) And, he urged Timothy “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” (1 Timothy 6:12)

St. Paul says fixing your thoughts on Jesus, confessing Him with your mouth, believing in Him with all of your heart and soul “. . . you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame.” (Romans 10:9-11)

“Holy brothers and sisters” together you share in your heavenly calling. God has called you to be His very own son and daughter out of His grace and mercy. His Holy Spirit, by means of the Gospel, calls you to fix your eyes on Jesus because He is “. . .the author and perfecter of (your) faith.” (Hebrews 12:2)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, keep the eyes of my heart focused on Jesus, Your Son, my Savior. In His name. Amen.

Hail, Thou once despised Jesus! Hail Thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us; Thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, Thou universal Savior, Bearer of our sin and shame!
By Thy merit we find favor; Life is given through Thy name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, All our sins on Thee were laid;
By almighty love anointed, Thou has full atonement made.
All Thy people are forgiven Through the virtue of Thy blood:
Opened is the gate of heaven, Reconciled are we with God.

Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory, There forever to abide;
All the heav'nly hosts adore Thee, Seated at Thy Father's side.
There for sinners Thou art pleading; There Thou dost our place prepare,
Ever for us interceding Till in glory we appear.

Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing Thou art worthy to receive;
Highest praises, without ceasing, Right it is for us to give
Help, ye bright angelic spirits, All your noblest anthems raise;
Help to sing our Savior's merits, Help to chant Immanuel's praise!
(LSB 531)