

Hebrews 3:1-6

Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling, consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also 'was faithful in all God's house.' Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honour than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken later. Christ, however, was faithful over God's house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope.

If I was to ask "who built St Paul's Cathedral?" many would reply "Sir Christopher Wren." An incorrect answer, he designed it but many hundreds of people built it yet he is given the credit.

"Every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God." God is the author of creativity and humankind was created in God's image to be creative. The creativity of some puts that of others into a shadow. When you see an expert at work they can so often make the most complicated act seem so easy; when we have a go chaos can ensue. Over the years the skill of one is passed to the next generation and developed. In this area the skill of the glass-blower was passed from one to another over the generations and the skills and styles developed.

As the writer of the letter to the Hebrews composes his thoughts and puts them to paper he looks back to one who was held in high esteem by the Jews of his day, namely Moses, and says look at Jesus in comparison. Moses was a servant in God's house, Jesus God's son over the house.

As we read through Matthew's Gospel we find the writer looking at Jesus in the light of Moses, for he was writing for a Jewish community. Jesus was depicted as the fulfilment of one line of the prophetic dimension of the Old Testament, the one for whom a people had been waiting for many generations, a Messiah.

It is in this line of thought that the letter to the Hebrews was written

"We are God's house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope."

Perseverance is the mark of a child of God, a part of God's house.

When Paul wrote to the Romans he wrote, "we glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character and character hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Rom 5:3-5)

James wrote, (1:3-4) "you know that the testing of our faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

In recent weeks perseverance is what has been needed in areas of life and faith.

In much of society there has been a desire to get back to how "things were" and escape from any sense of limitation as quickly as possible.

Over the last few months' perseverance has been needed in many areas of life including faith. So much of our support in our Christian journey comes from sharing fellowship with others in Worship, prayer and study. That in terms of personal face-to-face encounter has just not been there.

Many of our older members have been living out their faith in something of this isolation for many years, as they have not been able to attend communal worship due to health and mobility issues. Perhaps it was to these people we should have gone six months ago to help us in our isolated faith development; perhaps now is a time we need to learn from them as we shall be in this way of living for another 6 months or so.

In the meantime we remember that Christ is faithful over God's house as a son, taking best care of us that we shall bear witness for generations to come.