

## Hebrews

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Hebrews 10:19-25



Vss. 19-22

- In page after page the writer of Hebrews has been making his case for Jesus Christ to be the ultimate true and perfect High Priest. But at the end of the day, he is a pastor and every pastor wants his people to be able to take away at least one truth from every sermon, something practical, something a person can remember and hold on to. So here he brings it down a bit and starts by saying three important truths about Jesus.
- First, he says that Jesus is the “new and living way” to God. This is a great thought, simple and practical, but he introduces it with a difficult thought, that we come into the presence of God “by the blood of Jesus” and “through the veil, that is His flesh”. In the days of the old Temple, there was a veil that shielded the eyes of people from seeing the glory of God in the Holy of Holies. With the birth of Christ, the glory of the presence of God came to us in another form, veiled only by the flesh of a baby. This is the verse that inspired Charles Wesley’s classic Christmas carol “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!” The second verse of the carol says,
  - Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
  - Christ, the everlasting Lord:
  - Late in time behold Him come,
  - Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
  - Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
  - Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
  - Pleased as man with man to dwell,
  - Jesus our Immanuel.
- This is how Jesus can say in John 14:9, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father”. And on the cross THAT veil was torn and the world could truly see God. There on the cross Christ opened the way to enter into the true Holy place, into the very presence of God.
- Second, Jesus is the High priest over the house of God. As the preacher of Hebrews has told us, the role of the High Priest is to build a bridge between God and humanity. Here we see that Jesus not only is the bridge builder, but also the one who leads us across and presents us to the Father. What we find in Christ is that He and he alone is the only one who can take us the whole way.
- Third, Jesus is the only one who can truly and completely make us clean. In the old priestly rituals, things were cleansed by being sprinkled with the blood of sacrifices. And even the High Priest himself was cleansed from head to toe in pure water that was held by cleansed and holy basins. But all of this was hopelessly

ineffective in cleansing us from the stain and rot of sin. Only Jesus can do this. And the most obvious difference is that whether it was the sprinkling of blood or in the washing of holy water, all of that was EXTERNAL, whereas the cleansing we receive from Christ, by the means and power of His Holy Spirit, cleanses us from the inside out. Nor do we receive this cleansing from a basin, but **anowhen**, from above. When Christ cleanses us, it is an attic to basement, inside out total deep cleaning.

Vss. 23-25

- The preacher concludes this section saying three words to us. First, we need to hold fast to our faith, for the One in whom we believe is faithful to us. Never let a cynical, hopeless world rob you of your joy and faith. Satan will further us the circumstances of life to try to shake our faith. Bad things will happen in a world infected with sin. But we are to have faith that is stronger than taunts and arguments of the cynics and faith that can navigate through life's storms. One writer once said of himself that at every turn his life had been painful and hard, but that all those sufferings had only served to strengthen his faith because at every step along the way, Christ was there with him and the result of it all was a faith so strong that if he had died and woke up in hell, he would still believe in the love of God.
- Second, let our care for our brothers and sisters in Christ be of utmost importance to us. The preacher tells us we are to "stimulate/spur on" one another to love as Christ loves and the good deeds that are the result of that love. By so doing we show our faith to all who can see. We become the hands and face of Christ to a hurting and dying world. In 1 John the beloved disciple says that it should be obvious who are the followers of Christ and who are not. When we love as Christ loves we offer the world what is dying to taste and what they will never find anywhere else.
- Third, we are to make gathering for worship a priority and encourage our brothers and sisters to do the same. All of this is crucial in times such as these. James Moffatt, the Scottish Bible scholar and translator, said of Christians who avoid gathering for worship that they were "pious particles", never realizing the full potential they could reach if they were fully part of the Body of Christ. Moffatt said there are Christians who avoid church out of fear of what their non-Christian peers might say; because they were uncomfortable associating with people who weren't "like them"; because of conceit and pride as they believe they are so spiritually superior that there was nothing a Sunday School teacher or the preacher could teach them.
- Our time on this earth is short and there are no do-overs. Love one another. Do the work which God prepared beforehand from the beginning of the world. And gather together for worship...you just never know what the Holy Spirit may do!