

Near!

Hebrews 10:19-25

September 8, 2024

Heb 10:19-25 ¹⁹ *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,* ²⁰ *by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,* ²¹ *and since we have a great priest over the house of God,* ²² **let us** *draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.* 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 stir up one another to love and good works,* ²⁵ *not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

... "Therefore, since we have ..." Confidence to enter" and "a great priest" ...LET US _____

—This is a "Cause & Effect" verse. It establishes that SINCE something is real & true—Our Life Actions are to be Effected by that truth

"In 1976 Francis Schaeffer wrote a significant book titled *How Should We Then Live?* His purpose was to show how ideas as they have been embraced or discarded have shaped the rise and decline of Western culture. In his opening chapter he writes: "What [people] are in their thought world determines how they act. . . . The results of their thought world flow through their fingers or from their tongues into the external world. This is true of Michelangelo's chisel, and it is true of a dictator's sword."

This is exactly how the New Testament presents matters. The reason so much of the Bible is devoted to doctrine—statements regarding what we must know and believe—is that the consequences of these truths are utterly definitive.

This is a view strongly espoused by the writer of Hebrews. He has devoted nine and a half chapters to the proclamation of truth regarding the person and work of Jesus Christ. Now, in the transition from doctrine to application he says, "Therefore, brothers." We should always take note of the Bible's "therefores," because they provide the link between cause and effect. "Therefore," the writer of Hebrews says by way of transition, what we believe must transfer into our life and actions." **Daniel Doriani**, "Hebrews", Reformed Exp. Comm.

— This "Conclusion of Confidence" hearkens back to Heb 4, where this entire discussion about the High Priesthood of Christ began!

Heb 4:14-16 ¹⁴ *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.* ¹⁵ *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.* ¹⁶ **Let us then with confidence draw near** *to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

...Notice the "**Vitality Associated Concepts**"!!—**Convincing Truth => Confident Enduring!**

Formula of Heb 4-10: "Difficult/Discouraging Life" ~ {NEEDS} ~ Something from the Presence/Nearness of God ~ {Which Requires} ~ An Ability to Come Near God

"Confidence" - παρρησία parrēsia; AV (31) - boldness 8, confidence 6, openly 4, plainly 4; free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness, assurance

"The key concept here is "confidence to enter by the blood of Jesus." This confidence is something believers have and must know that they have in order to lead productive, godly lives. People who trust in Jesus Christ stand before an open door, with free and open access to God, and with their sins atoned for by his blood. It is by his blood that we come... Surely that access to God makes a most important impact on how we should think and live." **Daniel Doriani**, Hebrews, Ref. Exp. Comm.

REDEMPTION'S GOAL

...at some point, any meaningful human endeavor has got to ask the question "what's the point?"

...When I pick up the Bible and read it ...What's its Ultimate Goal? What's the main plot line of the Bible?

...Making a Case for Our Ultimate Purpose—"Dwelling with God"

...The Epic Story of Nearness!

- EDEN ...Unpolluted Nearness
- TABERNACLE ...Limited Nearness
- INCARNATION ...Perfect, Momentary Nearness
- Post-Pentecost HUMAN TEMPLES ...Personal Nearness w/ Much Noisy Disruption
- NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH ...Fullness of Nearness

"Our basic thesis is that the Triune God desires to have a personal, encountering relationship with his people and enters into his creation in order to facilitate that relationship. Thus the Bible begins with God's presence relating to his people in the garden (Genesis) and ends with God's presence relating to his people in the garden (Revelation). This holy, intense, powerful presence of God appears to Moses in the burning bush and on Mount Sinai, and then enters into the tabernacle (and later into the temple) so that God can dwell among his people. Indeed, the presence of God dwelling among his people is foundational to his covenant with them, and Israel's worshiping relationship with God centers on his presence in the tabernacle or temple." **Duvall, J. Scott; Hays, J. Daniel.** *God's Relational Presence: The Cohesive Center of Biblical Theology* (pp. 1-2). Baker Pub.

"The whole of the Bible, from soon after the entrance of sin in Genesis 3 to Revelation 22, can be read as the story of God coming nearer." **Bruce A. Ware**, (from *The Presence of God: Its Place in the Storyline of Scripture and the Story of Our Lives* (pp. 1-2) by Ryan Lister, Crossway.)

"The much misunderstood notion of the presence of God is central to the Bible's story from beginning to end. ...it is both God's goal for us and the means by which God accomplishes his redemptive mission. ... the presence of God can help answer this world's deep-seated spiritual desires." **David Peterson** (from *The Presence of God: Its Place in the Storyline of Scripture and the Story of Our Lives* (pp. 1-2) by Ryan Lister)

Heb 10:19 ...*Since the Event of all Events, the Needed Redemptive Act of all Acts Has Been Accomplished—*
"Let us draw near..."

...Because there's something Unique & Distinct about the nearness of the presence of God to us!

Psalm 73 — A Story of "Nearness"

v. 1-2 ...**God IS Good ...But Life is "Noisy & Unsettling"** ...there can be moments where we get confused about that as we stare out at life on earth!

v. 3-5 ... **"Others" seem to have it easier!** (**Note:** this posture seldom happens without our own lives feeling on fire or lacking content/adventure ...so, this is as much of a 'self-commentary' as it is a complaint about others)

v. 6-8 ...They even have bad & dishonoring attitudes (Let the Critical Analysis of Others Begin!!)

v. 13-16 ...a Confused & Lost Perspective!!

- ...That's Not where he started! (v. 1)

Heb 10:32-36 *But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. ³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance,*

- ...But he is in the full grip of "exhausting discouragement" (v. 16)

Beware: it is not uncommon for places of discouragement to ZAP your mental, emotional, & Spiritual Energy!

v. 16-17 ...Until—I Encountered the NEARNESS of God and His Dwelling Presence!

v. 23-28 ...Presence Brings Perspective! (Perspective = Putting God & Me in Their Right Places!)

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” ...This, of course, exhorts us to prayer. If we are to lead fruitful lives, we must draw near to God in our minds and hearts. ...

More broadly, the writer exhorts us to a life of worship. ... We were made to worship God, ... Worship is most beneficial for us. In worship we find the freedom to be what we were meant to be. Musicians feel this way about music, runners feel this way about racing, and Christians feel this way about worship: it is the activity in which they find themselves. Worship is therefore essential to our spiritual health and well-being. Martyn Lloyd-Jones explains: “It is only when I am near to God in Christ that I know my sins are forgiven. I feel his love, I know I am his child and I enjoy the priceless blessings of peace with God and peace within and peace with others. I am aware of his love and I am given a joy that the world can neither give nor take away.” **Daniel Doriani**, "Hebrews", Ref. Exp. Comm.

>> **If this Life of "Worshipfully Drawing Near to God" is minimized or misplaced—I (and all around me) will suffer from my "IDENTITY CRISIS"!!**

LET US _____

...WE Draw Near!

Ex 3:2-5 *And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” ⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵ Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”*

...v. 2-3 ...LET US Turn Aside ...Let us make a space and a practice in our lives of “Pursuing Nearness”!!

...v. 4-5 ...What?—**WHAT!?!???** ...**What happened between Moses moment and Ours??**

The REST of the Story [Heb 10:19ff] (for Our Days of Difficult Enduring) ...This is a "DOING-Passage"--There have been 188 verses in Hebrews so far—Mostly about who Christ is and What He Has Done. ...These verses, however, are about US DOING something

Heb 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 stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- (1) We draw near to God ...which is real activity leading to real 'exchange' that has an impact on our Faith
- (2) We "hold fast" ...WE continue to exercise our faith
- (3) We receive the grace & influence that uniquely comes to us through the ministry of other human beings! ...v. 24-25

Unfortunate REALITY: When "Difficult Days of Enduring" show up--It is our tendency to Neglect All 3 of These!! ...The Distance between us & God Grows; we entertain unbelief and neglect the exercising of faith; We stop coming to church