

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 6TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

DRAW NEAR (HEBREWS 10:19-25) THEREFORE AND MORE

We start this section with another powerful “therefore.”

- A review of last week:
 - Christ physically came into the world.
 - God's will/desire was accomplished by Christ.
 - Christ's unique sacrifice ended all sacrificing.
 - Jesus sat down with God.
 - The Holy Spirit testifies of the New Covenant, forgiveness of our sins, a perfection of conscience, and relationship with God.

WE HAVE BOLDNESS

This is not to be confused with irreverence or arrogance. Because of all that has been accomplished for us, we have confidence and freedom to approach God.

- The audience had not experienced this before; they could never enter the Holy Place, only priests could. And the Holiest Place could only be entered once a year by the High Priest—with fear and trembling.

- **We can approach with confidence.**

ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

Those priests entered through a veil to physically be in the presence of God in a localized place.

- **We are not limited to a physical or local place. We draw near to God in spirit, thought, affection, devotion, love, trust, and worship.**
- **We can be in His presence here, at home, at work, at play. Anywhere He is, we can be with Him and that means anywhere we are, He is with us!**

THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS

The writer reminds the audience that just as they had placed their faith in past sacrifices, now, all of their faith could be placed in Christ who, once and forever, shed His blood for the forgiveness of their sin.

- **We should never forget that the confidence we have to approach God is only through the sacrifice of Christ.**
- **Communion keeps our minds on His sacrifice and ultimate victory over our sin.**

NEW AND LIVING WAY: THROUGH JESUS

This is revolutionary. The old way is gone. It required continuous death. The new way is here, permanent, and through the living Savior.

- **Each Believer follows Christ (our great High Priest) into the very presence of God.**
- **Communion also reminds us that Christ's body was broken (torn like the veil) so we can now freely enter into a relationship with our Creator.**

LET US DRAW NEAR

After reviewing our privileges as children of God, the writer turns to our response. These are not as much responsibilities as they are characteristics of Christ followers.

- **Drawing near to God is not only praying, it is about being faithful to God in this life.**
- **We are committed to faith, hope, obedience, and perseverance; doing God's will despite persecution.**

TRUE HEART IN FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH

True hearts are genuine and sincere. They approach God with boldness and humility.

- The true heart knows that it is not faith in personal faith or faith in self that allows us to draw near, it is faith in Jesus.
- **We do not boast of personal worth or rights, we draw near with an assurance born out of absolute trust. We begin in faith and by faith we live and walk. We can live without any doubts of our acceptance.**

SPRINKLED CLEAN AND WASHED

It seems the writer compares the sprinkling of blood on the mercy seat to Christ's superior sacrifice that cleans the conscience.

- The washing is sometimes compared to baptism, but it appears closer to ceremonial washing in the OT. Either way, the reality is a complete cleansing from sin.
- **In Christ, we are completely forgiven and clean from the inside out. God has called us and enabled us to draw near to Him.**

HOLD ON WITHOUT WAVERING

The writer encourages them to hold on to what they have already confessed.

- They made powerful, public declarations of who they believed Christ was (is), and it changed everything in their lives.
- **We can live without wavering because our faith and hope are based on God's unfailing promises. If that is true, are we still sharing our hope with others?**

CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER

Consideration is good; it is the way to build relationships within the church. Consideration will promote and preserve unity as we work together to make Christ's name known.

- Consideration mentioned here is more specific. We are called to provoke love and works.
- **When we live like this, we enjoy real love for one another that is seen by others. Does our love lead us to good works? What are we doing to share our Savior?**

GATHER TOGETHER

Some had made the confession but identifying with the church became too difficult a task.

- Gathering together is not a task to be endured. It is not a job to complete.
- **Gathering together is an essential act of worship that encourages every Believer to find authentic community (love) and service (good works).**
- **Is it more important in today's culture than ever before? The end is getting closer.**

TERRIFYING (HEBREWS 10:26-31)

DELIBERATELY SINNING AFTER KNOWLEDGE

This is a specific sin, not just the act of sinning. The writer is describing the willful, intelligent, rejection of truth that was acknowledged and then abandoned because of a refusal to repent. It is choosing sin over salvation.

- These verses are terrifying, and they should be. They reveal another truth; the reality of God's judgment of sin.

JUDGMENT AND CONSUMING FIRE

There is an expectation of judgment for those who reject Christ. It happened in the OT when the law was broken. How much worse will it be for those who reject Christ?

- Although the reality of that judgment may be fearfully indescribable, the Bible uses words like thirst, torment, loneliness, darkness, remorse, memory, hopelessness and an eternally fixed gulf of separation.

GRACE INSULTED

Grace brought the Son of God to Earth. Grace took Him to the Cross. In Grace, the Holy Spirit pursues humanity and exposes sin. Through Grace He creates a consciousness of God and a fear of eternity; He shows Christ to be the only answer to our greatest need.

- To reject this gracious ministry is to insult the Spirit of Grace who offers salvation.

FALLING INTO GOD'S HANDS

The writer again points to God being the One who has the right to vengeance.

- For them and for today's culture, the writer has a powerful truth: **God is a living God.** There were other gods, just as there are many gods today. Those gods are usually material things or ideas created by men. **God is the real, living God and His promises of judgment are just as real as His offer of salvation.**

ENDURANCE (HEBREWS 10:32-39)

COMFORT IN MEMORIES

After giving a scary warning, the writer encourages them to remember their salvation. It was a time of enlightenment.

- Some things are best left in the past but it serves us well to remember that time when God lit up our path and shined the truth of His grace and mercy into our dark hearts and minds. It was a powerful time and should not be forgotten.

GOOD BUT NOT EASY

With them, those earlier days had been associated with struggles and sufferings.

- Just because we step out of the darkness, it does not mean the darkness is not around us. The very culture we are committed to engaging with the truth of the gospel that can set them free, will try to taunt, accuse, and humiliate us.
- **How will we respond?**

ENDURANCE

When the persecution is at its highest, we are called to keep our confidence and endure.

- Endurance may involve struggles and trials but we will not forget the confidence we have in Christ and our opportunity to draw near to God in the best and worst of times.
- **Why endure? Because Christ is coming back! We are not quitting because Christ has set in us a view of eternity with Him.**

VISIBILITY

- We depend on being able to see.
- **We cannot see clearly. Some things can be too far away or out of focus.**
- **Our biggest problem is simply that we are not looking. God has given us His word, His Son, and His Holy Spirit. How much time have we really spent looking at what He has given?**

ACTION

- We respond to what we see.
- **When we see all that God has done and who He is, we will draw near to Him.**
- **Drawing near to Christ means we follow Him, wherever He leads. We follow with confidence, purpose, and boldness because He leads the way.**

EFFECT

- Following Christ changes us.
- **Our guilt is gone, and now, we can see more than our sin and shame.**
- **Drawing near means staying close to Christ. Is being close to Christ allowing us to hear Him? Now, we can see others from His perspective. Are we loving them? What does God need to change in us? Will we draw near or draw back?**