

A Call to Persevere

Hebrews 10:19-25

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God” (vv. 19-21, NIV).



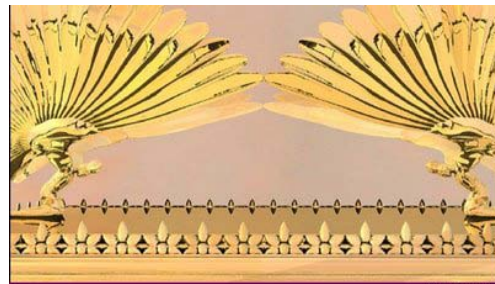
Because all the truth of the preceding words in this letter to the Hebrews, pertaining to Jesus as our High Priest and sacrifice, we are now directed to take some action. We are told in vv. 17-18 that because of what Jesus has done, God will remember our sin “no more” and that there is **“no longer any sacrifice for sin.”** There is no other sacrifice. There is nothing to add. If you reject this sacrifice—there is no other. Also, there is nothing you can add to it—it is complete and sufficient in the eyes of God.

Because of this, he instructs us to: **“Draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water”** (v.22, NIV). In other words, now that this is true, let us draw near to God without hesitation or reservation. The way has been cleared for us to enter into the presence of God (cf. Ephesians 2:13).

Those who are “in Christ” (cf. Ephesians 1:13-14) can enter into the very presence of God with confidence of acceptance with full assurance of faith. A guilty conscience, which would hinder us from entering into the presence of God, has been taken away through what Christ has done. There is no more remembrance of sin for the saints before God. Romans 8:1 states, **“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”**

The guilt of those who are “in Christ” has been washed away by the body and blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Also, their body is being washed with pure water—the washing by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God (cf. Ephesians 5:26). Some would say this verse pertains to ceremonial washings or baptism. However, neither of these is sufficient or required under the new covenant for us to gain access into the presence of God.

Because the message of Christ is true we are





not only to draw near to God in faith, we are instructed to hold fast (stand fast in) the hope (of salvation) that we profess. We are reminded that God is faithful to his promise (v.23).

The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 1:6: **“Being confident of this, that he [God] who began a good work in you will carry it out to completion until the day of Jesus Christ [until Christ returns]”**. This is such good news that God is doing the work in us and he is faithful to complete what he has started.

Because this is true, our part is to encourage one another toward love and good deeds (v.24) (cf. Ephesians 2:10). Also, because this is true, we are to continue meeting together—thereby encouraging one another as we wait on the Lord’s return (v.25).

Because the message about Jesus Christ is true:

1. Let us draw near to God
2. Let us hold fast to our faith
3. Let us encourage one another toward love and good deeds
4. Let us continue to meet together so that we may encourage one another as we wait upon the Lord to return.

What’s Your Next Step?

You are loved!

Larry Roach



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