

Hebrews 10:22 8.13.17 #cccsermons

Together: Let Us Series

In today's world, no matter how well connected we are technically, it seems we're getting less and less connected **PERSONALLY**.

- We were made with a desire to connect, to belong, and to be accepted by others. Fellowship is so important because life has a way of wearing us down and we tend to get discouraged.
- We are called to be **TOGETHER**. (see **Hebrews 10:22-25**)

The book of Hebrews was written for the Jews who had accepted Jesus as their Messiah, but were now in danger of slipping back into the traditions of Judaism because they had not **ROOTED** in Christianity. Instead of going into isolation and just performing rituals, the writer of Hebrews challenged the reader to **SHARE** their life and faith together. He wanted them to know that they are not just called to believe, but they were called to **BELONG** also.

- According to the Bible, none of us can fulfill God's purpose for our lives by ourselves. **We all have a part to play in the growth of each one of us both individually and corporately.**

Hebrews 10:19-22 (NIV) ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since **we** have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for **us** through the curtain, that is, his (Jesus) body, ²¹ and since **we** have a great priest over the house of God, ²² **let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.**

- Can you imagine being told all your life that only the priest can go into the Most Holy Place and that only once a year, but now you and I can go into it every day?
- **Jesus made the way for us to come to God PERSONALLY.** (see **John 14:6**)
- No more dead animals and blood, now we all have access to God every day, individually, and together. (see **Exodus 26:31-35** and **Isaiah 59:1-2**).
- When Jesus Christ died on the cross, at that point, the Bible says the curtain of the temple was torn from **top to bottom** signifying that God will never just dwell in a house made of hands (see **Matthew 27:51** and **Acts 17:24**).
- God no longer dwells in a place, but dwells in all of us. (see **Matthew 18:20**)

#1 Because of the blood of Jesus, God is now **APPROACHABLE**.

- If you remember the story of Moses and the burning bush in **Exodus 3**, God told Moses to not come any closer to the burning bush and take off his shoes. But now in the new covenant, God says to the sinner, draw near to me and I will draw near to you. (see **James 4:8**)
- Christianity is the only religion that encourages the normal person to get to know the deity personally. (see **Hebrews 4:14-16**)
- In the Greek, the words "draw near" (*proserchomai*) carries the idea of **ONGOING** intimacy or fellowship. We cannot have a good relationship with someone unless we spend time to get to know them.

#2 Because God is approachable, we need to **APPROACH** God.

- God wants us to draw near to Him in worship, through praise, through prayer, through asking for counsel. When we do, God says that He will meet us there and will reveal Himself to us.
- God doesn't just want us to experience His presence, but He wants us to **ENJOY** His presence and one of the best ways I can enjoy His presence is by fellowshiping with other believers.

#3 We need to approach God with **SINCERITY**.

- With a sincere heart means to draw near to God not half-heartedly or with improper motive but with an undivided heart in genuine worship. (see **Romans 8:27** and **Matthew 5:8**)

#4 We need to approach God with **FAITH** that He will do what He says He will do.

- **Hebrews 11:6** (NIV) ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
- If you believe that God exists, not only can we approach Him, but He says that He will **REWARD** those that earnestly seek Him. (see Noah in **Hebrews 11:7**)
- **And you will never know if you have faith until your faith is TESTED.**
- And your faith will be tested. (see **Ephesians 6:16**)

Having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience

- The priest entered the Holy of Holies with fear and trembling, but now we can enter God's presence with **BOLDNESS** because of the blood of Christ.
- Symbolically, our hearts have been sprinkled with the blood of Jesus to cover our guilty conscience.
- Conscience is something God gives to everyone whether they are following Christ or not.
- **You can't just "let your conscience be your guide."**
- God allows us to feel guilty as a **WARNING** system in our lives.
- Sin will be so destructive in our lives if we don't heed the warnings.
- A great example of this was King David, who needed to deal with the wrongness of what he had done, and until he did, he could stand life. (see **Psalms 32:3-5**)
- If your conscience is bothering you today, thank God for it because it may be alerting you to a problem in your life that you wouldn't be dealing with otherwise.
- The priest used to bathe before they could approach God.
- God wanted all priests (including us) to come to Him clean both inside (with hearts sprinkled) and outside (with bodies washed with pure water).

#5 God will **CLEAN** us up, if we let Him.

- **Often, we think I can't come to God until I'm clean, but God says come to me so that I can clean you.** (see **Psalms 51:10-12**)
- **Psalms 24:3-4** (NIV) *Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? ⁴ The one who has clean hands and a pure heart...*