

Hebrews

Fourth Warning Passage:

Hebrews 10:19-31

Encouragement to use our access to God through Christ's priesthood

- “Since Therefore...”
 - The encouragement we are about to receive is based directly upon the SUPERIORITY of the Christian system
 - Christ's once-for-all sacrifice is the ONLY way to enter into the presence of God, and the old covenant and old law were just a shadow.
 - Only Christ's priesthood makes perfect fellowship with God possible.
 - VS 19-21 summarize these truths

Encouragement to use our access to God through Christ's priesthood

- "Brother and sisters..."
 - The writer joins himself to the reader as a partaker of the better things Christ offers
- "...we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,"
 - We can be completely at home in God's presence because of Jesus' blood
 - Through Jesus' blood we have forgiveness and can boldly enter God's presence

Encouragement to use our access to God through Christ's priesthood

- “...by a new and living way...”
 - **New** – *gr - prosphatos* – *freshly slain*
 - At the time of this writing Jesus' death had happened within this current generation and many reading may have witnessed his death
 - **Living**
 - These same witnesses of Jesus' death may have also witnessed his resurrection. His sacrifice was once-or-all AND he did not stay lifeless
 - Reminds us the way is forever available – no death to follow

Encouragement to use our access to God through Christ's priesthood

- “Which He inaugurated for us through the veil”
 - **Inaugurated** – *gr – egkanizo – to initiate, consecrate, sanction*
 - Christ has opened the way for us to enter into the presence of God
 - Again drawing on familiar Jewish imagery, access to the Holy of Holies was available only through a second veil
 - This access is **ONLY** available because of Christ, and it is opened forever **BECAUSE** of Christ's perfect sacrifice

Encouragement to use our access to God through Christ's priesthood

- “That is, through His flesh”
 - His flesh seems best understood to be referring to “the way” rather than “the veil”
 - Jesus incarnation, His perfect life, the death of His flesh as a once-for-all sacrifice was the method by which we obtained access to this “new and living way”
 - This aligns well with the idea of Jesus entering “through the greater and more perfect tabernacle” in 9:11-12

Encouragement to use our access to God through Christ's priesthood

- “and since we have a great high priest over the house of God”
 - The writer reminds believers that not only do they have the benefits of a “new and living way” they also have the services of an incomparable priest
 - A priesthood greater than any Aaronic priests
 - House of God is the community of God's people-
the church
 - He opened the way **and continues** to serve

Encouragement to use our access to God through Christ's priesthood

- Having given a brief synopsis of what we studied the last 10 chapters, the writer encourages his readers to action with 3 exhortations which all start with “*Let us...*”
 - Present tense verbs indicate each of these is a continuing encouragement

3 Exhortations

- Let's...
 - **Draw near** - to what?
 - To God and the throne of grace now that we can
 - “With a sincere heart in full assurance of faith”
 - Not looking back at what was available in the old covenant but without wavering
 - ”Having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience”
 - “and our bodies washed with pure water”
 - Ceremonial washing, baptism

3 Exhortations

- Let's...
 - “**Hold firmly** to the confession of our hope without wavering”
 - Christ is the basis of the Christian's hope – our new and only way of access
 - If the first exhortation is what happens at conversion, this second one is for the rest of our lives and we should be unmoved to change from the way.
 - “for He who promised is faithful”
 - He? Promised what?

3 Exhortations

- Let's
 - “**consider** how to encourage **one another** in love and good deeds”
 - We are all bolstered in our hope if we are encouraged constantly by our brothers and sisters.
 - Consider each others weaknesses and stimulate.
 - “Not abandoning our own meeting together”
 - Be an encourager!! It's what YOU can GIVE.
 - “as you see **the day** drawing near”

A reminder of the fearful consequences of APOSTASY

- "For"
 - The consequences of forsaking assembling and missing encouragement and stimulation
- "If we go on sinning willfully..."
 - The sin is found in the REASON to absent oneself from the assembly – a deliberate choice to cease confessing Christ, and a deliberate rejection of the gospel truth, after having received it.
 - Can Christ's once-for-all sacrifice simply be ignored or abandoned? What's left?

A reminder of the fearful consequences of APOSTASY

- “a terrifying expectation of judgement and
THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME
THE ADVERSARIES”
 - This is what remains for a once Christian who turns his back on Jesus. Use your imagination!
 - The fire eagerly awaits its next victim.
 - The abandoner of Christ is not neutral – He becomes an ADVERSARY of Christ!

A reminder of the fearful consequences of APOSTASY

- The writer draws from the Old Law
 - “Anyone who has ignored the Law of Moses is put to death...”
 - An argument from the lesser to the greater – if it was a SERIOUS matter to break the Mosaic law, how much more serious is it to ignore the provisions for the NEW COVENANT - Based on BETTER promises, and a BETTER sacrifice, with a BETTER priesthood?
 - Deuteronomy 17:2-7

A reminder of the fearful consequences of APOSTASY

- “For”
 - The evidence for punishment for willfully sinning by abandoning Christ.
- “VEGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY”
 - Deuteronomy 32:35, 32:36
- It IS a TERRIFYING thing to fall into the hands of the LIVING GOD!
 - A somber warning of our inability to resist the *judgement due us*

Next week

- Hebrews 10:32-11:3
- Exhortations based on the imperative of faithfulness to the superior revelation made through Jesus