

# HEALTHY CHURCH -- ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

Sunday, May 15, 2022 -- HEALTHY CHURCH series -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

## HEBREWS 10:19-25

English Standard Version (ESV)

*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.***

## REVIEW from Last Week-- **HEALTHY CHURCH: MOVING TOWARD MATURITY**

- Our world is increasingly rejecting maturity.
- God calls us to embrace maturity: individually and corporately as a church.
- Ephesians 4:12-16 is all about growing up in Christ.
- Pastor-Teachers equip God's people for *the work of ministry*.
- *The work of the ministry* BUILDS UP the body of Christ (individually and corporately).
- **Many Christians** are not maturing because they do not actively serve.  
(They need to stop wondering 'What's wrong?' and begin serving others.)
- **Many churches** are not mature because their members do not serve.

**Matthew 20:28** -- Jesus speaking about Himself...

*The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,  
and to give His life as a ransom for many.*

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## The EPISTLE of HEBREWS --

- Written BY "ONLY GOD KNOWS" -- stated by church father Origen A.D.254
- Written TO Jewish Christians and proselyte Jews who had become Christians.
- Genre is unusual. It is a letter, but it is also a sermon.
- Message: Jesus is superior to angels, Mosaic sacrifices/rituals and EVERYTHING.
- Message: Jesus's death is the great atoning sacrifice once and for all.
- Message: Faith is necessary to please God and participate in His promises.
- Message: Perseverance is necessary for trials and persecution.
- Warnings: Don't leave Jesus! Stay with Him. His salvation is great. Hold fast!  
(2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:12; **10:19-39**; 12:1-29)

**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.

**1) Notice that this is written to Christians. vs 19** 'brothers, since we have confidence to enter...'

- Jesus gives us confident access to the presence of God through His blood! vs 19  
HEBREWS 4:16  
*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.*
- Jesus's bodily sacrifice brings us 'the new and living way' -- this makes Christians. vs 20

**2) Notice that this is in the context of the church -- 'the house of God'. vs 21**

- It's not about Christ and His person, but Christ and His people.
- A healthy church has members who understand God's priority on their communal life.
- Christ is **the great priest** (the go-between) of not just Christians, but the church.

**3) Notice that this is about STAYING with Christ and in Community with His people. vs 22-24**

- vs 22 -- let us draw near --  
**Psalm 73:28** (also see James 4:8)  
*But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the  
Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works.*
- vs 23 -- let us hold fast our confession -- do not abandon your claim in Christ
- vs 24 -- let us consider how to stir one another up to love and good works
  - What kind of **stirring** do you do? (at home? at work? at church? in family?)
  - Do you encourage love or division?
  - Do you encourage people to do right or do wrong?
- vs 25 -- **not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another**
  - Your presence is you first encouragement to the church.
  - Your prioritization of worship in your life is good for you AND others.
  - When you are absent from worship and act as if Sunday is 'just another day' or 'your day' this is a discouragement to your church family.
  - When you are consistently here and actively involved this builds up your Christian friends in ways you likely do not realize.
- vs 26 -- **and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.**
  - Judgment Day is coming. It is going to get rough before it arrives. (Mt.24/25)
  - Many will fall away from faith in the Lord. (read Mt. 24!)
  - *Want to be found faithful? Stay with His people.*