

Heb. 10:19-25 PLBC chapel 2-26-15

Intro:

Tired – that time of term/year

Don't need cheerleading pep talk

Need Jesus – need to hear the good news –

I desperately need to hear the Gospel about now, you are invited to listen in

So, if you don't mind, I'd like to spend a little time bragging about Jesus

Heb. 10:19-25 Read

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, 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 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 in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching..

Pray

Backward service, backward preaching – application first

Application/commands (last first)

1. Let us set our hearts on one another to provoke them on to love and good works – v. 24

a. Focus your mind on one another

cf. 3:1 “fix your thoughts on Jesus”

Carefully consider, be on the hunt for opportunities

with the same regularity and intensity that some of us look around scanning for a potential husband or wife, look around for an opportunity to encourage someone

b. Why? Purpose =

i. Provoke one another – strong word – very un-Canadian

Everyone needs a friend who drives them to be better and is willing to speak honestly to them, even the difficult things to hear – opposite of yes man

Not a legalistic jerk, but positive peer pressure to be better

We can sin against our brother or sister by keeping our mouth shut

The irritation of a grain of sand is what causes an oyster make a pearl

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” 3:13

ii. Provoke to love and good works

c. Manner

i. Don't forsake assembly together

Can't provoke people if you are never with them

We know it is possible to be present, but not engaged

It is too easy and common to isolate yourself, even in the midst of a crowd

Can do this outside a church building – not just talking about Sunday church, but all of life together

ii. Encourage one another

Building one another up, not just hanging out

Don't just talk about trivial things, don't just talk about personal things, but talk about Jesus things, preach the Gospel to one another

Walk with the wise and you will grow wise, iron sharpens iron

2. Let us Hold firmly to the confession of hope – v. 23

a. **Manner** – without wavering, without bending

Tells how we hold fast, does not describe the confession

Uncompromising stubbornness and persistence in hoping on Christ

Will come back and elaborate more on this if time, but I hope it will become apparent by what we will talk about

3. Let us Draw near to God – v. 22

a. **Def.** – what that looks like – described a few times earlier in Hebrews

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.

At minimum it is prayer and devotion to God, intimate personal relationship

Will come back and elaborate more on this if time, but I hope it will become apparent through what we'll talk about next

b. **Manner** – how?

i. Boldness of access

Approach with confidence (not presumption or arrogance)

– key card – right to be here

ii. With a true heart

Sometimes translated sincere heart, compared to pure heart,

opposite of “evil, unbelieving heart” 3:12 or hard heart 3:8

iii. With full assurance of faith

With a certainty and assurance that comes from complete trust

I hope that all this as well will become more clear from the main focus of what I want to talk about

But these in summary are the 3 commands in this passage for us to obey

Transition

You may be thinking “I’m tired enough already and you have just added 3 more commands to my life!”

Not my intention to burden you, but to help you

That’s why I wanted to do the application first, to get it out of the way, so that what is left ringing in your ears is not a command to work, but a promise of grace that builds hope and trust in God’s abundant provision

Need to connect our application with God’s reasons, motivations and power

That will help us with these 3 and with every other command, duty and desire

1. Hear and do – 2 dangers
 - a. hearing without doing – primary emphasis of this year
 - b. doing disconnected from hearing – legalism and powerlessness
Like trying to vacuum without plugging it in
2. Sometimes we don’t need to hear the command over and over again, but we definitely need to constantly be reminded of the Gospel
3. We need the hearing with faith – Jn 6:29 “The Work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent.”
4. we need to connect what we do with what God has already done and said, or we have little hope that our deeds are going to have any vitality, fruitfulness and power
5. We need to connect our head with our heart and action, and build our actions on strong affections and deep convictions which are built on strong Gospel truths
6. The Biblical concept of this is called “the obedience of faith” in Romans and “the full assurance of faith” in this passage
 - a. Trust that God means what He says
 - b. Trust that God is good. And what He promises is good/better than our other options
 - c. Trust that God keeps His promises
 - d. Trust in God’s grace for the present and future because of the overwhelming evidence of God’s past grace
 - e. Trust – we know that we know that we know – that God’s provisions are fully sufficient – Jesus is enough – all we need
7. As we work through the rest of the passage, please let God’s Spirit speak specifically to each of us how we can obey these 3 commands by seeing how they are connected with God’s strengthening reasons
8. The writer of Hebrews definitely helps us because he has not communicated these 3 commands out of thin air, but has clearly connected them with Gospel reasons. Context 3X. He gives the grounding reason for all the commands - which is where I want us to concentrate – this is what I believe will help us most today

Grounding reasons:

1. Jesus has decisively opened unhindered access to the very presence of God. – v. 19-20

Why should we draw near? Because Jesus has made the way and brought us near

- a. Kind of access

- i. **Free and full access**

bold and confident access

illustrated by contrast with OT tabernacle which kept out

Only 1 person could ever enter in, only once a year for a few minutes

Ch. 9 after describing the layout of the tabernacle/temple,

Read Hebrews 9:6-9

In the old order, the way was closed, inaccessible, but something has changed, so that the way is wide open,

not partial, trial access, but full and free access

- ii. **Access by a New and living way**

He has opened/inaugurated a way that **was** previously unavailable, but **now** is available, and not just available/possible, but effective

A new and living way

New = brand new, recent, not previously existing

Living = effective because our high priest is living, “actually bringing its followers to their goal” Expositors

Living as opposed to the dead/ineffective shadows of the OT

Read Hebrews 9:11-15

Read Hebrews 6:19-20

Read Hebrews 7:18

Christ opened a path to God that gives us greater access than the greatest of OT saints

Appl: Why can we draw near? Not because of what we have done, but because He has done it, He has made it possible

Not because I am good enough, but because His provision is good enough

b. Place of access

i. **Holiest place**

Place of God's presence

not just the earthly Holy of Holies in the tabernacle, which was a symbolic representation of God's dwelling place but the actual throne room of God, the actual place of God's manifest presence

Tabernacle that is not man-made

Heaven itself

beyond our imagination better than anything we could dream

If we have access to this, how can we settle for less?

ii. **Through the curtain – which is His flesh**

Again drawing on the symbolism of the tabernacle, but not limited to that

Past the barrier that stood between us and God, which was our sinfulness and our fallen humanity

Jesus took on our humanity so as to be the mediator, the meeting place between humanity and God

c. Means of access – by His blood

Still drawing on OT imagery, but better than the OT symbols, which all pointed forward to Christ

The OT sacrifices actually could not fully provide access and forgiveness

Read Hebrews 9:9-10

Read Hebrews 9:22-28

Read Hebrews 10:1-7

Read Hebrews 10:11-14

Jesus' sacrifice is fully finished, fully effective and fully sufficient for every sin

Appl: How can we have access? Not by what we do, but by what He has done. If Jesus' blood is sufficient to pay for every sin – we don't have to

d. Reality of access

2 phrases that give the reason why we can draw near

Both refer to past completed actions that have continuing consequences

Both refer to something that is a settled truth/reality

i. We have hearts sprinkled to purify us from a guilty conscience

ii. We have bodies washed with pure water

What does that mean?

When Aaron and his sons were first consecrated as priests to God (Ex ch.29)

They were sprinkled with blood and washed with water.

After that they were eligible to enter in service to God.

When the priests entered the tabernacle, the first thing they encountered was the bronze altar of sacrifice, sprinkled with blood that symbolized atonement.

Then they went to the water basin where they washed,

After that, they were eligible to enter into the tabernacle

On the Day of Atonement, the High priest did extra washing with water and sprinkled everything with the blood of sacrifice

Even with all these things, they only had partial access, and they never fully cleansed the conscience from sin

Read Hebrews 9:9-10

Read Hebrews 10:1-4

What they did not have, we now have!

God promised in **Ezek 36:24-27**:

Ezekiel 36:24 " For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

God promised in **Jer. 31**, which is quoted in Heb ch. 8 and again in ch. 10:

Hebrews 8:10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 11 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

And the writer of Hebrews states that these promises are now a reality for us

These are not conditions that we must meet to approach God, but provisions already possessed because of the cross and resurrection

Read Hebrews 9:13-15

Appl: You might be thinking “But I have reason for a guilty conscience. You don’t know what I’ve done.”

I would respond, “You don’t know what I’ve done.”

But more than that, I need to say, “You don’t realize what He has done”

Stop listening to your moods and experiences, but tell your feelings to hear the good news

Have \$1000 bill and need to buy a pizza for lunch.

Your ability to get lunch is not based on your subjective feeling of confidence.

Your confidence is based on the genuineness of the money and its sufficiency to cover the cost of a pizza.

In the same way, our confidence/boldness is not something we work up,

but is based solely on the genuineness and sufficiency of the blood of Christ, period!

“The measure of our boldness is the worth that God attaches to the blood of Jesus” Murray p. 358

Christ's blood is enough! The access is open!

We don't need to add anything to it

Oh if we could only realize the reality of the atonement and rest completely on the finished work of Christ with the full assurance of faith!

His worthiness outweighs our unworthiness

His provision is greater than our lack

Trans: Jesus has decisively opened access to the Father. And that is not all, not only all that He has done, but all that He is doing:

(2nd grounding reason)

2. Jesus is our Great High priest, Who is still actively mediating v. 21

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

Notice how similar that is to the passage we are looking at
Matter of fact, these two passages are bookends (inclusio) and everything in between is describing Jesus as the greater High Priest

4:14-10:18 Christ is the superior (truly effective) High Priest

- a. 4:14-5:10 A high priest Who can sympathize because He is like us
- b. 6:13-20 A High priest because of God's irrevocable oath
- c. 7:1-28 An eternal High priest of the order of Melchizedek
- d. 8:1-13 A High priest of the New, better Covenant
- e. 9:1-10:18 A High priest of a better, eternally effective sacrifice in the eternal heavenly temple

Jesus in some ways is like the OT High priest,
But in all ways He is better, infinitely surpassing and effective in His mediation

Read Hebrews 5:7-10

Read Hebrews 7:16, 23-28

Read Hebrews 8:1-2

Read Hebrews 9:15

Read Hebrews 10:11-14

Jesus is perfect, Jesus is eternal,

Jesus is continually interceding for us at the right hand of the Father

Jesus is consistently acting on our behalf to bring us to the Father

The new and living way is opened by the one who said "I am the Way" and Who is "ever living to make intercession for us"

Appl: Again, why would we doubt our access?

Is our ability to sin and doubt greater than Christ's ability to save?

Can you see how this gives us reason to draw near to God?

Because He is for us, who can be against us?

Trans: And that is not all, not only all that He has done and all that He is doing, but all that He will do:

(3rd grounding reason)

3. The One Who promised is faithful – v. 23

Why should we hold on unswervingly to the confession of hope?

b/c He promised and He is faithful! PERIOD!

No possibility that He will flake

He cannot lie, He will not change His mind

No possibility that He will fail

He is the One who freely initiated the promise, so we shouldn't doubt His willingness
God's character is a solid foundation

Not only has He promised (which is more than enough), He has made a solemn oath

Read Hebrews 6:13-20

God's reputation, indeed the entire universe depends on God keeping His promises

Therefore, we can hold on to that hope, because it WILL be fulfilled

Encouragement to application

1. Draw Near

Let us draw near = experience God's presence as much as we can in this "already" age
Why are we sometimes hesitant to fully draw near to God and radically live for Him?

We sometimes keep God at arm's length because we fear that He will reject us
because of our sin because we know how ugly our sin is

– If Jesus is a great high priest, He will not reject us

Fear that He will take our favorite sin from us

– If Jesus has made a way to the Holy place – that is better than any sin we
would be asked to give up, and the more we taste God's presence, the
easier it is to give up, and we won't miss it

"The main thing we need is the confidence which comes from the full assurance of faith
born out of knowing the powerful benefits of His priesthood. Confidence creates
stability in doing the will of God and brings encouragement to others...

"Confidence is based on the truth of the priesthood of Christ and the open access He
gives us to God. Confidence stems from the full assurance...of faith. Confidence
leads to stability, the unswerving steadfastness [and] patience" Pickerell p. 62.

How do we have a true heart? By entering in! Don't worry about whether your heart is
true, but enter in and Jesus will make your heart true as He has promised

2. Hold on

Let us hold unswervingly to the confession of hope = let us always look forward to the
"not yet" age when we will fully experience it all

Why would we possibly give up?

Its hard – yes, but worth it because He promised

There is nothing better to go to, everything else is shadows and pale counterfeit

If your faith is weak, don't look at faith, look at Jesus

3. Focus on provoking others

Let us look to spur one another = horizontal reminding one another of these Gospel
realities and encouraging to respond appropriately

Rack your brain for ways to build one another up in the truths of the good news

When you see your roommate sinning

don't say "you are sinning, therefore you suck and I reject you"

rather say "have you forgotten who you are and what Jesus has done? Let me
remind you for your joy"

Final Encouragements

To those who doubt - don't look at how worthy you are, look at how open Jesus has made the access

To those who are weary and tempted to give up - don't look at your situations, look at what Jesus has accomplished and promised, He is faithful to keep those promises

To those who are stuck in sin and struggling, - don't look at yourself or your sin, look at how effective Jesus' priesthood is and how much better His presence is than your sin

To those who are doing well, - don't trust yourself, but look at Jesus as the one who did perfectly, and look to spur others on

Murray Quote

"It [this passage] is a call to all doubting, thirsting believers, who long for a better life than they have yet known, to cast aside their doubts, and to believe that this is what Christ has indeed done and brought within the reach of each of us: He has opened the way into the Holiest! This is the salvation which He has accomplished, and which He lives to apply in each of us, so that we shall indeed dwell in the full light of God's countenance." Murray p. 354

Pray

Worship