

Responding to the Gospel - (Part 1)

Text: Hebrews 10:19-22

Date: 12-29-24

I. **The Response of Approaching God Based on Christ's Blood and Body (Heb. 10:19-20). The reaction of confidence.**

The NT believer has been given something beyond what any OT believer had: complete access to God. We can come to God and tell Him everything about ourselves – our hurts, our pains, our issues, concerns, and burdens. He will listen and respond to us. He cares for us. Believers have an open invitation to come into the presence of God in the Holy Place.

The access to God is not on our own merit but through the blood of Christ by faith. I say that as a matter of seriousness. How we access God and the fact that we can access God are serious and life-changing matters. We must not fail to access God through His Son's blood and also as believers we must come humbly and gratefully. When we come, we can expect the blessings and promises through Jesus Christ. We can expect mercy and grace in time of need. We can expect answered prayers. We can expect God to be satisfied if our offerings are in spirit and in truth. We can expect gentle and lowly behavior towards us. We will never face condemnation or eternal wrath. This access is heavenly, holy, and should be done in humility.

This word *new* (Greek: *prosphatos*) is only used here and means *recently come into being, fresh-slain, recent*. Jesus Christ is the freshly-killed Sacrifice. This new sacrifice is what opened the veil and gave us the privilege and right to access God.

Whereas the veil was a barrier to God and His presence in the tabernacle under the old covenant, Jesus Christ's broken body on the cross; that is His death and sacrifice, opened the way to access to God for us as believers. Just as His flesh was torn, so was the veil in the tabernacle. The power of the cross continues today as God sees Christ every day as One that is freshly slain.

II. **The Response of Drawing Near Based on Christ's Position (Heb. 10:21-22). The reaction of faith.**

"Believers not only have the benefits of a matchless sacrifice, but they also have the services of an incomparable priest" (Kent 199).

Is there anyone else qualified to do this? Is there anyone else that you would want over the house of God? Based on His past work and present ministry as the Son of God and His closeness to God, Jesus is most qualified, most reliable, and most worthy of ministering on our behalf.

This demonstrates the relationship that Christ has with His church. He is the head, but He is also the One that "takes us with Him to God and ministers for us in heaven" (MacArthur 261). As Rom. 5:10 points out, it was through His death that we are reconciled to God; and even more, through His life we are saved. Additionally, those who are saved - believers - are brought to God through the truth that He is alive!

Friend, how can you not be encouraged by this today? The access to God and being brought to God is a source of constant fortitude and reassurance. Through this our High Priest loves us, guides us, comforts us, advocates for us, intercedes for us, and leads us. Christ not only is the beginning of the way and THE way; He is the One that brings us on the way and leads us to the end of the Way: the throne room of our God.

We approach God through prayer and fellowship by coming:

- **With a true heart:** We must come wholeheartedly, earnestly, and joyfully, with a heart of grateful devotion and, sincere motives desiring to worship God in prayer and fellowship.
- **With full assurance:** This means that we fully trust in Jesus Christ as the Way and that coming to God is only through Him. We have confidence that Jesus Christ's death has removed our sin, given us peace with God (Rom. 5:1), and made us righteous before God.
- **Hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience:** This is the internal work that Jesus Christ has done for us as He has truly cleaned our hearts and our consciences.
- **With bodies washed with pure water:** This refers either to water baptism or to the sanctifying work of the H.S. at salvation (John 3:5; Titus 3:5). This could also indicate the every-day life of our daily cleansing through the Word of God (Eph. 5:26 cf. Lev. 8:6).

The power of the cross continues today as God sees Christ every day as One who brings the believer to Himself.