

Sermon Series: Finding Truth

Sermon: Truth is Confidence

Sermon Text: Hebrews 10:19-25

Sermon Presenter: Pastor Larry

Sermon Summary

This message looks at the confidence we have in approaching God, which is gained by understanding the truth of what Jesus did to make a way for us to be reconciled to God. Jesus made a way for us to be reconciled by His Blood, by His Body, and by His Priesthood. Those three things comprise the bulk of the message. A brief look at why we need reconciliation begins the message, and the message is concluded with a brief look at three things made possible now that we have been reconciled to God through Christ. We can now draw near to God, hope in God, and encourage others in their walk with God!

Full Sermon Notes

“On the cross the work was finished, God You poured out Your life just to give us new life” Just before Jesus died He said: “It is finished!” He was indicating the work done to secure your salvation and mine was finished, completed, done! Today we’re going to find that truth is confidence, and that confidence is possible because of the truth that Jesus finished His work on our behalf on the cross! If you’ve ever accepted Jesus as your Savior, then today is the day to put all doubts aside and find your confidence in Him! Let’s pray!

I’m so excited about our text for today from the Book of Hebrews. It is enlightening, it is freeing, it is powerful and it creates confidence! So many people live their lives without confidence when it comes to their salvation or their relationship with God. Some have little or no assurance of God’s presence with them in this world or of what will happen when they draw their last breath on this earth. But I’m here to tell you that Jesus wants you to have confidence. John, in his gospel, after talking about all that Jesus did and said, wrote these words...

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Later John would say it this way in 1 John 5:13...

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

So we know Scripture was written and handed down to us so that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in His name in this world and eternal life in the next! Folks, we’re not talking about self-confidence here, we’re talking about Godfidence! Confidence backed by the promises, and power of God Almighty as seen in His Son Jesus Christ! So with the words of John’s Gospel and his first letter as a backdrop, we will look at our text for today in the Book of Hebrews. We do not know who wrote the book of Hebrews. The book itself makes no claims as far as authorship, so evidently God did not think it

of supreme importance for us to be sure of the human author. We do know, however, the divine author was God and the Book of Hebrews was placed into the canon of Scripture! Some theologians believe it was not a letter, but a sermon. It would be a lengthy sermon, so some feel it was a collection of sermons brought together into one volume. But remember that back in the day, people didn't have internet, or television, with ads which have caused our attention span to be considerably shorter, so they would have tolerated a much longer sermon back then! Don't worry, I'm not going to be that long! With that said, you will see the amazing depth of the seven main verses we will unpack today. The truth of these verses, properly understood, will bring a confidence, a Godfidence, into your life that will cause you to find great strength, peace, inspiration, motivation, and security! Kids, I'm so glad you're with us today and I know you're having fun with your activity packs! Let me just explain to you what confidence is. The online dictionary says...

Confidence: A. the feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something; firm trust

B. the state of feeling certain about the truth of something.

C. a feeling of self-assurance arising from one's appreciation of one's own abilities or qualities.

So confidence is being sure you know something or being sure you can do something! We're going to learn today that we have confidence and are sure we can approach God, draw near to God, have hope in God and help others in their life with God! We are sure of this because of what Jesus did to make us sure! So it's not self-confidence, it's Godfidence!

Without further adieu, let's read the first three verses of our text. Hebrews 10:19-21

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 10:20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

Hebrews 10:21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God...

Let's stop right there! These three verses make the other four verses of our text possible because they reveal to us that...

Jesus gives us Confidence to approach God!

If God is our Creator then why would we need Jesus to give us confidence to approach God? It all starts back with Adam and Eve in the Garden! They were created in the image of God and placed in a paradise known as the Garden of Eden. They were also given a choice as to whether or not they would trust God and continue in their beautiful relationship they had with God, walking with God in the garden every day! That choice was represented by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God had told them not to eat of the fruit of that tree and if they did there would be dire consequences. Some people think God was bad for giving them a choice, but God's not weird and He didn't want people to love Him because they have to, with no

choice, forced and coerced. You wouldn't want that in your relationships with others, and God doesn't want that in His relationship with you! By the way, God didn't want robots either, so He didn't just program people to do the right things. Nope, the Bible says God breathed into man the breath of life and he became a living soul or spirit, created in the image of God, and able to make decisions! Now God did warn Adam and Eve about the one tree they were supposed to stay away from, but that in no way implies God was tempting them. When you have children and you warn them not to do things that will hurt them, you are not trying to tempt them to do harmful things, you are being a loving parent. God is our loving Heavenly Father and He warns us about sin! That's not mean, that's nice. He warned Adam and Eve about the consequences of sinful disobedience, but they ignored Him and you know the drill, it didn't turn out good for them or for us. They ate the forbidden fruit and sin destroyed the beautiful relationship they had with God! Why? Because relationships are built on trust and when they listened to the Serpent rather than trusting God, their relationship with God was broken. Now before you blame everything on Adam and Eve, let me remind you of this truth...

Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...

And...

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

So we are separated from God because of our sin. However, God loved us and didn't want us to stay separated from Him, so He began the process of redeeming Humankind! Way back in Moses' day, He established the law, but people were unable to keep even 10 commandments! And even though their sin separated them from God, God wanted to be close to them so He gave them the tabernacle and the sacrificial system. I don't have time to get into all of the history or details of this, and neither did the writer of Hebrews, but let me give you the overview from the writer of Hebrews...

Hebrews 9:1 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary.

Hebrews 9:2 A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place.

Hebrews 9:3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place,

Hebrews 9:4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant.

This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. (the ten commandments)

Hebrews 9:5 Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

Hebrews 9:6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry.

Hebrews 9:7 But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

Hebrews 9:8 The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing.

Hebrews 9:9 This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshipper.

Now you know the very important background of our text today! While the worship practices and sacrificial system of the tabernacle were beautiful, intricate and important, they lacked the power to cleanse a person on the inside! These things couldn't permanently do away with the penalty or the power of sin! The worship practices of the people of Israel had led them to have great respect and reverent fear for God and so they should! However, that respect and fear had turned into a standoffishness, and an inability to fellowship and grow closer to God. The reason was because of the separation their sin had caused between them and God. God had provided the law and the sacrificial system, to make a way for sinful man to approach God, but it was only temporary and was inadequate for changing the sinful nature of a person at the core. For humankind to once again have real fellowship with God there would have to be a way for the sinful nature to be changed, cleansed, transformed, and renewed! Was it even possible for that to be done? The absolutely amazing answer is found in our text for today...

a. It is Possible by the Blood of Jesus

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus...

Jesus lived a perfect life and poured that life out when He shed His precious blood on the cross so we could be cleansed of our sin and no longer kept at a distance from God because of our uncleanness! The Hebrews did not understand all the modern scientific things we know about what the blood does in our bodies, but they knew that if someone lost their blood they lost their life, so they called it "life blood." So they saw it as if a person's very life was flowing from their body when they lost their blood. Because of this, when Jesus died, it was as if His very life was being poured out. In fact, when Jesus was eating the last supper with His disciples He said...

Matthew 26:28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

And the writer of Hebrews puts it this way...

Hebrews 9:11 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation.

Hebrews 9:12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

And in order for the Life-blood of Jesus to be poured out, Jesus' body had to be broken and torn. So how is it possible for our sinful nature to be changed, cleansed, transformed, and renewed, so that we can have real fellowship with God?

b. It is Possible by the Body of Jesus

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 10:20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

Remember there was this very thick curtain separating the holy place from the Holy of Holies where the very presence of God was! That curtain needed to be torn from top to bottom in order for us to gain personal access to God! Jesus allowed His Body to represent that curtain, and it was torn so His perfect life blood could be poured out to cover our sins. Jesus sacrificed Himself, once for all, to make a way for us to be with God! Listen to what Mark says in his gospel...

Mark 15:37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

Mark 15:38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Why was the curtain torn from top to bottom? It signified that the work was done by God and not by man! Salvation comes from God down to man and not the other way around! Once again, the thing that sets Biblical Christianity apart from all the other religions of the world is that it is not what we do for God that gets us into heaven, but what God did for us when He sent His One and Only Son into the world that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but have eternal life! That was made possible by the broken Body of Jesus and this truth was prophesied hundreds of years before Jesus was ever born...

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Healed from what? Our sin sickness! Our depravity! Our separation from God! Our hopelessness and our lostness! But what qualified Jesus to do this for us? What makes it possible for Jesus to cleanse our sin, change our sinful nature, transform our lives and restore us to fellowship with God?

c. It is Possible by the Priesthood of Jesus

Hebrews 10:21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

Jesus was the great priest over the house of God, and we must understand what that means if we're to understand the truth of why we have great confidence through Jesus' blood and body to enter into God's presence! To help us understand this the writer of Hebrews explains to us that Jesus was a High Priest in the order of Melchisedek! This is so amazing and fascinating!

As we've already seen, the earthly priesthood was set up with all kinds of rules and regulations so an earthly priest could enter into the very presence of God. Even then, this was reserved for a select group of individuals called priests, and only the High Priest could enter into the Holy of Holies and just once a year. It's not that God didn't want to talk to people, or fellowship with them, He did, but their sin separated them from God. Isaiah put it so well in Isaiah 59:1-2...

Isaiah 59:1 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.
Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

You see, the holiness of God was so powerful, it sought to destroy wickedness. God knew if a sinful person came into His presence His holiness would quickly act to eradicate sin. Consequently the sinner would have been eradicated as well. As a result God could not allow a sinful person into His presence. This broke God's heart! We were His beloved, created in His image, and given life by His very breath! So He developed a way for sinful humanity to still have access to Him without being destroyed and that was through the priest hood.

And while this was a good thing, it was not at all the relationship God desired to have with His people! God wanted to once again be able to fellowship and communicate directly with His people as He had done with Adam and Eve before the fall! The only way for this to happen would be for a better priest to come, a heavenly one! However, for this heavenly priest to understand the ones He would represent, He would need to fully understand both sides. Jesus understands us because He came in the flesh and was tempted like us, yet without sin, and He sympathizes with our suffering, because He suffered. Jesus understands human weakness and frailty. Yet, while Jesus was fully man, He was also fully divine. Jesus was God in the flesh! He had been called on by the Father to leave Heaven and come to earth in order to become our high priest and give us access to God!

Hebrews 5:5 So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."
Hebrews 5:6 And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

When it says "so Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest," It's referencing the humility of Jesus. He unselfishly became our high priest to please the Father and because of His love for us! And when the preacher in Hebrews says...

Hebrews 5:5 "...But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. "'

He was not saying that Jesus had been created, but that Jesus would leave heaven and take on the role of The Son of God, humbly robed in human flesh. And then the writer extends an explanation of just how special Jesus' appointment to the priesthood was when he attributes the Old Testament words of David as prophecy concerning Jesus...

Hebrews 5:6 And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Who was this Melchizedek? The only other place besides The Book of Hebrews and Psalm 110 he is mentioned in the Bible is in Genesis 14 after Abram had returned from a battle. The writer of Hebrews mentions this...

Hebrews 7:1 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him,
Hebrews 7:2 and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace".
Hebrews 7:3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.

Why is this so significant? Well according to the Mosaic law priests had to come from the lineage of Aaron and from the tribe of Levi. And as far as I can tell, none of the Kings of Israel or Judah were Priest. Melchizedek was not from the priestly lineage of Aaron and was the King of Salem. However, the fact that Abram gave him a tenth of everything shows that Abram recognized him as a true High Priest of God. Now why did the writer of Hebrews make such a big deal of this and compare Jesus to Melchizedek eight times?

The reason is this: just as Melchizedek didn't come by his office through human lineage, but by God's special anointing, Jesus also came to His position, not by human lineage! Jesus was of the lineage of King David not Priestly Aaron, so like Melchizedek, Jesus received His priesthood through a special anointing of God! And like Melchizedek, Jesus was both a high priest and a king. In fact, Jesus was The High Priest and the King of Kings! And listen to this further explanation by the Hebrew preacher...

Hebrews 6:19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,
Hebrews 6:20 where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

What does this mean practically for you and me? We no longer have to go through an earthly priest! We can go directly to God! And that is a game changer! Not that earthly priests are a bad thing, but we have been given full access to God through Jesus our High Priest who has given us the confidence to personally approach God and that allows us to...

Draw Near to God

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 10:20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

Hebrews 10:21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

Hebrews 10:22 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.

We can now draw near to God with a sincere heart because Jesus has replaced our old heart of stone with a heart of flesh, a new heart! And we know this comes by faith in the work Jesus performed on our behalf! We are not self-confident, but confident that our faith in Jesus is not misplaced! And when it says, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience it's referring to the fact that the blood of Jesus cleansed our guilty conscience because our sins have been forgiven. And having our bodies washed with pure water, refers to the beautiful symbol, picture, initiation and reenactment of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection through baptism! Paul the Apostle puts it this way...

Ephesians 2:12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Through Jesus we have confidence to approach God and that allows us to...

Put our Hope in God

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 10:20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

Hebrews 10:21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God...

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

You've heard me quote this song before, "It's not a hope so someday, it's a know so one day!" You see our hope is a blessed hope because it is secured by the promises of God and "He who promised is faithful!" Our blessed hope is followed with an exclamation point, not a question mark!"

Paul talks about this Godfident hope in Romans...

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

Romans 5:4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 5:5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Through Jesus we have confidence to approach God and that allows us to...

Encourage Others to Walk with God

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 10:20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

Hebrews 10:21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God...

Hebrews 10:24 ...let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:25 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.

Our confidence in approaching God should cause us to encourage others in love and good deeds! Folks, that's all about making disciples. Helping others to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, We should continue in our confidence by being a part of the family of God connected and growing together in our walk with God! And while not everyone can meet together right now because of Covid, once that is behind us we should not allow this pandemic to get us into a habit of not gathering together. Why? Because of the encouragement we gain from the example, wisdom, help, support, prayers, and love from our brothers and sisters in Christ! The writer of Hebrews closes his sermon with these words...

Hebrews 13:20 May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,

Hebrews 13:21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Let's pray!