



Intro to Hebrews 10:19-25

Sunday, October 6, 2019

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The communion meal is a great reminder of all that we have in Christ. Because He sacrificed His own body and blood on our behalf, we can have confidence to enter God's presence! When we consider the depth of our sin and the distance that that has created between us and God, it can be difficult to imagine anything bringing us near to Him. And yet, in Christ, that is exactly what we have!

Given these realities, why does it still seem to many Christians that God is distant? I'm sure if we asked people, we would get a lot of different responses. But one of the main reasons is that we simply fail to draw near to God, even though we have access to Him. We get preoccupied with all kinds of lesser things here on earth and we fail to draw near to God in faith so that we might enjoy fellowship with Him and become more like Him. So, the author to the Hebrews exhorts all of us to not only draw near to God, but to draw near to one another as we consider how to stir one another up to love and do good to others.

Context

This passage is something of a pivot in the book of Hebrews from an exposition about the high priesthood of Christ to the implications of that for our faith. In the beginning, the author spends time considering how Jesus is better than angels and Moses and Joshua (and everyone else) because He is the one, true Son of God. Then, from chapter 5:1-10:18, the author explains how Jesus is a great high priest who has not just offered an animal sacrifice to atone for sins but has atoned for them with His own blood. And He did this so that we might have eternal life in Him. Following this passage, the author makes it clear what the life of faith looks like and how we must persevere in it in order to be saved.

Discuss

- 1) Do you ever feel distant from God? What do you think is most often the cause of that?
- 2) How easy is it for you to believe that Jesus' death paid for all your sins and gives you access to God?
- 3) What does "drawing near" to God look like in your life?
- 4) What is the greatest challenge for you to hold on to hope?
- 5) How much consideration do you give to helping others grow in love and good works?