

**I. Introduction and review: The truth of God's grace demands a response.**

**II. The privileges Christ has obtained for you call for a response. v. 19-21**

**A. Christ has given you access to God. v. 19-21**

1. People today are concerned about access.
2. A central issue in Hebrews has been how we can gain access to God. 12:14 9:1-10
3. We now have confidence (authorization) to enter God's holy presence.
4. The basis of our confidence is the blood of Jesus. 9:12,22,24 10:10,14 6:19
5. He inaugurated a new and living way for us to enter God's sanctuary. 8:8 Jo.14:6
6. Through His death, He has removed the barrier (veil) between us and God. v. 20b  
2:14,17 6:19 9:3 Mt. 27:51 I Pe. 3:18

**B. Christ, our great High Priest, is head over the church. v. 21 4:14**

1. The church is the new household of God. 3:6 Eph. 2:19 I Pe. 2:5
2. Christ serves as our priestly Mediator. 7:25 I Tim. 2:5 Rom. 8:34
3. Christ is the head of the church. I Pe. 5:4 Eph. 1:22 5:23 Rev 1:13
4. In what ways does Jesus express His leadership over the church?

**III. Draw near to God in faith. v. 22 4:16**

**A. In what manner should we draw near to God?**

1. With a sincere heart. John 4:24
  - a. Mere outward religion is worthless. Mt. 15:8-9 Isa. 29:13 Acts 8:21f Js. 4:3
  - b. Mere intellectual theological knowledge will not bring you to God.
  - c. God wants our hearts. John 4:24 Deut. 6:1f 4:29
  - d. The New Covenant transforms our hearts. 8:10 10:16 Jer. 24:7 31:33
  - e. Drawing near to God is a duty, but is not merely a duty.
2. In full assurance of faith.
  - a. Our author is about to develop this theme extensively. 10:37f 11:1f Hab. 2:4
  - b. Faith is not merely a blind leap into irrationality, but confidence in what God has done for us in Christ.
  - c. We approach God believing the gospel truth that Jesus has gained access.
  - d. What if you don't feel like your prayers and worship reach God?
3. Having our hearts sprinkled (cleansed by Jesus' blood). 9:2,13-14 10:2 I Pe. 1:2
4. Having our bodies washed with pure water. John 13:10 3:5 Eze. 36:25 Titus 3:5  
Eph. 5:29 I Pe. 3:21
5. The sprinkling by blood and washing by water point to our priestly access for worship. 13:15-16 I Pe. 2:5 Ex. 29:4,21
6. All of the conditions for our drawing near to God have been met for us in Christ.

**B. How in practical terms do you draw near to God? 4:14-16 John 4:21-24**

1. God invites you to draw near. Mt. 11:28f
2. Consider what a great privilege you have received.
3. There is not a particular physical location where you can draw nearer to God.
4. Draw near to God through worship and prayer. 10:24-25 4:14-16 I Th. 5:17
5. Drawing near to God requires faith and effort.
6. Are you taking full advantage of your access to God?
7. You will be blessed in God's presence. Ps. 16:11

**IV. Hold tight to the confession of your hope. v. 23 4:14 3:6,14**

- A. Why does the author speak of the confession of our *hope* and not our *faith*?**
1. Hope is an important theme in Hebrews. 3:6 6:11,18 7:19 11:1
  2. Faith and hope are intimately related. 11:1,13,39
  3. Hope is faith directed toward future promises. 11:1 6:11 I Pe. 1:3
- B. To what confession is our author referring? v. 23 3:1 4:14 I Cor. 12:3 I Ti. 3:16**
1. They confessed their hope in Christ at their baptism. 3:1,6 4:14 I Cor. 11:2 15:2
  2. They continue to profess their hope in Christ. 10:25b I Th. 1:8
- C. Don't waver in your confession of hope. v. 23b 3:6,14**
1. Some of the original readers were wavering.
  2. Why might you waver and doubt? Mark 4:16-19 Eph. 4:14
  3. Holding fast is the human side of perseverance. Phil. 2:12-13 John 2:23-24 12:42-43 Luke 8:15 I Jo. 2:19
- D. The grounds of your holding fast is God's faithfulness to His promises. v. 23c 11:11**
1. Uncertainty would be expected if you were relying upon the word of man.
  2. Because God is faithful, you can rely upon His Word. 6:17-19 11:11 18:18 13:5 I Th. 5:24 II Th. 3:3 I Pe. 4:19 I Jo. 1:9 Re. 1:5
  3. The unbeliever is without hope. Eph. 2:12
  4. Nothing can separate a believer from his hope. Rom. 8:31f
  5. Hold fast not because your faith is so great, but because God's promise is sure. 11:13,39 II Cor. 4:17
- E. What, in practical terms, can you do to strengthen your grip on hope?**
1. Immerse yourself in reading the Word of God. Ps. 1:1f
  2. Hear God's truth proclaimed. II Tim. 4:1-2
  3. Participate in worshipping God.
  4. Surround yourself with people whose faith is strong. 10:24-25 3:12-14
  5. Declare your hope to others. Rom. 10:10 I Tim. 6:12,13 I Pe. 3:15
  6. Practice trusting God. Jer. 17:7-8

**V. Consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds. v. 24-25 (next week).**

**VI. Concluding applications.**

- A. The Christian life is founded on doctrine.
- B. Doctrine is to be energetically acted upon.

**Discussion questions**

1. What is the relationship between doctrine and practice?
2. Why do the New Testament Epistles usually start with doctrine?
3. What three exhortations does our author give in 10:22-25?
4. What two reasons does he give for these exhortations? 10:19-21
5. In what manner are we to draw near to God? v. 22
6. What is the significance of our hearts being sprinkled and our bodies washed? v. 22
7. What in practical terms can you do to draw near to God?
8. What should you do if you don't feel close to God when you worship and pray?
9. How much are you taking advantage of the access Christ has gained for you?
10. What is the relationship between faith and hope? v. 23 11:1
11. Why might some waver in their hope?
12. What in practical terms can you do to strengthen your grip on hope?