

# 23

## DRAW NEAR!

*Hebrews 10:19-25*

### Introduction: Are You Sure You Want to be Near God?

**“My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” - Ezekiel 37:27**

#### I. Why Should We “Draw Near”? (v.19-21)

##### A. We Have a Better Sacrifice

- o We now are covered “by the blood of Jesus”
- o The way is no longer blocked because the curtain is opened
- o Thus, there is a “new and living way” to draw near to God
- o \*\*Now we are like priests, we get to enter the “holy places” to be near God!

##### B. We Have a Better Priest

- o Jesus is not just a priest, but a “great” priest (echo of Heb 4:14 “a great high priest”)
- o “over the house of God”—“house” now used to refer to people instead of a building!

#### II. How Should We “Draw Near”? (v.19, 22)

##### A. With Confidence (about God’s disposition)

- o We need to be confident that God is for us and we can stand in his presence
- o Different from our world’s version of confidence! Our confidence is not achieved by looking inward at ourselves, but outward at Christ—confidence lies in another.

##### B. With Full Assurance (about the state of your heart)

- o Your heart has been purified from sin—“sprinkled” by the blood of Jesus
- o Your heart is “washed with pure water”—this refers to Jesus “washing” your sins away in contrast to the many literal OT washings
- o Our baptism in Christ is similar—a picture of our sins being washed away



### III. Exhortations for Those Who “Draw Near” (v.23-24)

#### A. Doctrinal: Hold Fast to What You Believe

- o “confession of our hope” = doctrinal content of your faith
- o Beware of wavering! Nearness to God is for those who persevere
- o We have good reasons not to waver: “for he who promised is faithful”

#### B. Relational: Walk Together in Community

- o Meet together (don’t stop!)
  - Why do you think people stop going to church?
  - Are you a committed member of a bible-believing church?
- o Stir one another up toward love and good deeds
  - We can grow stale and spiritually lazy—we need someone stir us up
- o Encourage one another
  - The author recognizes how easy it is to be discouraged
  - We need others to lift us up when we are down

*\*\*Key Point: Perseverance in the Christian life is dependent on both doctrine and community—don’t just pick one!*



## Discussion Groups

1. How are you doing today with your confidence and assurance about drawing near to a holy God? Are there ways this passage has helped you?

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2. How important has doctrine and theology been in your life? Are there places even today where you feel like you are wavering about what you believe? How can this passage help?

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3. How's your church/community involvement right now? Have you been checked out or not part of your church life? How does this passage motivate you to improve and grow in this area?

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