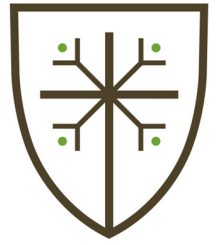


CLOSER ATTENTION

The Journey Home Through Hebrews

An Ordinary Time Sermon Series | Fall 2026

SERMON NOTES



September 13, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"On To Maturity"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Leviticus 16:1-3

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:10-14; 6:1-9

Matthew 13:18-23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it look like to follow the call to live confidently before both God and man? What are worldly challenges to this call?
2. In what areas of your life are you maturing in your faith, moving from "milk to solid foods"? Where might God be calling you to further growth and maturity?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

Our sermon series on Hebrews, entitled Closer Attention, is focused on paying attention to what we have heard and recognizing when we are drifting in our Christian faith. This week, Tim led us in considering what this drifting looks like and where it can lead.

The Call

We must always keep in mind that the audience for the book of Hebrews are Jewish Christians, many of whom are being tempted to return to Judaism and their old way of life. We have all been called away from something, some former life or life we could've had that beckons to us, tempting us to go back. But the author of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus is the better way. He is the highest high priest who has passed through, not a series of earthly copies of holy spaces like the Levitical priests, but through the heavens themselves. He does not come into the shadow of God's throneroom but into the very presence of God himself. He was the real thing. God has taken on our humanity to be with us, in every way.

Whatever you face, Jesus knows it from the inside out. He has become human to be fully and completely with you and taken his own blood into heaven in order to set your relationship right with God. We can, therefore, walk into the presence of God with confidence because of Jesus' status and sacrifice. If you can confidently go into God's presence, you can confidently walk into any room or any group. What ultimately matters has already been taken care of. So our call then is to live confidently before both God and man.

The Case

The author goes on to speak of one of the more unpopular topics in Christianity - that of apostasy, those who have deliberately abandoned Christianity. He says in the case of these, it is impossible to restore them. The first question this raises is "Is apostasy losing your salvation?" which seems to go against all the other scriptural texts that speak of the assurance of our salvation. There is a difference between genuine faith uniting us to Jesus and partial faith that hears and receives the Word but only temporarily. The Word never matures. The land doesn't produce lasting fruit. True saving faith perseveres and matures. He isn't speaking here of struggling with sin and vices or about having doubts. He is talking about a complete rejection of Jesus and opposition to him.

So, what is the path to this apostasy? The first step the author mentions is becoming dull of hearing, lazy, and inattentive. You need constant practice, building up spiritual muscles that are strengthened by paying attention to God's Word. The first step towards a maturing faith is simply paying attention to the Word of God and holding fast to Jesus.