

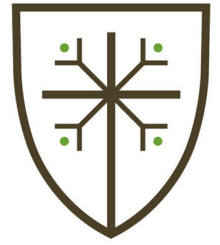
CLOSER ATTENTION

The Journey Home Through Hebrews



An Ordinary Time Sermon Series | Fall 2026

SERMON NOTES



October 11, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Through the Curtain"

PREACHER

Rev. Will Stockdale

TEXTS

Exodus 26:31-35

Hebrews 10:19-26, 31-39

John 19:33-37

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is our worship on Sundays a reminder of the proper confidence we have before the throne of God?
2. What other things do you find yourself putting confidence in besides Christ?
3. What are some things in your own life that you can remember as a reminder of God's abiding love and the source of our true hope?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, continuing our sermon series in the book of Hebrews, Will led us in considering the source of our confidence as believers.

A Proper Confidence

It can be easy for us to forget, as Christians, how remarkable it is what we do on Sundays - worshipping the living and true God. And not only worshipping, but being extended an invitation from God himself to approach him in worship and being lifted by his Spirit into the throne room of God. The throne of God is not something we ought to approach without a proper confidence that we should be there. But how do we get such a confidence in the presence of a holy God? Even the high priests in the Old Testament entered into the holy place with fear, and that only once a year. But we have a boldness that comes from total, objective and subjective freedom from sin that allows us to engage personally with our Heavenly Father. We are able to approach God in confidence only because Christ has remade our hearts and made them clean. We draw near, as Hebrews says, in assurance of our faith, holding fast to our hope. And the love we experience through Christ drives us to live lives of love with others.

A Fearful Thing

While we do have this confidence in Christ, we are often still tempted to seek our confidence and our access apart from Christ. Hebrews warns against this stubborn refusal to submit to God for there is no other way to find this confidence and have this justification apart from Jesus. It is a fearful thing to fall into God's hands without the justification found in Jesus. All the other places we look - whether it is in things like status, money, or relationships - they are all dead ways. They all demand constant pursuit and are always beyond our grasp. And while we are looking for justification and finding they don't deliver, we are tricked into shame in ourselves. We will all meet God face to face one day and it will happen in one of two ways - with confidence through faith in Jesus or the fear that comes without it.

An Enduring Memory

Finally, to tie together the warning against false sources of confidence and the exhortation to draw near in proper confidence, Hebrews tells us to remember. There is strength found in remembering. Our memories shape our present. They shape who we are and what we will do. Over and over again throughout the Old Testament, God asks his people to remember who he is and what he has done. Here, in Hebrews, the Jewish Christians being addressed have lost property, suffered humiliation, and been mistreated all for the sake of the Gospel. And these are the things he tells them to remember - to remember God's enduring faithfulness in hard times. By these things and continually submitting to the Lord in them, we are strengthened and grow into those who press on and preserve our souls, not just for a day, or a few more years but for all eternity.

The new and living way to enter into God's presence is found only through the curtain of Christ's blood. Just as the temple curtain that separated the holy place was torn in two, so also Christ's flesh was torn open to grant us confidence to stand in the presence of God. And only in him do we stand in new, resurrected life with an assurance that leads to obedience and love.