

Jesus Our High Priest

Preamble - Hebrews

- Written to encourage Christians who were under intense persecution
- Some contemplating leaving Jesus (Hebrews 10)
- The writer of Hebrews points them again and again to Jesus, the better covenant and all that is theirs in Christ
- Consider Jesus, his supremacy, his superiority, his sacrifice for sin and his present intercession for his family
- And embrace a life of Faith and hold firmly to what has been given to you

Introduction

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are---yet he did not sin. [16] Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

1. Jesus our Great High priest

What does a high priest do? - Represent the people to God

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. [34] Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died---more than that, who was raised to life---is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **Romans 8:33-34**

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, [20] by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, [21] and since we have a great priest over the house of God, [22] let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. [23] Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. [24] And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, [25] not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another---and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **Hebrews 10:19-25**

2. Hold firmly to the faith we profess

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. **Hebrews 2:1**

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. **Hebrews 4:1**

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. [36] You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. **Hebrews 10:35-36**

- Finally be strong in the Lord - Eph 6.10
- Take hold of the deep truths of the faith - 1 Timothy 3
- Having done everything stand, stand therefore - Ephesians 6.13,14
- If anyone hears these words of mine and does them, they will be like a house built upon the rock. Matthew 7.24
- It's a choice to hold firmly

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. **Hebrews 6:12**

3. We have access to the Gods throne

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. **Hebrews 4:14-16**

- O what a beautiful Privilege
- A bountiful and safe place
- A place of provision
- A place where we are heard
- A place we are loved
- A place we find Mercy, grace and help
- The way has been opened up

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. **Hebrews 7:25**

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, [20] by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, **Hebrews 10:19-20**

Receive Mercy - God with holding the judgment i deserve

'compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.'

Receive Grace - God giving me that which i have not earned and do not deserve

a spontaneous gift from God to people – "*generous, free and totally unexpected and undeserved*"

Find Help - make it easier or possible for (someone) to do something by offering one's services or resources.

4. Approach with confidence

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. **Hebrews**

4:14-16

- Come with bold confidence
- Come in faith
- Come to a loving Heavenly Father
- This is the place of prayer
- Make time for this, Make use of this high privilege

Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips. **Hosea 14:2**