

A Consistent Hope: Enter In

What can wash away my sin?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh, precious is the flow that makes me white as snow.

No other fount I know.

Nothing but the blood of

For my pardon this I see, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this I plead, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh, precious is the flow that makes me white as snow.

No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can coarsen at all.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Not of good that I have done.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh, precious is the flow that makes me white as snow.

No other fount I know.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my righteousness, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my righteousness, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh, precious is the flow that makes me white as snow.

No other fount I know.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh precious is the flow that makes me white as snow.

No other fount I know.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Amen.

Well good morning everyone.

Good morning.

It is a great day in the house of the Lord, and I'm glad all of you showed up because we're going to need your help today.

We're on our third guitar.

They're all falling apart.

But that's okay, because you all have a voice, and each one is a joyful noise, right?

Various kinds, but that's all right.

That's what Jesus wants to hear.

Lord Jesus, we thank you for this day.

We thank you for the privilege that it is to gather together and sing songs about you, sing songs to you.

Lord, this is one of the amazing gifts that you gave us to be able to worship you all together in spirit and in truth.

Lord, prepare our hearts today, Lord, for your word through the songs that we're going to sing, through our interactions with each other.

Lord, as we sit with our Bibles and read from Hebrews, Lord, we thank you for what you are going to teach us today.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Amen.

All right.

Well, while he's getting his guitar, we're all going to sing together.

These are all songs you know.

Thank you, Lord.

All right.

All right.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O my soul.

Worship his holy name.

And sing like never before.

Oh, my soul, I'll worship your holy name.

I think we're in the wrong key.

All right.

What key would you like to play then?

Can you play?

You want it in C, right?

Mm-hmm.

Go ahead.

Yep.

Play through the whole chorus if you can.

Worship his holy name.

Amen.

Sing like never before.

Oh, my soul.

I'll worship your holy name.

Sing it again.

Bless the Lord, oh, my soul.

Oh, my soul.

Worship His holy name Sing like never before Oh my soul I'll worship Your holy name The sun comes up It's a new day dawning

It's time to sing your song again.

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes.

So bless the Lord, O my soul,

Oh, my soul, worship his holy name.

Sing like never before.

Oh, my soul, I'll worship your holy name.

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.

Your name is great and Your heart is kind For all Your goodness I will keep on singing Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find So bless the Lord, O my soul

Oh, my soul, worship his holy name.

Sing like never before.

Oh, my soul, I'll worship your holy name.

And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come.

Still my soul will sing your praise unending.

Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

So bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.

Worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul.

I'll worship your holy name.

Bless the Lord.

So bless the Lord, O my soul.

Oh, my soul, worship his holy name.

Sing like never before.

Oh, my soul, I'll worship your holy name.

Lord, I'll worship your holy name.

Lord, I'll worship your holy name Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me I once was lost, but now I'm found Was blind, but now I see T'was grace that taught my heart to fear

And grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

My chains are gone, I've been set free.

My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.

And like a flood, His mercy rains.

Unending love, amazing grace.

word my hope secures he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures

My chains are gone, I've been set free.

My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.

And like a flood, His mercy rains, unending love.

Amazing grace My chains are gone I've been set free My God, my Savior Has ransomed me And like a flood His mercy rains On any love Amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow.

The sun forbear to shine.

But God who called me here below will be forgiven.

You are forever mine My chains are gone I've been set free My God, my Savior Has ransomed me And like a flood His mercy rains

Unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone, I've been set free.

My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.

And like a flood, His mercy raised.

Unending love,

Amazing grace.

Unending love.

Amazing grace.

Amen.

Thank you, Jesus.

It's not my life.

to see All I have is His For all eternity It's not my righteousness It's not my faith

crown him crown him king of glory crown him crown him lord of all crown him crown him king of glory crown him crown him lord of all

my way to bear by his mighty hand he won the victory he won the victory so we will crown him crown him king of glory crown him crown him

Crown Him, Crown Him, King of Glory Crown Him, Crown Him, Lord of all We will Crown Him, Crown Him, King of Glory Crown Him, Crown Him, Lord of all

Crown Him, Crown Him, King of glory Crown Him, Crown Him, Lord of all It's not my blood but His That stands in my defense

is is

crown him crown him lord of all crown him crown him king of glory crown him crown him lord of all we will crown him crown him

Thank you, Jesus.

How great is our God.

Sing with me.

How great is our God.

And all will see how great, how great is our God.

How great.

How great is our God.

Sing with me.

How great is our God.

And all will see how great, how great is our God.

Splendor of the King.

The splendor

Hold in majesty Let all the earth rejoice Let all the earth rejoice He wraps himself in light And darkness tries to hide And trembles at his voice And trembles at his voice

is our God.

Sing with me, how great is our God.

And all will see how great, how great is our God.

H to H he stands.

And H to H he stands.

And time is in his hands, beginning and the end, beginning and the end.

The Godhead three in one, Father, Spirit, and Son, the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God.

Sing with me.

How great is our God.

And all will see how great, how great is our God.

Name above all names.

You're the name.

You are worthy of all praise.

My heart will sing how great is our God.

Is our God.

How great.

How great is our God.

Sing with me.

How great is our God.

And all will see.

How great.

How great is our God.

How great is our God, sing with me How great is our God, and all will see How great, how great is our God

amen amen i think i could just sing that song the rest of the day personally what a great what a great anthem amen we can have our ushers come forward we're gonna take our morning tithes and offerings and father we just thank you for the opportunity to to be in your house today lord and to know father that um

Lord, you bid all who would come to come.

It's not like a carrot on a stick with false promises.

But your word promises that you love each of us.

And you call each of us to experience your goodness and your grace.

Because your heart is that of a giver.

Freely you gave...

Jesus to come and freely he gave to pay my debt of sin and freely salvation is offered for all who would come and acknowledge you as Lord.

And Father, the reason that we are told to give is because it is a part of who you are.

You give freely.

without strings attached.

So, Father, as we partake of our morning offerings, Lord, knowing that we give because you first blessed us and have provided for us, and it's all yours anyway, Father.

None of it is mine, but it's yours.

Thank you for the opportunity to give, knowing that it comes with a blessing from you, Father, because we choose to walk and act like you walk and act.

So thank you for this offering this morning.

Bless those who can give, Lord, and I pray that you would bless those who are struggling.

Help them to be able to follow you in this sacrifice, understanding that it comes with a blessing from you.

Bless this morning in Jesus' name.

Amen.

How great is our God.

Sing with me.

How great is our God.

And all will see how great, how great is our God.

How great is our God.

Sing with me how great is our God.

And all will see how great, how great is our God.

Sing name above all names.

My heart will sing how great

He is our God, sing with me how great He is our God, and all will see how great

Thank you, Jesus.

Thank you, Jesus.

We love you, Lord.

Amen.

Well, before you're seated, go around and shake hands and thank that person for singing loudly today.

Kids, you can go follow that orange flag.

I know God's been good, good to my soul.

Mountain high, valley low, I'm unseen.

Wherever I go

Well, good morning everyone.

Well, good morning, everyone.

Morning, Brother Corky.

How you doing?

Good.

How are you?

I'm good.

Hey, I think I've found a solution.

I think I've found a solution.

Do you want to know the problem?

No problem too small.

Good morning, good morning, good morning.

Hey, are you guys okay if I be a pastor real quick?

Guess what?

I'm going to do it anyway.

I don't know if I'm going to say that.

I'll be nice to you guys today.

Why start now?

I got a long sermon to get through.

And it's only going to get rougher the further we go.

No, I'm just joking.

So good to have everyone here this morning.

I do have a solution to a problem, though.

Obviously, there is one of the funnest parts of the church is getting you back.

I need a gavel, maybe.

And it's like, order, order.

You know, but getting everyone back here and focusing.

So what we're going to do is everyone is going to get one of these little things, and it's a speaker that goes in your ear that...

has my voice piped right to that little speaker right there.

And that way I won't have to shout, it'll just be there and I'll disrupt your conversations.

No, I'm joking, we're not gonna do that.

But for those of you who have in the past had trouble hearing me share, we have this new technology here that allows you to plug this in and put this on your ear and then everything I'm saying here gets piped into your ear.

So for those of you who are

I didn't say it, so I'm going to say those of you who are hard of hearing, I was going to... You know, you don't even have to be old for this.

I have teenagers that could probably use this sometimes.

You know, but for those of you who have issues hearing the sermon, we do have these available.

There's a sign out, a sign...

form back there that Miss Arlene has and so you don't get to take it with you.

We keep them here.

But if you need this, we just want to start providing this.

It's called Listen Technologies and it just helps those who need to hear the sermon a little bit more intimate.

You have your own volume control, things like that.

And so if you'd like that you could see Miss Arlene.

She has a sign up back there to sign out the headphones.

The neat thing is if you don't like this little device which goes on your ears kind of funky, any headphones that has this small jack would work and you could put them in both your ears if you like.

Or I had a friend at Last Chance Chapel who was a pilot and he really had trouble hearing and he would bring his pilot earphones, these big old monsters that he would put on and he would plug it in here and it worked for him too.

So you can have those things and they'll work great for you.

Starting next week, if you'd like to, first come, first serve.

We have six of them.

So if you'd like to have it, I guess you're just going to have to start coming earlier and fellowshiping earlier.

That's what I was going to say earlier.

You know, we have time before church if you want to fellowship.

It just means you have to get here early.

Whew, it's going to be a long day.

This week, we have a couple things going on at the church this week.

We are making some improvements at the church, and we are going to be ripping out the deck at the office this coming week.

If you have some time and would like to help me do that, could you just speak to me after church?

And I'll let you know when that's happening.

We're going to try to get the deck at the church and around the fellowship hall done.

We're getting that all redone here in the next couple weeks.

And so we're going to pull it out to try to save us a little bit of money.

There's also some cards in the family room for pastor appreciation.

If you'd like to sign, I don't know anything about it.

I need to go sign them though.

Not my card, but other cards.

So if you'd like to be a part of that, you can avail yourself of that.

It's in the family room.

There's also some parenting classes that are going on at the end of this month through December 4th.

There's paperwork back there on the info desk.

There's also a women's retreat at the end of October 24th, 25th.

You do have to sign up online.

There's early bird pricing.

This is something that Foursquare Northwest District is putting on.

And so if you are of the feminine lady type and would like to attend...

We'd love to have you.

Gentlemen, we're going to be cooking for this, so if you want to help me cook, I'll take all the hands I can get.

Amen?

Wow.

Whatever.

I'll do it by myself if you don't come.

I don't care.

I ain't scared.

That got a response.

That was good.

That was good.

Also, next Saturday is an amazing event.

And I love these people dearly.

But the fact that they have been hitched for 50 years is, well, it's a testament to her and him too, probably.

But the Blooms, Brother Rich and Miss Cheryl, are celebrating 50 years on Saturday.

So we're really excited about that.

And all of that toil and hard work has earned them a cake.

And we'll have some cake after church today.

And so thank you for doing that.

Also, we have our membership class today.

After church, we'll be meeting over there.

So I alluded to the fact that I'm skipping a couple of these, but we're pretty soon going to be on two pages of announcements.

I'm going to be flipping through these and reading them out.

But amen, amen.

Take a deep breath.

Are you ready to get into Romans?

Because today is the day that the Lord has made.

Amen?

Amen.

The new day is a new beginning.

Every morning that you wake up, whether it's the right or the wrong side of the bed, there is a chance to wipe the slate clean and to muster new strength and focus to meet the day head on.

Every one of us have that opportunity.

And see, God does that for us miraculously.

Every sunrise begins new mercies and renewed encouragement to seek out our Heavenly Father and His purpose and to align ourselves with what He is doing in our life.

Each morning is a new opportunity to do that.

And last week, as we got back into Hebrews, we...

Looked at some very powerful verses in chapter 10.

And we talked about how this section or this paragraph is really the writer's transitional opportunity.

He is going from the doctrinal side of Hebrews.

The first nine chapters really deal with doctrine and theology.

And he's setting up this new covenant.

Chapter 10 gets into where he kind of summarizes a few things, and then the verses we looked at, verses 11 through 18 last week, was his transition part.

He starts by saying, there are these things which have been done, and then he moves into the New Covenant and brings us into this time where we are today in the New Covenant, the New Testament believer.

And in these verses last week, we looked at...

the perfected work of Jesus.

And we talked about the verb there, which means that it's a work that is done and completed by one person.

And we shared a little bit how the only person who could perfect our salvation was Jesus because he was the perfect sacrifice, which brings perfect forgiveness, which means there's nothing else that has to be done.

And that work is done.

Jesus has completed the salvation process.

It is over.

However,

There's also a process of sanctification that you and I are walking through.

But it was interesting enough, as we looked at that, the verb tells us that it's the work that has been done to us, not something that we are doing ourselves.

And so we are, God is the one who is sanctifying us.

The Holy Spirit is the one who is convicting us and leading us and bringing about gifts in God's character and Jesus' character in our lives.

But there's a part that we have to play because we are put in a position of tension, if you will.

where we're living in opposing realities, because we have the perfected gift of salvation, but yet you and I are daily learning how to become more like Christ, the perfect sacrifice.

And so we are saved, but we're still growing.

We are perfected, yet we're still being refined or sanctified.

And it points to the importance of daily surrendering to God's will.

And that brings us to the place most of us would ask, great, that's all done, what do I have to do?

What's my part?

What do I play?

And where do I fit into this?

And one of the main themes that we have been talking about over the last couple of chapters is how the writer is talking about how we access God.

And I read something this week that I believe is going to influence the next several sermons and messages that I write as we finish up at least chapters 10 and 11.

And I wish I could give this quote.

I wish I could honor the person who made this quote, but the book has several authors and it doesn't tell me who actually said the quote.

And so I can't tell you who said it, but this is what they said.

It says, "...without exception..."

There is no exception in the New Testament.

Without exception, all the New Testament writers link doctrine and deeds.

Doctrines and deeds.

So with that in mind, as we continue in Hebrews, we now step into what this new covenant life looks like.

Not only in theology, but how we approach God, live with purpose, and reflect Christ in our community.

That is our part to play.

Amen?

Amen.

So Hebrews chapter 10, we're going to start reading in verse 19 this morning.

And we're only going to cover three passages of Scripture, I believe.

Yes, three passages of Scripture, four passages.

Hebrews 19, it says, "...therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the holiest by the blood of Jesus..."

by a new and living way which he consecrated for us through the veil that is his flesh, and having a high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with the pure water.

Let's pray this morning.

Father, we thank you for your word.

Lord, as we dig into this passage,

part of Hebrews.

Help us to understand first and foremost the work that you have done for us, but help us to also see that

Because of that work, you call us to step up.

You call us to enter into your presence.

To come and to work out and to know a fuller, more perfect version of you in our lives.

So Holy Spirit, I ask that you would help us this morning.

Because as we have learned, it's your work that brings us to this knowledge and understanding.

So as I share this word, I pray that you would anoint my lips.

Father, that I would speak the truth of the word of God.

Father, that you would anoint the ears to hear this message and help us to apply it to our lives so that we can become more perfect and show your character in our community.

In the name of Jesus, amen.

Amen.

I really have to say, I've been looking forward to these last few chapters to preach from.

It's the part of Hebrews that most of us know.

And there are parts of Hebrews that we can all quote, and they all come from chapters 10 and 11, mostly.

And chapter 11, everybody knows that chapter 11 is the faith chapter.

And by faith, so-and-so did this.

By faith, so-and-so did this.

And so it's a great...

object lesson to what the writer is going to teach us in the rest of Hebrews chapter 10, linking that quote that I said of doctrine and deeds, because it says in that list, they all by faith did this.

And so there's a linking of the doctrine, the belief, the faith with the actions of their life.

And so the writer is really going to take a lot of focus and marrying these two thoughts

that we have a problem with sometimes, because most people are like, you're just talking about earning your salvation.

No, not.

We're going to talk about that today.

But I find it that I've really been looking forward to this because we've covered a lot of difficult stuff.

Let's take a walk back, if you will.

There's all the...

Old parts of the Old Testament that we don't deal with much anymore.

The angels, the Moses, and the high priest, and that wonderful gentleman called Melchizedek, and all these implements of the old tabernacle temple worship that, yes, we know about, we understand, but we were never a part of that.

They don't have the significance to us as they would someone who has either grown up in Jewish belief or back...

for those who were reading this in their time, someone who truly understood the worship that the Old Covenant gave.

But we're now going to move away from all of those difficult things to deeper water, and probably a little bit more difficult things, maybe.

Because as I read the rest of the chapter, there's really a three or four sermon set that I'm going to pull out.

And I just want to remind us real quick that the writer is writing this book to exhort and to encourage the believers of the day not to go back to the old covenant way of life.

And Jesus has come and he's ended that covenant and has begun a new covenant.

the inefficacy of the rituals, traditions, and sacrifices is on the full display of how they don't do what we need done, especially in the light of Jesus.

And that's the point of the sermon title that we've been doing, Jesus is Better.

He's giving an example of how things were done, but now there's a better way, and that is Jesus Christ.

And I often think in pictures... How many of you think in pictures...

I think in pictures a lot.

My wife makes fun of me sometimes because I do this often with her.

So I had a picture as I was thinking about the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

And so I, in my mind, compared the old covenant to a horse drawn carriage compared to our most advanced spaceship that takes people into outer space.

Vastly different, right?

The only problem is...

The old covenant and the horse-drawn carriages, the horse is dead and the wagon wheels are broken.

In other words, it doesn't get you anything.

That's the effectiveness of the old covenant.

It's as if you have a dead horse.

But, funny enough, the church still struggles with those today that would choose their own rituals, their own traditions, and their own forms of sacrifice

as the Old Testament believers did.

So the writer in verse 19, until the end of this chapter, tells us what our response should be to this new covenant that Jesus offers us.

And we're going to have four things that you and I are

instructed how to respond to the new covenant.

Those four things are, we must enter in, we must hold fast, we must keep near, and we must press on.

So this morning, we're going to enter into our message today about entering into the new covenant.

So verse 19 says, So I want to set this up.

Because there's a change there, therefore, and he's talking to all who believe, brethren, have boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of the Lamb.

So we are given the how, the what, and the why.

So we are told we are to boldly enter into the holiest of holies.

We are told we are to enter in by the blood of Jesus, and we are to enter in with confidence.

Now imagine for a minute, think back, if you will, and pretend that we are Jews living in that day.

And how foreign this verse would be.

Because if we can put ourselves in that setting, our whole lives we have lived by the law and the prophets.

Every year we come to Jerusalem, and at Passover we watch the high priest with fear and terror, so much so that they tie a rope around his ankle, in case he's struck down as he enters into this holiest of holy places,

to offer the blood on top of the mercy seat.

And so if you and I could do this, we don't view the holiest of holies as a place, one, we enter, because there was only one person who did once a year, and that was the high priest.

Nobody else had access.

You did not enter into the holiest of holies.

Now you have the writer saying, because all of this stuff...

You can now enter into this place that was full of dread and fear.

Why would I want to enter that place?

Imagine trying to wrap your mind around that.

See, if you remember in Hebrews 4, verse 16, the writer begins to set this up, and he says that we can come boldly before the throne of grace.

Foreign concept to them.

No one came boldly before the throne of grace.

They always came with fear and trembling.

And before Jesus entered heaven, we didn't have access to the throne of grace.

No person did.

To find the forgiveness that you and I needed.

See, we couldn't offer the perfect sacrifice to be acceptable to find the privilege to be in God's presence because we were full of sin.

So we did not have access to God.

And I believe there's a reason why.

Because with very few exceptions, man always approached God from a place of fear.

Exodus chapter 19 is a great example.

The Lord had called them all to Mount Sinai, and the Lord tells Moses to go back down and warn the people not to break through the boundaries to see the Lord.

The concept is there were people who thought, hey, maybe I could see who God is.

Moses was.

And so God gives Moses this warning, go back and tell the people not to break through the boundaries to see the Lord, or they will find joy and love and peace and grace.

No, they die.

Even the priest who regularly come near, whose job it was to be the go-between between God and man, warned them...

Because if they come close, they die.

This doesn't sound like the God I serve.

God's love, right?

Oh, you can come however you want.

Whatever doesn't matter.

He loves everybody.

And that's not wrong.

But what people often forget is...

just as much love as God has for people, His justice is just as equal.

And we do not approach God with pride and with haughtiness, thinking that God loves me, it doesn't matter what I do or how I live or what I say, I can come before Him.

See, Jesus, by His blood, has provided the ability to access God with confidence and

Because his blood gives us freedom from sin, forgiveness from sin.

See, no longer is God only accessible once a year to one man to hope he doesn't die.

The new covenant says we are now exhorted to boldly come into God's presence however I want.

You only enter God's presence by the blood which Jesus shed for you and I. Just like the high priest had to enter behind the veil, he couldn't just go in whenever he wanted.

When he came in, there was a blood sacrifice with him.

Not only that, blood was upon him, and it was a symbolic look of being covered by the blood of the sacrifice that gave access to God.

That is how you and I now have access to God's presence.

It is through the blood of Jesus.

And because that sacrifice was so perfect, we can have confidence to enter in to the presence of God.

Because Jesus' sacrifice was acceptable.

So, we can enter in, first and foremost, with confidence now.

Because Jesus has paved the way.

Amen?

But as we enter in with confidence, Scripture moves on, we must also enter with thanksgiving.

Let's read this next passage, Hebrews 10, verse 20.

It says, Now this very much ties into having confidence because it talks about how you and I have access to God.

But,

If you look at this, there's no gratitude in that scripture.

There's no thanksgiving there.

Why would I want to bring up thanksgiving?

Because what this passage points to is the extreme cost that gave me the ability to enter into God's presence.

It wasn't an easy thing.

It wasn't a ho-hum, eh.

Just a meager sacrifice.

See, as you and I, if we were to search through Scripture, we find that entering into God's presence must always be accompanied by thanksgiving.

If you read the Psalms, it talks about it.

Proverbs talks about it.

A lot of verses that talk about gratitude say, And why shouldn't we?

See, you and I have nothing to offer for our salvation.

There is nothing that we could present to be acceptable to God in any way.

There's nothing we can do to say, hey, God, notice me.

Look, I'm not as bad as that person.

See, God through the obedience of Jesus' death gave us the gift of salvation.

That death gave us the access and the path, it says.

It opened up a new and life-giving way.

It's through Jesus' death that the door is now open for us to come to the most holy place.

And that sacrifice was not cheap.

I believe it's a sad truth

that humanity can have such a low value of life.

But yet, Jesus tells us why.

Jesus, speaking to the Jews in John 8, tells them this.

It says,

the desires of your father you want to do.

He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth.

And I know it's been a little bit of a week and there's a huge memorial service today, but a lot of us are still wrestling with the death of Charlie and all of the comments and the nastiness that has come out since then.

But what has been very evident and fascinating to me is that there is a clear line that has been drawn that exposes people's value of life.

Such a foreign concept to me.

I struggled to even pin this the other day.

How you could have such a unvaluable view of life is beyond me.

See, life was God's first gift to man.

He breathed life into Adam.

He formed him and then he breathed life.

Everything that God does brings life.

God is life.

And it was his intention that man should never experience death.

See, sin and death are married.

They're one flesh.

You don't find one without the other.

And we all know how God hates sin.

But guess what?

God hates death just as much.

Because death is a byproduct of sin.

But yet he was willing that his son should experience death.

That which he hates as much as sin.

And the blood that was offered allowed you and I to enter into his presence.

That alone should cause a geyser of thanksgiving to well up within us every time we think about our Heavenly Father, about the salvation that he's given us, the life that he's blessed us with, the mercies that are new every day.

That is why Thanksgiving is repeated so often in Scripture, because it should be a common part of life.

It should be like breathing in and out.

Thank you, Jesus.

Thank you, God.

Everything that I have, every breath that I take, every blessing, every hair, everything is because of you.

Psalms 100, verse 3 and 4 says, Know that the Lord, He is God, and it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves.

We are His people in sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him and bless His name.

Because there's not one thing you could point to, there's not one blessing that you could name that isn't a gift from God.

Also remember that Jesus now sits at God's right hand making intercession for you and me.

I take up most of his time, but he does for you too.

Which is another reason why we have to enter God's courts with praise and thanksgiving.

So, two things this morning.

We are to enter into God's presence first with confidence because of the sacrifice Jesus made.

We are also to enter in with thanksgiving because of the cost of the gift that was made.

But to truly please God, we must enter in with a sincere heart of faith.

Hebrews 10, verse 21 goes on and says, And since we have a great high priest who rules over God's house, let us go into the presence of God with sincere hearts, fully trusting Him.

For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

This morning with each scripture that we've talked about, the writer is beginning to define how you and I are to respond to the gift of forgiveness and the parameters that we must use to access God's presence.

And I alluded to this earlier, but before chapter 10 ends, we're going to come against some extremely difficult passages of Scripture.

And I have to admit, I'm looking forward to them.

At the beginning of Hebrews, I wasn't looking forward to some of the difficult passages.

But now I am.

See, we are to enter in with confidence by the blood of Jesus, with thanksgiving understanding the price that was paid, and now we are to have a sincere heart.

And I didn't take the time to point each of them out.

I looked them up, but I didn't bring them up in the sermon.

But I believe each point that the writer is making is now looking back to a point that he has previously made in the book of Hebrews, something that he said before he is now taking and moving into the new covenant and reminding us.

of that and as you notice the last several sermons that we've been talking about last couple chapters we've mentioned often our relationship to god is a matter of the heart it's not so much anything else but it's our attitude towards god and here again the writer puts his finger on the issue

And I believe the writer has in mind Hebrews 4, where he wrote, "...for the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and of the intents of the heart."

For there's no creature hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of him who we must give account.

I believe the writer is thinking of that as he pens this verse.

Let us go into the presence of God with sincere hearts, fully trusting him.

See, you can't fake it till you make it with God.

You can't pretend like everything is good and you're living right and God loves you and everything in your heart be off.

See, he can see the intent.

Think of this.

He can see the catalyst, the reason for what you're doing, the actions that you're doing.

So as the writer pins this in the quote that I gave you, if our theology and our doctrine is one thing, but our heart and our actions is something else, there's a problem with the intention.

See, I can want to look well and say that I love Jesus, but yet every action that I do

leaves you scratching your head like, what?

See, he can see the catalyst, the reason for doing what we want to do.

Think about this.

Lucifer was in God's presence.

He was a created angel.

He sang.

Beautiful.

But the intents of his heart became known to God.

The pride and the selfish desire to be exalted above God came out, and it caused him to be thrown from heaven like a star falling.

Do you think it would be any different for you?

Scripture teaches that many will say, Lord, I did this.

Lord, I did that.

Lord, I said this.

Lord, I went there.

And he's going to say, I don't know you.

I don't know your heart.

Your heart is not connected to my heart.

Your intentions weren't true.

Your actions might have been good, but your intentions weren't true.

You offered lip service, but you never surrendered to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Your conscience was not cleaned and sprinkled with the blood of Jesus.

Your body not washed by the pure water.

Man, you don't want to hear that standing before Jesus.

See, on the other side, there will be those whose hearts were known by God because they surrendered to the Lordship and through obedience to God's word, they acted like Jesus and they obeyed his commandments.

They say, Lord, when did I do that?

When did I do that?

I didn't do that.

My intent wasn't to be noticed or to sing my praises.

I just wanted to be obedient to your word.

I was trying to be like you.

And he'll say, see, that is where you find gold.

That's where you find life.

It's when your heart is in tune and lined up with God and that influences our actions because we want to be pleasing to the Father, not because we want to pat ourselves on the back.

I want to look at this last part of the scripture, talking about our guilty consciences being sprinkled with the blood, with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies being washed with pure water.

I believe the first part of that, most people understand that the guilty conscience is talking about the guilt and the shame of sin that we have and how when we submit and put our faith in Jesus and we profess the sacrifice that he made and we receive the forgiveness that he offers, that our consciences can be cleaned by Christ's blood.

I believe most of that makes sense.

because sin brings death and because of that we studied in chapter 9 or chapter 8 that required that life be shed or blood be shed for forgiveness that was the cost of sin and Jesus of course came to bring forgiveness for sinners by going to the cross and shedding his blood

And when I put my faith in Jesus or my belief in his shed blood, I can be forgiven for my sin.

It's the simple truth of the gospel.

It's the part that most people understand and know.

But what about this next part?

Our bodies have been washed with pure water.

Most of you, if I was to ask you right now what you think that is, most would answer baptism, right?

I mean, that's the only thing that we have with water.

We get baptized, right?

And most of the commentators went that direction.

But I struggle with that because I'm one of those who believe baptism has no part of our salvation.

See, the thief on the cross could not have walked in paradise because he never experienced baptism.

He just died.

And I don't believe Scripture claims that salvation is based on faith and baptism.

Scripture teaches that salvation is based on faith alone.

So I looked up this word, washed,

And I'm not going to do this every time, but I found it fun anyway.

I did it.

I parsed out the verb again.

It's just this new tool.

It's so fun.

So, washed is a verb that's perfect, passive, participle, masculine, plural, nominative.

I know.

Thank you, Lord, for Google.

So, its meaning, fascinatingly enough, its meaning is that it is an action that has been completed...

with lasting effects you have been washed by the pure word it's an action that has been completed but yet residual effects accompany you all time and while i was trying to understand what the writer was trying to say here

The Holy Spirit dropped a verse of scripture into my mind.

Ephesians chapter five says this, husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her, that he might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of the water by the word.

Now, if you remember last week, we talked about how Jesus has perfected those whom he is sanctifying.

Same process here.

It says that he might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of the water by the word that he might present to her.

He might present her to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that they should be holy.

Another way of saying sanctified and without blemish.

So here, it is the blood that cleanses our conscience and washed our body with the pure water of His Word.

His Word.

See, sanctification is the process by which we're made perfect.

And Ephesians teaches that we are sanctified, being made holy, which is an internal act, and cleansed, the body, the external, the outer part, by God's word.

Interesting.

It ties back to our faith, which is our doctrine, which is what we believe, which is something that we wrestle with internally.

And as we read God's word and as God begins to organize our lives and help us to control our thoughts and to understand what he's asking of us and what he's telling us to do, it begins to wash our body.

It begins to cleanse our deeds to be more in line with our beliefs.

See, when we read God's word, it gets inside of us, and God begins with our heart, but he never stops there.

Every book of the Old Testament, I'm sorry, every book of the New Testament connects belief with deeds.

See, God begins to change the way we talk.

He begins to change the way we live.

He begins to change our habits, the choices of music we listen to, the movies we watch, what comes out of our mouth, when nobody's around or when everybody's around.

I was speaking to a good friend.

I don't have permission to share this, so I'm not going to tell you his name because you know him.

But he told me that he used to cuss so bad it would make sailors blush.

But he said when he got saved, God took that away almost immediately.

And he was at a job site and one of the guys says, man, I never hear you cuss.

And he's like, used to do it ferociously.

And he began to share the testimony of how when God came into his heart.

began to change him and all of a sudden God took that away.

He changed that action of his, that deed of his because of the influence that God had on his inside.

I'm closing now.

But still this quote has influenced me so much and I've never heard it said this well about how we are to

I guess I want to share this scripture.

You can leave that up there.

I want to share this scripture.

It helps me understand James when he says, show me your faith without your works, which you can't do, and I will show you my faith by my works.

In other words, it's very difficult to see what God has done inside.

We can share it, but as I've already said, nobody knows what you're thinking.

Nobody knows the intent of your heart, save God alone.

But we can begin to see some of how you believe based upon how you act.

And as the writer finishes this book, we're going to see more and more of the correlation between our beliefs and our deeds.

We have all heard this saying and we have all said it many times that actions speak louder than words, right?

So funny that Christians as a whole will use this when it benefits them.

What is the use of saying we love Jesus with our mouth if it is not evident in our lives?

So as we continue talking about our response to all that Jesus... With confidence.

Because it's not me.

It's your perfect Son, Jesus, who provided the perfect sacrifice, who gave His blood that I might come into your presence and be a child of God.

Help us to understand that, Father, because what this does for us is it tells us and gives us purpose and a duty in that we are called to share our testimony, our walk of faith, the salvation that You have given us.

And we are to invite others to enter into Your presence and experience Your forgiveness.

You've called us to do that.

You've commanded us to make disciples of those who do not know you.

So as we begin these next couple of sermons, help us to understand that our response gives us purpose to our community.

Help us to be vigilant about living out our faith

Thank you for what you're doing, Lord, in this community.

Help us to show forth your love and bring many people to heaven.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Amen.

Lord bless you.

There is cake out there, I think.

And if you're doing membership, we're going to be across the alley in the family room there.

And so we'll be there.

We'll start there in 10 minutes.

So at 1135.