

Hebrews 10:11–25

How do you “spur one another on towards love and good deeds”?

- Pray for others
- Encourage one another
 - Card
 - Gift
 - Hospitality
 - Conversation
 - Share a verse
- [Go to church?]

How does it even work to spur one another to love?

- It's one thing to love one another . . .
- But Hebrews 10:24 says to cause others to love
- This means we must love others in such a way that our actions prompt their actions
- Or, it means that together we are loving one another
- When I preached this passage years ago, I urged the former – You must so love others that it leads them to love
- However, I'm not convinced that's the best way to read it today . . . and I'm going to try to show you why

The Context of Hebrews

An Outline of Hebrews 1–10

1:1–4	Introduction
1:5–2:18	The Greater Son and His Greater Word
3:1–4:16	The Rest of Christ
4:14–7:28	The Priesthood of Christ
8:1–10:39	The New Covenant of Christ

An Outline of Hebrews 10¹

10:1–4	The Inadequacy of the Sacrifices [Law]
10:5–10	The Many Sacrifices Replaced by the One [Psalm 40]
10:11–14	The Many Priests Replaced by the One [Psalm 110]
10:15–18	The Adequacy of Christ's Sacrifice [Jeremiah 31]
10:19–25	The Application
10:26–39	The Warning

¹ William Lane, *Hebrews*, 130.

Hebrews 10:11–18

The Better Priest: A Final Word from Psalm 110

- ¹¹ And every priest **stands** [perfect]
daily
at his service [=serving]
\ **offering** [present]
repeatedly
the same sacrifices,
which can never take away sins. [vv. 1, 4]
- ¹² BUT when Christ **had offered** [aorist]
for all time
a single sacrifice
for sins,
he **sat down** [aorist]
at the right hand of God,
- ¹³ \ waiting
from that time
until his enemies
should be made a footstool
for his feet.
- ¹⁴ For by a **single offering**
he has **perfected** . . . *those who are being sanctified.* Pres., pass., part
for all time

Verses 11–12

- Verse 12 begins with a contrast (BUT), what does it contrast?
- What does this teach us?

Verse 12–13

- What does the right hand reference?
- What does Psalm 110 say?
- How does Psalm 110 apply today?
- **What is Jesus doing today?**
 - *Praying* – Hebrews 7:25
 - *Waiting* – what does it say about his waiting? What have we learned about time?
 - Anything else? – *Sanctifying*

Verse 14

- Who is being sanctified?
- Is everyone being sanctified?
- Is Jesus effective in his sanctification? Yes!
- So what does it mean that not everyone is sanctified? He is sanctifying every member of his new covenant community.
- The Atonement is EPIC

The Better Covenant: A Final Word from Jeremiah 31

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us;

for after saying,

¹⁶ “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”

¹⁷ then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Verse 15

- Who does the Holy Spirit speak to?
 - What do you think: “The OT is written *to* Israel . . . it is written *for* the church”
- Who does the Spirit bear witness about?
 - John 15:26–27
 - John 16:13–15
- When the Spirit bears witness about the NC, does he bear witness about Christ? Why?

Verse 16–17

- Any differences in this passage?
 - It doesn't quote everything – but does serve as summary and inclusio
 - “House of Israel” replaced with “them” = “deemphasize national Israel”²
 - “hearts” and “minds” reversed (cp. 8:10) = emphasis on heart
 - Mercy is left out, sin is emphasized
 - Wrongdoings (*adikais*) replaced with lawless acts (*anomia*) = increases rhythm
 - “Remember” is not future indicative = stressing “decisive eradication”
- How does the promise of an internal law relate to sanctification (v. 14)?
- What is the relationship between “justification” and “sanctification”?
- Why does the author choose to focus on the heart? (See 10:16–17)

Verse 18

- This verse closes the argument and prepares us for the application

² Guthrie, G. H. (2007). [Hebrews](#). In *Commentary on the New Testament use of the Old Testament* (p. 979).

Hebrews 10:19–25

These are the verses you have been waiting for . . .

- For 10 chapters we have seen very little application, but now we are here
- And we need to see how the application goes.
- We can split into two sections – the summary and the application proper

A Summary of Hebrews 1–10

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers,

[1] since we have confidence [3:6; 4:16; 10:35]

20	[2]	[A] to enter the holy places	Temple
		[B] by the blood of Jesus,	Sacrifice
		[C] by the new and living way	Covenant

\ that he opened
for us
thru the curtain = thru his flesh,

21	and	[1] . . .	[B] a great priest	Priest
			[A] over the house of God,	Temple

What do you notice about these three verses?

- “Therefore” (*oun*) . . . he’s building his application on the previous argument (cf. 2:14; 4:1, 6, 11, **14, 16**; 7:11; 8:4; 9:1, 23)
- “brothers” . . . He’s writing to Christians
- “since” (1x, not 2x) = this carries vv. 19–21; it reinforces our position in Christ
- Chiasm? A → B → C ← B ← A

What holy places?

- Where the high priest goes (8:2; 9:25); a better temple (9:24)

What blood?

- Blood = The final sacrifice

The new and living way?

- The main point (NEW)

A Great Priest?

- Not just a high priest, but a great priest (cf. Heb. 4:14)
- Great ~ greater tent (9:11); reward (10:35) wealth (11:26); Shepherd (13:20)

What has Hebrews said about the house of God?

- Hebrews 3:6 = we are the house of God
- This last verse moves us to consider the people of God, who are the holy brothers

An Application of Hebrews 1–10

With this focus on the people of God entering God's presence notice three *cohortative subjunctives* . . . Let's Go!!!

22 [1] **let us draw near** [to God]
with a true heart
in full assurance of FAITH,
with our hearts sprinkled clean
from an evil conscience
and . . . our bodies washed
with pure water.

23 [2] **Let us hold fast** the confession
of our HOPE
without wavering,
\ for he who promised is faithful.

24 And [3] **let us consider** how to stir up one another to LOVE and good works,
25 \ not neglecting to meet together,
as is the habit of some,
but \ encouraging one another,
and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

What do you observe about these three verses?

- Faith, Hope, and Love – These are the three Christian virtues
- Assurance is in focus again (v. 22)

How do we get a clean heart? What is this imagery?

- Exod 29:4; 40:12; Lev. 8:6 – priest are “washed”
- Ezekiel 36:26–27 – new covenant
- How does it apply?
 - God has purified our hearts – faith purifies (Acts 15:9; 26:13; 2 Thess. 2:13)
 - And our bodies have been baptized – baptism comes after faith
 - Because of this . . . we come together and worship
 - Gathering is the way faith is exercised and strengthened

How do hold fast our confession?

- With one another
- Without wavering . . . is this internal or external?
 - DA Carson illustration
- How might the following verses (vv. 26–39) help us

[We've come full circle]: How do we stir up one another?

- We gather . . . we go to church . . . we serve as priest to one another . . . we proclaim our hope to one another
- “as is the habit of some” = seems to be a problem in the church
- Encouraging one another TOGETHER . . . and all the more as trials come