

Sermon Notes & Bible Study Guide

Draw Near — Why the Church Gathers

Hebrews 10:19–25

*We do not abandon the gathering because this is how Christ preserves His people.
This is how the risen Christ orders the life of His Church.*

I. Why Hebrews? Why the Church Gathers

Key Teaching

Hebrews is not merely explaining doctrine.
It is teaching the Church how to draw near to God as His household.

The Word of God is given:

- to build up the Body of Christ
- to reveal God's will
- to train us in faithful obedience

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Ephesians 4:11–16; Hebrews 3:6

Core Insight

The Church is always tempted to misunderstand why it gathers:

- around personalities
- around preferences
- around private spirituality

Hebrews corrects this by re-centering everything on Christ as Head and Priest.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some common reasons people give today for attending church?
2. How does Hebrews challenge personality-centered or preference-driven church life?

3. Why is it important that Christ—not a teacher or style—remains the foundation?

II. The Logic of Hebrews: Salvation as Formation

Key Teaching

Hebrews presents salvation as a lived reality, not a one-time abstraction.

- Christ learned obedience through suffering
- Through that obedience, He became the source of salvation
- Salvation is experienced as we are formed into His likeness

Read: Hebrews 2:10–11; Hebrews 5:8–9; Romans 8:29

Core Insight

- Obedience is not the price of salvation
- Obedience is how salvation is lived and experienced

As our lives are reordered under Christ:

- hearts are purified
- vision is clarified
- we become capable of beholding Him
- and in beholding Him, we are transformed

Reflection Question

How does this understanding of salvation differ from viewing salvation only as forgiveness or destination?

III. Hebrews 10:19–21 — The Foundation of Worship

Access Through Jesus

Read: Hebrews 10:19–21

Key Observations

This passage uses temple language, not private devotion language:

- “Enter”
- “Holy places”
- “Priest over the house of God”

Access to God is given:

- through blood
- through flesh
- through a mediator

Core Insight

Worship is not self-directed or internal-only.

We do not make our own way to God; Jesus opens the way.

Because of Christ:

- access is open
- access is shared
- access is ongoing

Jesus did not end worship.

He fulfilled it and reshaped it around Himself.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Hebrews emphasize Jesus’ flesh and blood in our access to God?
2. How does this challenge purely individual or internal ideas of worship?
3. What does it mean that access is shared rather than private?

IV. Hebrews 10:22 — Drawing Near with Our Whole Lives

Read: Hebrews 10:22

Key Observations

This verse binds together:

- inner faith
- outward obedience

“Sprinkled hearts” points to forgiveness and renewal.

“Washed bodies” points to baptism.

Core Insight

Hebrews does not separate belief from embodied participation.

To draw near means:

- approaching God the way He has invited us to come
- offering our whole lives, not just our thoughts

Worship is not merely something we express.

It is something God uses to form us.

Reflection Question

In what ways does regular worship continue to shape and reorder our lives after baptism?

V. Hebrews 10:23 — Holding Fast to a Shared Hope

Read: Hebrews 10:23

Key Observations

- This confession is shared, not private
- Hope rests on God’s faithfulness, not our feelings

Core Insight

Faith is something we continue in, not something we customize.

That is why:

- teaching matters

- truth is guarded
- the faith is handed on

Because what we believe shapes how we live.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to hold fast in a culture of constant choice and customization?
2. Why is shared confession essential to the life of the Church?

VI. Hebrews 10:24–25 — Why the Gathering Matters

Read: Hebrews 10:24–25

Key Observations

The gathered life of the Church produces:

- love for one another
- good works in the world
- encouragement and perseverance

When the Church gathers:

- God’s Word is spoken
- prayers are offered
- faith is strengthened
- lives are re-aligned

Core Insight

Neglecting the gathering is dangerous—not because attendance saves us, but because separation leads to drift.

The Christian life is not invented; it is received.

Discussion Questions

1. How does gathering stir believers toward love and good works?
2. Why does Hebrews treat drifting from the gathering as spiritually dangerous?

VII. Where Hebrews Brings Us — What Worship Is

Summary Teaching

Hebrews 10 teaches us that:

- Jesus is our living High Priest
- The Church is God's gathered household
- Worship is how God shapes His people
- Faith, hope, and love are practiced together

Clear Restatement

Christian worship is not primarily what we offer to God.

It is the ordered way the risen Christ brings His people into God's presence—cleansing them, strengthening them, uniting them, and sending them back into the world as one body.

Final Reflection

1. How does this understanding of worship reshape the way you view Sunday gathering?
2. In what ways does Christ continue to preserve His people through shared worship?