

Sermon Notes on Hebr. 10:19-25, Trinity XX

1. Under the OT Covenant which lasted from Mt. Sinai to the death of Christ the Jews had to observe the ceremonial law which included worship in the Tabernacle and Temple. The High Priest entered the most holy place in these buildings once a year with blood to atone for his own sins and those of the people. This is described in Lev. 16. Aaron was the first high priest and was followed by more than eighty others until Christ's time. The OT Priesthood foreshadowed the Priesthood of Christ which is discussed in Hebr. 7-10. Ps. 110:4 spoke of the Priesthood of Christ: "You are a High Priest like Melchizedek forever." Melchizedek (Gen. 14:17-20) foreshadowed the eternal nature of Christ's Priesthood. When Christ died He entered the most holy place and, with His own blood, paid for the sins of all people. He did this once and for all.
2. Hebrews divides itself into two parts; 1:1-10:18 is the doctrinal and teaching part. 10:19-13:25 exhorts us to Christian living. The doctrinal section ended with the thought of "forgiveness." The second part begins with the thought of "confidence." Jesus' entry into God's very presence for us gives us forgiveness of sins and the confidence to approach God boldly. Our salvation is complete.
3. Our text is only one sentence but contains three main exhorting verbs: "let us approach" vs. 22, "let us cling" vs. 23, "let us urge" vs. 24. Vss. 19-21 tell us why we can do these three things: a) We have boldness to enter the very presence of God and b) We have a great priest (Jesus) over the house (church) of God. First Jesus accomplished everything necessary for our temporal and eternal salvation. Now He continues to stand between God and us, praying for us and presenting our case to the Father in heaven. He is the Way, the Truth, the Life. Jn. 14:6.
4. Vs. 22: We approach with a clean heart. By nature our hearts are sinful and guilty. We have the full assurance of faith. That is so because Jesus saved us. Our hearts are cleansed from an evil and accusing conscience and our bodies are cleansed with clean water. He is plainly speaking of baptism. See Eph. 5:26. Baptism washes away our sins and makes us heirs of salvation.
5. Vs. 23: Let us cling to the confession of our hope unswerving. Our hope is everlasting life with our Lord. We confess that before men. It makes us unswerving and brave. Our sinful nature is fickle and unsteady. Why do we thus cling to our confession of hope? Because "faithful is He Who Who promised." We lean on the many, many promises of God in Christ Jesus. He faithfully keeps all His promises. Why does the sun rise daily? Because He promised it. Why do we have food daily? Because He promised. Why is God not angry with us although we are sinners? Because He promised it.
6. Vs. 24: "Let us urge one another to the instigation of love and good works." Faith proves itself by good works and mutual love. In his Introduction to Romans Luther said: "Oh, faith is a living, busy, active, powerful thing that we have so that it is impossible for it not to do good without ceasing. Nor does it ask whether good works are to be done; but before the question is asked, it has done them and is always engaged in doing them."
7. The major way of urging each other to love and good works is to attend and participate in public worship. When we do that we comfort each other. Christians work together as do the parts of the human body. The closer the last day of the world approaches the more they should exhort and urge each other. We do not know when that day will be but we know that it will be. All the signs and troubles in nature, politics and the church are warnings that He will come again to judge the living and the dead. Let us be about the Father's business.

Sermon Outline on Hebr. 10:19-25, Trinity XX

Theme: MUTUAL EXHORTATION OF CHRISTIANS

Introduction: It is customary for athletic teams to hold pep rallies before athletic contests. Their supporters cheer them on. They also practice mutual encouragement even in the midst of a game. Parents cheer their children on to succeed in life. Likewise in the church there must be mutual exhortation. In fact that is one of the main reasons for going to church. Listening to the Gospel, confessing our faith and talking to each other help us in our faith, hope and love. All three are mentioned in our text, vs. 22, 23 and 24.

I-Why Mutual Exhortation of Christians is Possible

A-Because Jesus, the High Priest, has completed our salvation. Vss. 19-21. For 1500 years under the Old Covenant the Children of Israel worshipped in the Tabernacle and then in the Temple. The center of these buildings was called the Most Holy Place. The High Priest entered this place once a year, on the Day of Atonement, to sprinkle blood on the Ark of the Covenant for the forgiveness of his sins and those of the people. Lev. 16. Jesus fulfilled this ceremony. With His blood He entered the very presence of God, not for His own sins, but for the sins of the world. Read Hebr. 7-10. Vs. 20 says that with His very own body and life He entered the veil for us. Vs. 19 tells us that because of Jesus we now have boldness to approach our heavenly Father. Jesus is the new Way to God.

B-Because Jesus, the Great Priest, is over the Church. Vs. 21. Eph. 5 tells us that Christ is the Head of the Church. Mt. 16 tells us that He will build the church. Even hell cannot harm it. Jn. 10 tells us that He is the Good Shepherd of the sheep. He is at God's right hand making intercession for us. Rom. 8:34.

II-Examples of Mutual Exhortation of Christians Vss. 22-25

A-Let us approach God with a clean heart. Vs. 22. Can we really do that? Aren't our hearts and lives full of sin? Yes, they are. But the text says that we have the full assurance of faith in Jesus. Why? Our hearts have been sprinkled to remove our guilty conscience and our bodies have washed with clean water. He is speaking of baptism. Baptism washes away our sins. We are cleansed by the washing of the water with the Word. Eph. 5:26.

Baptism gives us a good conscience before God. I Pet. 3:21. Just as waters of the flood saved Noah, so baptism saves us. See Col. 2:11-14

B-Let us cling to the confession of our hope unswerving. Vs. 23. Jesus says: "He who confesses Me before men him will I confess before My Father in heaven." Mt. 10:32. A Christian confesses Christ because of the hope which Christ gives him. What is his hope? To live with Jesus forever in heaven. Our text says: "Faithful is He Who promised." What did He promise? Forgiveness of sins. Everlasting life in heaven. God is faithful to all of His promises to you.

C-Let us incite each other to love and good works. All of Christian living is summarized in the word "love". Love to the Lord and love to the neighbor. Christians must remind each other to love. Good works are the fruits of faith. Jn. 15:1-8. They glorify our Father in heaven. Mt. 5:16. How and when do we incite each other to love and good works? Our text tells us that we do this when we get together for Bible study and public worship. We go to church to hear God's Word and to benefit each other. It strengthens and encourages us to see and visit our fellow-Christians in church. Why is this so necessary? As our text says, because the Last Day is approaching. We do not know when that is but we confess: "He will come again to judge the living and the dead."

Conclusion: Faith in Christ (vs. 22) gives us everlasting hope (vs. 23) and that causes us to love and do good works (vs. 24). We must encourage each other in faith, hope and love.