

God's House is Green

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 12, 2015 • Kerry Kaufman

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near 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. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 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.
~Hebrews 10:19-25 (English Standard Version)

1) We Are Loved!

The author of Hebrews summarized the last three chapters to remind Christians of how Jesus Christ's loving sacrifice unlocks unlimited access to God.

- A) Christians have full authorization to approach God! This is due to Christ's sacrificial death on our behalf, as Christ opened a new way of direct access to God for us (v.19-20).
- B) Christ creates access to God by mediating as a priest for God's household (His people) (v.21).

2) We Respond With Love!

Due to the incredible new reality of unlimited access to God, the author of Hebrews invites Christians to respond to Christ's love in three ways.

- A) We respond by loving God back: drawing near to Him in relationship (v.22).
- B) We respond by loving God by being unshakable in our trust and hope in Him (v.23).
- C) We respond by empowering loving actions in one another (v.24-25). This care for one another is done by urgently encouraging one another (v.25b), and means we cannot be indifferent or apathetic about journeying through life together (v.25a). Responding to God's love means being thoroughly dependent on and invested in His people!