

Series: Full Assurance
Title: Full Assurance of Faith
Text: Hebrews 10: 22
Date: December 21, 2014
Place SGBC, New Jersey

Hebrews 10: 22: 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 pure water.

A few weeks ago we saw in Colossians 2 that Christ is the full assurance of understanding. Then we saw in Hebrews 6 that Christ is the full assurance of hope. Our subject now is the “Full Assurance of Faith.”

Christ is the full assurance of faith. Who is the object of our faith? Faith does not look to our faith, faith looks to Christ; faith does not believe upon self, faith believes on Christ; faith does not trust in our works, faith rests in Christ’s works; faith looks to one, believes on one, and rests in one. Christ is the object of our faith. So then Christ is also the full assurance OF faith.

Our text says to every believer, “Let us draw near.”, that is, draw near to God. God is holy. To draw near to God we have to be perfect: no sin, no curse, perfect. But God says to you who believe, “Let us draw near.” Christ is our full assurance that we can draw near to God.

Our text will be verses 19-22. I will point out some key words. These words tell us he is referencing the tabernacle which God told Moses to make in the wilderness. That tabernacle was God’s picture to teach his children how Christ is our full assurance of faith to draw near.

Hebrews 19: 19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest...

When God cast Adam out of the garden, it signified God casting us all out of God’s holy presence, out of his holy place. Then when God told Moses to build the tabernacle, he made a little room called the holiest of holies, picturing God’s presence. But while that first tabernacle stood, God was signifying that the way into his presence was not yet manifest.

Hebrews 9: 2: For there was a tabernacle made; the first, [room] wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. [the holy place] 3: And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;...6: Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, [that is as far as the priests could go] accomplishing the service *of God*. 7: But into the second [the holiest of holies] *went* the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and *for* the errors of the people: 8: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that THE WAY into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: 9: Which *was* a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; 10: *Which stood* only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed *on them* until the time of reformation.

Hebrews 10: 19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest...

But now, every believer has boldness—full confidence—to enter THE HOLIEST. But, he is not speaking of that little room in the tabernacle; he is speaking of God’s very presence. What is our confidence to enter?

Hebrews 10: 19:...by the blood of Jesus, 20: By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated [opened] for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21: And having [Christ] an high priest over THE HOUSE of God.

In that earthly tabernacle, the high priest went alone, once, every year. He went through the veil; he went into the holiest of holiest; he went with the blood of a lamb. It was to make atonement for his own sins and for the sins of the children of Israel. The whole ceremony and all the objects used, typified Christ laying down his life for God's spiritual Israel by which he made atonement.

Now, every believer has boldness and assurance to enter God's very presence by the blood of Jesus. We have assurance "by a new way" as opposed to that old covenant way of works, a new way by the new, everlasting covenant of grace. Our assurance is not a dead sacrifice but by Christ our living Way who has himself opened the way for us. We have assurance to enter not through the earthly veil but through Christ's flesh, which was offered for his people. We have Christ as our High Priest, not over an earthly tabernacle, but over the very house of God, in God's very presence making intercession for us.

Hebrews 9: 11: But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12: Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*...24: For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27: And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Hebrews 10: 11: And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13: From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14: For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Our full assurance of faith is that Christ is our High Priest and Christ is our Lamb; our full assurance of faith is that Christ bore the sins of his people and put them away; our full assurance of faith is that Christ obtained eternal redemption for his people; our full assurance of faith is that Christ died our death and settled our judgment; our full assurance of faith is that Christ perfected forever them that are sanctified; our full assurance of faith is that Christ is entered and now appears in the presence of God for us; our full assurance of faith is that he shall come again a second time, without sin, not to judge us but to carry us into glory.

Hebrews 10: 19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20: By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21: And *having* an high priest over the house of God; 22: 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 pure water.

What about this true heart? The Holy Spirit sprinkles our heart from an evil conscience and washes our bodies with pure water—with the blood of Christ—by bearing witness in our hearts that this gospel is true. God also drew us a picture of this.

God gave laws which made it so that the children of Israel were constantly considered defiled and unclean. It pictured how we are defiled in sin and unclean: by nature, by birth, by practice. The High Priest took the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a red heifer and sprinkled them on the people. Ceremonially, that blood sanctified them and purified their flesh so that they could enter the tabernacle and serve God. It pictured the blood of Christ, with which the Holy Spirit truly purges our conscience and washes our body from those dead, old covenant works, so that we enter God's house, his church, and serve God.

Hebrews 9: 13: For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the

eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?...

There was another picture which showed the work of the Holy Spirit purifying our conscience and sanctifying us with the blood of Christ, typifying God writing the new law—the everlasting covenant of grace—on our hearts.

Hebrews 9: 19: For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law,

The old covenant of works was made through God's prophet—speaking the precepts of the law to the people. But the new covenant of grace is made in our hearts through the preaching of the gospel—speaking the precepts of grace to the people.

Hebrews 9: 19:...he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, 20: Saying, This *is* the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

I will show you the new covenant version of this in just a moment. When Moses established the law, he sprinkled the blood of animals; when grace and truth come into our hearts by Jesus Christ he sprinkles his own blood:

Hebrews 9: 21: Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. 22: And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. [putting away of sins] 23: *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves [speaking of Christ's people] with better sacrifices than these.

He picks back up with the purging of the conscience and the writing of new covenant of grace on our hearts in

Hebrews 10: 1: For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2: For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

If they had been purged inwardly, rather than only ceremonially in the flesh, they would have had no more condemnation, no fear, no guilt, no worry that God would condemn them. To be made perfect is to know Christ has put away our sins.

Hebrews 10: 3: But in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year. 4: For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. 5: Wherefore when [Christ] cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6: In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

Those sacrifices never brought satisfaction to God's divine justice; no propitiation, no atonement.

Hebrews 10: 7: Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. 8: Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law; 9: Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. [Christ] taketh away the first,

Christ took away the first covenant of works: by making himself the sacrifice and offering, fulfilling that old covenant of works in righteousness for his people; by putting away their sins, perfecting them forever; by pleasing God by satisfying God's justice.

Hebrews 10: 9:...that he may establish the second.

The new, everlasting covenant of grace is the law God writes on our new heart through the declaration of the precepts of grace—the gospel. When the Spirit purges our conscience with the blood of Christ he declares God remembers our sins no more. The Spirit turns us from dead works of the law to serve our living Redeemer by bearing witness in our hearts that there is no more offering for sin. By this inward work of grace, God makes us know in our conscience that we have boldness and assurance to draw near to God, forever received and accepted. And both of these covenants were fulfilled by Christ doing the will of God the Father on behalf of his people. So he says in the next verse,

Hebrews 10: 10: By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all.*”

“For all” is added by the translators, it means “once for all time, as opposed to once every year.” As we see in verse 14:

Hebrews 10: 14: For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Now, remember, the sprinkling of the blood of the red heifer to purify their flesh ceremonially. That pictured the Holy Spirit sprinkling the blood of Christ, purging our conscience from dead works, sanctifying us so we can draw near to God in full assurance of faith. Remember the old covenant was made by God’s prophet, Moses, declaring the precepts of the law; but grace and truth, the new covenant of grace, is written on the heart as we hear God’s preacher declare this gospel. Here is how the Holy Spirit does all that. This is what is referred to in verse 22 by “having our hearts sprinkled from evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water”—

Hebrews 10: 15: *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16: This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17: And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18: Now where remission of these *is*, *there is* no more offering for sin.

God does not write the law of Moses on our hearts because that is in our hearts by nature. But God writes the law of the everlasting covenant of grace on our hearts: the law of faith, the law of righteousness, the law of love, the law of Christ. Now, our conscience is purged and our bodies washed by the blood of Christ. We have no more conscience of sins because God has written his everlasting covenant of grace on our hearts, promising never to remember our sin. The blood of Christ purges our conscience from dead works to serve the living God because God promises there is no more offerings for sin.

Hebrews 10: 19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20: By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21: And *having* an high priest over the house of God; 22: 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 pure water.

In all that I have showed you we see the full assurance of faith is Christ alone. Christ fulfilled the old covenant of works for us and established the new; he perfected us forever on the cross; he made us holy by his blood. By his blood God remembers our sins no more and there is no more offering for sin; by his blood we have boldness to enter God’s presence. We have a great High Priest seated in heaven, who lives to make intercession for us.

Full assurance of faith is to believe this sure promise of God, believing on his Son the Lord Jesus. If we trust the Lord Jesus Christ alone for the whole of our acceptance with God, we may come to him, being fully assured of our acceptance by the blood, righteousness, and mediation of Christ.

We have every reason to come to God by Christ. Christ has opened the way, Christ is the way, and every sinner who comes to God by this way is welcome in the holiest! But we cannot draw near to God in any other way. God is seen by faith, known by faith, honored by faith, and worshipped by faith in Christ. Let us therefore draw near to

God in the full assurance of faith. And he adds this, “Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for HE *is* faithful that promised;)” (Heb 10: 23)

Amen!