



JESUS: Ours, Always

the letter to the Hebrews

9. OUR BETTER CONFIDENCE

Hebrews 10

Meditation 1

We barely survive or we thrive depending on our level of confidence. Whether we're going for a job, playing sport or tentatively navigating relationships, confidence makes all the difference. Confidence has to do with: **identity**: who we are, **purpose**: why we're here & **destiny**: where we're going. The purpose of the Letter to the Hebrews is to give us *"an anchor for the soul, firm and secure"*. That sounds like confidence to me. But, intriguingly, the letter to the Hebrews goes in the opposite direction to where the world goes, when it comes to fuelling our confidence. The world turns the spotlight onto self... self-confidence & entitlement which leave many feeling like failures or victims. God's Word turns the spotlight onto Jesus. We don't gain confidence by being full of ourselves, we gain confidence by being full of Jesus!

"10:19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God..."

Whenever we see the word "therefore" in the bible we need to ask, what is the "therefore" there for? This "therefore" launches off all that's come before. He summarises our confidence like this *"since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus"* And he summarises the next action step like this, *"let us draw near to God..."*. So, let's re-fuel our confidence by filling up on Jesus, so that nothing will hold us back from drawing near to God!

JESUS – OUR BETTER CONFIDENCE

God's Champion Son, 1: 3 *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.* But the whole point of the Letter to the Hebrews is that despite, and maybe because of this, Jesus is accessible. He may radiate the glory of God, he may bear the perfect imprint of the character of God, he may sustain the cosmos with the power of God, but no one is more approachable than Jesus

Our Champion Priest, 4:14 *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.* The Puritan John Owen wrote, *"There is no office of Christ that Satan labours so hard to obscure and overthrow as his priestly one."*

He dealt with our sin. The world tells us we're wonderful and perfect just the way we are and must be true to our thoughts, feelings & desires. God tells us we are *"fearfully & wonderfully made"* but

we are busted and need to be wary of our thoughts, feelings & desires. The word the Bible uses to describe that brokenness is SIN. And the Bible's solution to SIN is beyond us, beyond our goodness and beyond our sacrifices. *10:4 It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world... 8 First he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them'— though they were offered in accordance with the law. 9 Then he said, 'Here I am, I have come to do your will.' He sets aside the first to establish the second. 10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

9:26... But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

10:14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect for ever those who are being made holy.

He sympathises with our weakness, 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. “Our tendency is to feel intuitively that the more difficult life gets, the more alone we are. As we sink further into pain, we sink further into felt isolation. The Bible corrects us. Our pain never outstrips what he himself shares in. We are never alone. That sorrow that feels so isolating, so unique, was endured by him in the past and is now shouldered by him in the present.” Gently & Lowly p48

Our Big Brother, 2:11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. Think back to whatever you know about the life of Jesus in the 4 Gospels. When Jesus sees someone in sin, under accusation, marginalised or suffering... which way does he turn... away from them or towards them? That's his heart... and his heart hasn't changed... he is for you, like the best loving Big Brother you can imagine. “He does not get flustered and frustrated when we come to him for fresh forgiveness, for renewed pardon, with distress and need and emptiness. That's the whole point. It's what he came to heal. He went down into the horror of death and plunged out through the other side in order to provide a limitless supply of mercy and grace to his people” Gentle & Lowly p37

Our Present Confidence, 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. “As long as you fix your attention on your sin, you will fail to see how you can be safe. But as long as you look to this high priest, you will fail to see how you can be in danger. Looking inside ourselves, we can anticipate only harshness from heaven. Looking out to Christ, we can anticipate only gentleness.” Gently & Lowly p57

The writer to the Hebrews gives us an anchor for our soul.... Jesus! He wants us to be supremely confident in our relationship with God, which then flows out through all of our life. Satan wants you crippled with guilt. Jesus wants you sure of God's love for you. Jesus wants you free from fears and doubts. Jesus wants you to live out of an unshakable certainty of your Dad's unshakable love for you.