

JESUS: Ours, Always

the letter to the Hebrews

9. OUR BETTER CONFIDENCE

Hebrews 10

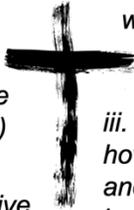
Meditation 2

LIVING CONFIDENTLY

i. **let us** draw near to God...
(10:19-22; 29-31)

v. **let us** encourage one another (10:25)

iv. **let us** not give up meeting together (10:25)



ii. **let us** hold unswervingly to the hope we profess for he who promised is faithful
(10:23 ; 35-39)

iii. **let us** consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds
(10:24; 32-34)

What does it look like to live a confident life, a life full of Jesus?

i. **let us draw near to God... (10:19-22)**

Rather than trying to hide our imperfections or failures from God our High Priest enables us to bring them to God. Rather than being so busy doing stuff for God that we don't spend any time with him our High Priest invites us to "sit" with him in God's presence. God's not impressed when we try to be impressive!

When we treat the cross as unnecessary we dishonor God's Son and he won't stand for that!

10:29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

When we catch ourselves thinking that our behaviour or our avoiding certain behaviour gets us into God's good books we need to repent of our righteousness! Jesus is our righteousness! Let us draw near to God! He wants to know you and be known by you. He can handle your brutal honesty. He longs to hear your broken heart. He wants you to hear His voice in softest whispers and in loud shouts... that He loves you.... Busted, insecure, sin-ridden, battle-scared, scared-stiff YOU! He wants to help you stop thinking it's all about you, when Jesus has done all that needs to be done!

10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Our faith is in Jesus. Our cleansing comes from Jesus. Our baptism is in Jesus' name. It's all about Jesus! Jesus, our High Priest, has opened the way for you to draw near to God and we experience that nearness in different ways: Draw near to Him in worship; Draw near to Him in silence; Draw near to Him in His Word; Draw near to Him in prayer; Draw near to Him in a walk on the beach or up in the bush. Now that Jesus has opened the way for us don't skulk towards God but confidently step into His ever-presence.

ii. let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess for he who promised is faithful 10:23

The thing that helps us most confidently step into life is confidence about the future. Our writer encourages us to confidently persevere in hope. Jesus is coming back to make this place His place!

10:35-39 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. 36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. 37 For, 'In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.' [f] 38 And, 'But my righteous[g] one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.' [h] 39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

iii. let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds (10:24; 32-34)

The life that flows out of our open door into the presence of God isn't a solo life, it is a family life. None of these exhortations are singular, they're all plural, like a packet of mixed leaves, let us, let us, let us, let us! To have been loved like we have been loved by Jesus, and are loved by the Father, requires a response... and interestingly he throws us back into the mess of each other's lives and gives us an example from back in the day

10:32 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. 33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

I love that it says here that we should take time **“to consider how we may spur one another on to love and good deeds”**. To get to know each other well enough In our Grow Groups that we know how we each tick so that we can motivate and encourage each other to generosity with time, money and energy, to random acts of kindness, to hospitality, to love and good deeds.

iv. let us not give up meeting together 10:25

How can we draw near together if we're not together? How can we fuel hope in one another if we're not together? How can we spur one another on if we're not together? We gather weekly to worship together. We gather in Grow Groups to draw near to God together. Our women gather at Beach Bible & Breakfast, Our fellas at the Men's Fire-pit Nights. We look for opportunities to hang out together over coffee, a meal, a shared walk. Jesus fuels our confidence to step into each other's lives with words of encouragement and exhortation.

v. let us encourage one another 10:25

When it comes to confidence the world turns us in on ourselves which is often crushing. But God's Word turns us out to Jesus. As we fill up on Jesus we fuel our confidence to draw near to God and to connect at depth with one another.