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Title: The Benefits of the New Way

Text: Hebrews 10:22-25

We are in Hebrews chapter 10. Would you please take your Bibles and turn there, please. We have just started the third division in the book of Hebrews....The third division has to do with APPLICATION...Paul is now going to apply all of the doctrine that we have been studying in chapters 1 through 10 to our lives.....

And the first way that Paul applies these doctrinal truths is by means of an understanding of A NEW AND LIVING WAY OF LIFE....To look at life in a new way.....

This morning we looked at the bases of this realization. And it is based upon two things. One, the Atonement of Jesus. And secondly, the authority of Jesus.

Now, in verses ¹⁹ through 25 we want to study the benefits of this new living way of life that God has for us.

Hebrews 10:22-25

Prayer

(2C) O.k. let's look at some of the benefits of this new and living way which are described in Vs 22 through 25. WHAT ARE THESE BENEFITS? I believe there are three major benefits that are discussed.

(1D) First of all, as to our coming into God's presence. ~~As we begin~~ As we begin I want you to notice something. Each one of these benefits begins with the phrase "LET US".....

Vs 22...~~Let us draw near~~ "Let us draw near"

Vs 23..."Let us hold fast.

Vs 24...."let us consider"

This points out three simple benefits. And they are really challenges to us on the bases of the fact that Christ died for our sins.

The first one deals with our coming into God's presence. And it is based upon two things, according to Vs 22.

"Let us"....This is the admonition, This is the command. "Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having a heart sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

Now, if you are like me, you read that and it sounds real good. But, we need to pick it apart and understand it. What is He talking about?

Well, he is certainly talking about coming into God's presence. "Let us draw near."....BUT IT IS BASED UPON TWO THINGS IN THAT VERSES (1E) First of all, it is based upon our confidence, or assurance of faith. Our assurance of faith. He says, "let us draw near with a sincere heart." The word "sincere" is opposite of false. Here the idea of "genuine"..... A genuine heart. Are you really born of the spirit of God? Are you really a new believer? Then, you draw near with full assurance.

But, if ~~are~~ lacking in confidence that you are really a believer, it is ~~hard~~ to feel that assurance in coming into God's presence.

It is like one person testified: "I don't really feel like I can go into God's presence. And I don't really feel like I have the faith to believe."

Now, you think about that for a moment. ~~What~~ he is expressing might be true in your life. He is expressing a lack of confidence and trust to enter God's presence based on what Christ has done. And he keeps talking about what HE IS DOING.....

Now, how about you? Do you feel the same way? Do you feel that you sort of deserve to go into God's presence based upon what you do for Him?

Or, do you feel ^{that you can go} directly into His presence based upon the fact that I believe what Jesus did for me?

If you have full assurance and faith, you are trusting what Jesus has done, not what you can do in order to make yourself worthy to go into God's presence.

So, it is based, first of all, on a confidence, assurance of faith in your hearts.....

(2E) And secondly, it is also based on cleansing.

Paul says, Vs 22, "Having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

This verse indicates that two things have occurred. One, our conscience has been cleansed.....IS YOUR CONSCIENCE CLEAN?

WHAT IS THE CONSCIENCE THAT NEEDS TO BE CLEANSED? The conscience is certainly that moral determinator within the heart of everyone of us. It sees the difference ~~the~~ between right and wrong.

But, the conscience when we use it, we say: "Man, my ~~conscience~~ is effecting me." That means: it is probably telling you what you are doing is wrong. Or, something you should be doing that you are not doing.... And that we call conscience.

A moral determinator of something that is inside of me that effects my thinking about things that are right and wrong.

Now, the Bible says that my conscience has been sprinkled or cleansed. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? That means that my conscience does not bring up to me, because I now trust Jesus death, it does not bring up to me my ~~unworthiness~~/unworthiness or sinfulness as a ~~reason~~/reason why I should not pray to God.

Listen, ~~carefully~~, this is very important. When your conscience begins to effect you as through you are not ~~some~~ some how worthy to come into God's presence, in some sense you are not trusting the completeness of Christ's death for you. And Satan would love to get you to doubt that Christ really paid for our sins. He would love to make us question as ~~we~~ hesitant as to whether we have total forgiveness in Christ. Oh, my friends, we do. The Bible teaches that when we are trusting that with full assurance of faith, we have a clean conscience.

And secondly, we, also, have a clean conduct.

When he speaks of our bodies being washed with pure water. Now, that is not dealing with Baptism....Some people like to read that into this verse.

But, baptism is not the point. Your body is dealing with the members of your ~~WANNING~~ body. That is the vehicle or instrument of that which you feel inside of you. Your conscience. What the body does or does not do. Even our conduct has been cleansed. It is impossible for a deed of mind to be greater than what Christ has already ~~done~~ on the cross. It is paid for. It is finished. It is done.

Now, God knows our problem? He knows our sin in the flesh. But God knows how to take care of that problem in the flesh here on earth. He knows all about. But don't you let the enemy come in and try to get you to believe that you are not forgiven. You are not accepted. That you can't come into the presence of God. That you have lost your salvation..... That is ridiculous....God loves you....Not because you are a good boy or a good girl.....GOD LOVES YOU BECAUSE HE HAS ALREADY PAID FOR YOUR SIN.... HE LOVES YOU AS YOU ARE. JUST AS YOU ARE.....

Isn't that kind-of neat?....Don't you know the joy of knowing someone who loves you just like you are? I mean, that know you even when you are bad. They know all your bad habits and practices....And Yet, they love you and support you. And you know they love you no matter what they know about you.....HOW REWARDING...HOW WONDERFULLY ACCEPTING AND ASSURING THAT IS

Well, don't you realize, my friend, that is the way that God has always loved you? HE LOVES YOU AS YOU ARE....

And when you get that into your brain, it will change your life.....
And, also, when it gets into your life, then maybe you can love someone else in exactly the same way. They will not have to run around and prove their worth to you. But, you will love them just because they are loved by God. No matter who they are, or what they say, or what they have done. GOD'S LOVE IS FANTASTIC.....

(2D) I believe, also, in Vs 23, the second benefit. Not only coming into God's presence, but dealing with our confusion of faith. Confession of Faith.

SURELY

Do you some times feel like, maybe, you are not saved? Vs 23 says: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope (Faith) without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

Oh, I just love this verse.....I just love it.....The word??~~confess~~
"confession" means "to agree" or "to say the same thing"....

Now, what is
~~(1E) First of all, there is~~ our responsibility. "Hold fast without wavering".....The whole passage is passed upon the atonement of Christ. Once you understand ~~it~~ what the atonement has accomplished, now hold fast to your confession. And here is the reason: BECAUSE FAITHFUL IS HE WHO PROMISED.....Oh, that is precious.....

It doesn't say to hold fast because you might lose it....It doesn't say to hold fast because you never know whether or not you can live it.... NO...He says, hold fast because HE IS FAITHFUL WHO PROMISED.....

Complete forgiveness and eternal life is mine no matter what my performance is...I believe...And I hold fast to that confession.

(2E) That is the practical application of the atonement. I know that I am saved because Christ did it. Not because I do it. He did it.....I believe what Jesus did.

And a lot of us are tossed back and forth on this issue. We are not really sure of where we are because we are still trying to trust ourselves in proving that we are really saved.....By the things that we do. Being nice to people, and being kind to animals and all of that. And Satan wants us to believe that is the issue.

Oh, no....that is not the issue at all. The issue is trusting Jesus Christ alone for what He ~~did~~ did. Not for what I can do.....

(3D) The third benefit of the atonement of Christ and all this teaching we have had on his death deals with our consideration of one ~~another~~ another.

Vs 24 and 25.....These are, also, great verses.....It says "Let us consider how to stimulate one another".....

What does it mean "to consider"?.....

Literally it means "to think according to"....It means "to start thinking according to what other people have in the way of needs."

Not thinking about yourself. But thinking about the needs of others.

"Let us consider how to stimulate one another".... Three things here....

(1E) First of all, the purpose of this consideration. What is behind it?

Why should I consider someone else's needs? Now, that I am accepted by Christ why should I think about others. What is the purpose of that?

The Bible says "to stimulate them" To stimulate them unto two things.

(1F) One, love....(2F) Two, good deeds.....

What does it mean to stimulate someone?.....

Well, it could be used in the ~~an~~ negative sense...to stimulate to anger. But, it should be used in the positive sense....

The word "stimulate" means "to sharpen".....It means "a sharp intense feeling.".....

The point is: Hay, I can really stimulate you to love and good works once I know that I am loved by God. I am accepted. I am forgiven...Now, I am set free to stimulate you.

You see, Jesus said "You shall love your ~~neighbor~~ neighbor as yourself... ONce you have experienced the love of God, you know that you are loved, ~~then~~ then you can love someone else.

The whole ~~process~~ process of what God wants you and me to do in ministering one to another is based upon our assurance that we are totally accepted and forgiven by God.....Because if you haven't accepted that, yet, you will be so tired up inside ~~up~~ you can't minister to other people in challenging them to love and good works in their lives...

Tremendous concept to get awholeed off.....

(2E) Secondly, the Bible says that there are two prerequisites if you want to accomplish this in your life. If you want to stimulate some other person for good, there are two prerequisites....

(1F) One, Vs 25 says: "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together."

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?.....

That means just what it says. It means that if you don't associate with Christians it will be impossible to minister to them and others.

The Bible warns christians. Once you have understood the Gospel of Christ, you know that you are forgiven, you know that you are accepted, you know now that God wants to use you, HAY, ONE OF THE GREAT DANGERS IS STAYING AWAY FROM ONE ANOTHER.

Literally, the word "forsaken" means "to leave behind"...Leaving believers behind.....Instead of doing what the second prerequisite is.... (2F) And that is Vs 25 "encouraging one another.".....Instead of forsaking let us encourage.....

The word "encourage" means "one called along side of to comfort".... It is the same word translated when it says the Holy Spirit is the comfortor. The word "forsaken" means "to leave someone behind". The word "encourage" means "to come along side".....

They are exact opposites.....God wants you to encourage one another... To build people up/ To bring comfort and encouragement....

(3E) And the Bible says that there is a priority in all of this. Notice the end of Vs. 25 "and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."

WHAT DAY?.....Why, the day of the Lord's return.....

Let us get busy and minister as God want us to do. Knowing that we are ~~admitted~~ accepted and foregiven. That he has paid the price of our sin. We can come boldly into his presence. Let's get busy ministering one to another. All the more because we see the day of the Lord's return drawing near.....

Let us Pray