

Title: The Throne of Grace

Text: Hebrews 4:14-16

I would invite you to turn in your Bibles to the Book of Hebrews. Hebrews chapter 4 and beginning at Vs 14....There are notes in your bulletin and I trust you will use them. Hebrews chapter 4 beginning with Vs 14

(Read 4:14-16)

Prayer

As we have examined the Authority of Jesus beginning at Vs 1 of chapter One and going through Chapter 7 verse 28, we noticed this AUTHORITY, first of all, over ANGELS. That Jesus is not simply an exalted angel. But he is greater than the angels.

Secondly, we noticed His AUTHORITY OVER MOSES AND THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL. And these verses that I have just shared with you are the concluding verses in this discussion of Moses and the house of Israel. It began in chapter 3 verse 1. And the theme of this whole section is: "CONSIDER JESUS." And we have been considering Him very carefully.

Now, the conclusion of this ~~second~~ section has two very important points:  
(1E) The first deals with the power of God's Word. We looked at this last Sunday *in* Vs 12-13

(2E) The second deals with the High Priest that we have. Namely Jesus <sup>Vs 14-16</sup>  
And this becomes a great portion of scripture. And I hope in these moments together I can share with you the depth of what is here in these 3 verses. I don't know of a passage that is so encouraging to the heart of a believer. I don't know of a passage that is so inviting to someone who is a non-christian looking in and wondering what it is all about. These verses are tremendous. And I hope you will be blessed by them this morning.....

(1F) In Vs 14 we have an exhortation.

A simple exhortation which is basical stated in the last phrase <sup>of v 14</sup> It says: "HOLD FAST OUR CONFESSION. Your KJ says "PROFESSION". But, the Greek should be translated "CONFESSION."

If you look back to chapter 3 verse 1, it says "CONSIDER JESUS, THE APOSTLE AND HIGH PRIEST OF OUR CONFESSION."

To "confess" something is to agree to it." "To say the same thing." It is an acknowledgement of certain facts. And it is agreeing to these facts and accepting them.

"PROFESSION" often means to "say something when you don't mean it." So, we are not talking about mere "PROFESSION". It is "CONFESSION"...To say the same thing that God says.

And we are to 'consider' says chapter 3 verse 1....we are to consider Jesus who is the High Priest of our confession.

<sup>and</sup> And that is the key, by the way, of what begins at Vs 14 and then continues on into chapter 5 thru 7.

<sup>And</sup> in chapter 4 verse 14 Paul is telling us TO HOLD FAST OUR CONFESSION. OUR CONFESSION OF WHAT?.....OF OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST.....

To hold fast to our confession is not asking us to hold on to anything. The root of the word means" "TO BE STRONG". It is also used in the since of "LAYING YOUR HANDS ON IT"....

So, notice the reliance here....the grabing hold of it....the strength here is not on "ME" trying to live the christian life as some people wrongly interpret that phrases.....

It is reliance upon the CONFESSION....Not upon "CULTURE" such as in Judism. OR....on the conduct of my life. It is not relying upon myself to perform as maybe <sup>others</sup> God want me to perform.

Oh, no...to hold fast, to a confession is to believe that what I am as a christian is based upon JESUS....NOT MYSELF....BUT JESUS.

✦

Why go back to it at all. Seeing that we have now a high priest. And there are three lines of thought to prove that relationship.

(1st) One, his incomparableness to any earthly high priest. The text says that he is our great high priest. I looked in vain to find if any high Priest in all of the Bible was ever called GREAT. And on one but Jesus was. No one is called that but Jesus alone. No body deserves to be matched with him. And listen, Christian friend, you have him. Why would you be worried about anything else. When you have a great High Priest, Jesus the son of God.

(2nd) There is a second line of thought here in this little phrases. And that is His intercession for us. He is a High Priest. He is interceding for us. What a precious promise.

The point is: as these verses teach...The point is our weaknesses. Christ knows what we are going through. He knows our trials and testings. Listen, we have a high priest who is constantly making intercession for us. PRAISE GOD ~~HE~~ IS OUR HIGH PRIEST.....Not just a person who lived and died ~~nineteen~~ nineteen hundred years ago. But he is alive, right now, at the right hand of the Father. And he knows what I am going through. And he cares about me. And that makes my life worthy ~~whiled~~.....I challenge anyone to discover your personal worthy outside of Jesus Christ and his love for you. It begins by discovering that God who made you loves you and has a special plan for your life. He loves you so much that he is right now at the right hand of God continually making intercession for you because he knows what you and I are like. He knows the problems we face, the weakness we have, and He is exhorting us here not to lose hope and not to get discouraged, not to fall into depression. Because we have, right now, a Great High Priest interceding for us...

(3rd) And the third thought here about our relationship to him as high priest IS the matter of His identity. He declares that He is Jesus the son of God. Not a child of God, never little born one of God..that is never used of Jesus, But SON...THE HEIR...THE INHERITOR OF ALL THINGS...SON, WHO IS THE SAME IN NATURE.....The unique one of all the universe....



The point is that Jesus ~~not~~ only knows what we are going through. But because he is God ~~he~~ is able to do something about it. He is Jesus, man, knowing what we go through. He is Son of God, God, able to do something about it. His identity

(26) The second thing, here, about this exhortation...First, it is based on our relationship to Jesus...WE HAVE A HIGH PRIEST...And secondly, it is based upon Jesus' return to the heavenly Father.

Vs 14 says: "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed <sup>through</sup> into the heavens....

The whole argument is based on that <sup>fact</sup> That Jesus has now returned to the Father. Having gone or passed into the heavens.

Let me share with you the insight we have here.....You know, in the O.T. the same phrase was used of the Priest as he went into the Tabernacle behind the Vale...As he walked <sup>behind the veil</sup>, you would use the same word: He PASSED THROUGH. He went through the vale. And it meant that the people could no longer see him. He was back in there ministering, offering the sacrifice, the blood atonement on the Mercy set. And he was beyond the sight of the people...

<sup>and I thought</sup> What a beautiful parallelism as Jesus ascended into heaven. ~~Jesus ascended into heaven~~. He passed through the heavens. Like the High Priest on earth passing through the vale.....

Those disciples steadfastly looked at him according to Acts 1:9. In fact the text is so strong it says they glued theirs eyes on Him. They couldn't get their eyes off of him. And he passed into the heavens right out-off their sight....

Seeing then that we have one who passed through the heavens....

WHAT IS THE POINT?.....The point is that ~~It~~ <sup>He</sup> is the High Priest at the right hand of God who is continually serving as High Priest in the behalf of all the people. Exactly like the High Priest on earth who went behind the Vale to interceed for all the people of Israel. So, Jesus has passed through into the heavenly Sanctuary, behind the veil, which is his flesh, for he died on the cross, the veil was torn, his flesh was ripped apart, he died for us...

He is now at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 1:3 says: "He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high" *Revised*

Turn to Romans chapter 8....Let me show you the blessing of this point. Romans chapter 8 and notice verse 31....(Read Vs 31-34)

Then it goes on to say <sup>vs 35</sup> "who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? What fabulous security.....I don't know about you. But when things go a little hard a little rough and you are really going through it, it is so easy to lose sight of the fact that Jesus is at the right hand of God interceding for you....HE LOVES YOU THAT MUCH. HE KNOWS WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH... AND HE IS ABLE TO ENCOURAGE YOU AND WALK WITH YOU AND STRENGTHEN YOU AND SUPPORT YOU AND LIFT YOU UP AND PUT YOU ON THE RIGHT ROAD AGAIN..... WHAT TREMENDOUS SECURITY...

Romans 8:26 says: "And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us."

And the thing that I want you to see is that Jesus is at the right hand of God...he went *through* the vail and has finished the atonement.

Do you see, the Devil will bring your sins upon you to the point that you lose sight of Jesus. And when you lose sight of Jesus you lose the victory.....CONSIDER JESUS.....Go back to Him and realize that he has already been through it all, he has already paid for your sins, and He is now interceding for you...

The Devil will draw you down into discouragement and the pit of despair and just cause you to be overwhelmed with all of your problems... And when that happens, it happens because you lose sight of Jesus..... CONSIDER JESUS.....

Now, come back to Hebrews chapter 4.....He has returned to the Father.. Let us wholeheartedly, therefore, our confession that He is who he claims to be..

(2F) <sup>second</sup> Vs 15, Let's examine the experience that *Jesus* has according to this verse. Vs 15 says "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weakness". I like that. What comfort...."But one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.".....

A Couple of Paragraphs Here.

(16) The first thing I would like you to examine, about the experience of our Lord is the experience he has in feeling what we feel.....I like that...The text says "sympathize"....And the word "sympathize" carries with it the idea of "compassion"...Or..."feel with"....

That tells me that Jesus Christ, my high Priest, is not separated from the ones that He is ministering to. That he knows exactly what we are experiencing. He feels with us.....

OK what does He feel?.....According to the text he feels our weaknesses He knows and has feelings with our particular weaknesses...

Now, folks, we are not talking, here, about sins. A lot of people believe that....But the text is clear in that Christ did not experience sin. But, he did experience our weaknesses. Weakness is a part of what being a human being is all about. Christ was all man. He was touched with the feeling, the sympathy, the compassion, the understanding of all of our weakness.

Certainly it is our weaknesses that leads to our sins. But it is also our weaknesses that drive us to Jesus who is all strength. And who knows what we are going through.....He knows our weaknesses.

That is why Jesus can be our High Priest. That is why He loves us so much because he knows exactly what we are going through....

(26) Now, secondly about this experience, <sup>Jesus</sup> he has been tempted in all things as we have been tempted, yet without sin....

And that helps me, today, when I look at my High Priest and <sup>knows</sup> that he cares about me. Because he has experienced what I have experienced. He knows exactly what it is all about.

And the whole point of this verse is that we have a High Priest, ~~who~~ <sup>Who</sup> knows what we are going through. Therefore, trust him...Yield to him....

O.K., the question is: what do I do?....What do I do when I am tested? What do I do when I am tempted? <sup>What do I do when I get my eyes off of Jesus?</sup> ~~That is the real issue, isn't it?....~~ Answer!

Vs 16..."Let us, therefore, draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need."

(35) Here we have the encouragement from our Lord. Encouragement to all of us as to what to do. Knowing that <sup>Jesus</sup> is a Great High Priest, he understands what we are going through. He has feeling with us. He knows our weakness. He experienced human life, personally. He came into the World to experience it, according to the Bible, so that he would be a faithfully and merciful High Priest. So, we have a high priest. Now, what are we to do?

The answer is right here in Vs 16. "Let us, therefore, draw near with confidence or boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need."

(16) First of all, let's examine the place where we are to come. It is called the "throne of Grace".

The KJ translated that verb as "COME"... "Come with boldness"... The NAS translates the verb as "DRAW NEAR" <sup>with confidence</sup>... But, basically it means to "COME TOWARDS".. And it is emphasizing the object to which you are coming...

Now, please excuse me for making a big point out of a small thing. But I think it is important.....

I don't know about you, <sup>but</sup> sometimes I flee to... quote... "PRAYER"... Rather than to "CHRIST"..... Did you get that difference?.....

There are a lot of us in our hour of need, we flee to "PRAYER"... As if prayer in and of itself, apart from Christ, is somehow going to be the solution. If you just pray enough maybe you will get over it.... <sup>as some people feel</sup>

I don't know about you, but I have prayed a lot about things and have never got over them..... PRAYER IS NOT SIMPLY THE ANSWER... Prayer is only the instrument or the vehicle or the channel or the way by which I go to the real answer..... TOWARDS WHOM?..... DOES IT SAY TO DRAW NEAR TO PRAYER?... NO... IT IS TALKING ABOUT PRAYER... THE WHOLE THING IS PRAYER... BUT IT IS TOWARD HIM... WHO?... Our Great High Priest who is at the throne of Grace, the right hand of the Father. The characterization here is Grace. <sup>The Throne of Grace</sup>

Let me give you two things, here, about the place <sup>The Throne of Grace</sup> to which we come.

(14) One, is our approach .... He says to come or draw near with BOLDNESS.... or CONFIDENCE..... Now, why is that so? Why would he tell us to come to the throne of Grace with CONFIDENCE OR BOLDNESS?.



WHY?

Because Jesus is our High Priest. You see, I am not going to come into the presence of God with boldness. Which by the way is complete confidence that you have an answer for the charge against you. Roman 8 says "who is he that condemns?" It is Christ who died"....

You see, in the Roman Senate if I had boldness it meant that I had a complete answer to give ~~me~~ for the charge against me. I had boldness... I had courage and confidence that I was right.

Now, how can I come into the presence of Almighty God who is totally apart from sin. And he is a Holy God and I know my sinful state. How can I come into his presence with boldness? The only way you can come is when you consider your High Priest.....JESUS.

Because every last sin that you and I have ever committed was nailed to the cross. And the Bible says in Ephesians 2 "By the blood of Jesus on the cross, the barrier to God was broken down and both Jew and Gentile has access to the Father.".....I now have direct access to the Father.

Romans 5:1 says "therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom also we have obtained our introduction or access by faith into his grace in which we stand. I have immediate audience with the Father.....PRAISE THE LORD....I have an audience with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords any time I want to..... I can come right into his presence because of my High Priest who has atoned for my sinnes....Is that Good news?.....Praise God.....Oh, Christians what are you waiting for?....DRAW NEAR WITH CONFIDENCE.....

(2B) Secondly, our acceptance. Oh, notice christian, it is the throne of Grace not judgment. It is the throne of Grace.

The whole point here is ~~the throne of Grace~~ your acceptance. Because of Jesus our High Priest and his shed blood, we find acceptance in the presence of the Father,,,,,,

You see it is the throne of Grace. And grace always gives to me what I don't deserve. It is like saying: "Come on in. ~~Come on in.~~ I will help you anytime you want. Just come on in." I know your weaknesses. I know

sins. I know your problems. I know you even trust in yourself. But, just come on in. This is the throne of Grace. I love you and I want you to come to me.....Boy, that is a tremendous thing. God accepts us immediately.

(26) Also, I would like you to notice the purpose as to why we are coming.

And this purpose is two fold according to ~~this~~ verse 16

One, it is in order that we may obtain mercy. And number two, so that we may find grace.....Obtain mercy and find Grace...Two ideas there...

(11) First of all, obtaining mercy has the idea of receiving pardon for ~~sin~~ <sup>what sin</sup> ~~stay~~.

And this is a real blessing.....The word "Receive" is in the Artosite tense. Which means "at a point in time".....It is the point of time in which I face that problem and that testing. The heart of all of God's forgiveness is God's mercy. Mercy ~~holds~~ <sup>is</sup> back from me that which I really deserve. <sup>OK</sup> What

<sup>should</sup> I do when I am tested? I flee to the throne of Grace with boldness. And ~~go~~ go directly to the Father because I have a high priest and I <sup>can</sup> say, Boy, I am in trouble....I have a real problem.....

And the Bible says I should go there because ~~it~~ / I ~~will~~ receive Mercy. MERCY FOR WHAT?....Because I am weak and sinfull..... Fantastic....God loves me that much. He has mercy for me....

<sup>Simply</sup>

You cannot atone for your own sins. You may run around trying to prove to people how wonderful you are. And you excuse your sin by saying that you are not as bad as other folks. But, the only way to do it is through Jesus. Real forgiveness comes at the throne of Grace. We ~~can~~ obtain mercy. Because he knows what we have gone through. He knows our weaknesses.

(24) (21) Secondly, there is provision for our needs, when he says find ~~it~~ / grace. You know I like that. "Find"...that is discovery.. ~~it~~ / You go to the throne of Grace. Why?....Because you need grace to sustain you. WHEN?...IN YOUR HOUR OF NEED...

The Verse says: "That you may find grace to help in time of need. Now, the point is: that when I need help I can receive it from the Father. I have access...to the throne of Grace to receive the help that I need at the time that I need it.....

And notice, it isn't you running to the Father....It is you that is crying out for the help and the Father comes to us with the help....FANTASTIC....

Now, what do you do in temptation? What do you do when you are tested? What should you do when you have a problem?.....Where should you go?.....

Most people go and ask for council from friends....or, they go and hide in a corner....And that might help somewhat....But, it isn't the answer. The answer is to go directly to God....Go to the throne of Grace....Go to the one who has already accepted you.....The one who knows your weaknesses, who knows your sins and is waiting for you to come to Him.

If you thinking I am kidding, let me remind you of that great example in the Gospel of Luke..Do you remember the story of the Prodigal Son?

Do you remember how quick the Father came? The Bible says that he was looking down the road. And as soon as he saw his son he ran to meet him? He didn't wait until he reached home to show him any love....OH, NO...the Bible says that Father took off running. And he threw his arms around him and he put new clothes on him and had the fatted cow killed for a home coming feast... And he wiped and gave to that son everything he wanted.....Everything.... Grace...Friends....No other explanation.

Now, don't you think that you deserve God's help. <sup>For a moment</sup> Because there isn't one person in this room this morning who does. The amazing truth of the Gospel is that God is more willing to help you and wanting to help you, then you are to receive it.

The big problem is that <sup>self is</sup> we are in the way. **NOT** God. He isn't in the way. He is waiting to come to you. And he says "COME...COME....BOLDLY ANY TIME YOU WANT. WHEN EVER YOU HAVE A NEED COME TO ME"....

Our problem is that we are going to everyone else, except God.... But Praise God...He is Our High Priest....And he wants us to come to him.... And right now, why don't you go to him? .....

Let us Close in prayer