

The Soul at Rest: *Let Us Draw Near*
Hebrews 4:15-16

Last week we saw how the Bible states that “*There is no creature hidden from His [Jesus] sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do*” (v. 13). When we are exposed, we like to run. The writer says, “*Let us draw near with confidence*” (Heb. 4:16). How can I draw near in my time of need when I am completely and fully exposed before Him?

I. My confidence before God is in Christ, not myself.

The phrase “with confidence” comes from a Greek word *parresia* which means “full story.” In ancient Greece it was used to describe the right of a citizen to speak his mind on any subject in the town assembly (Lightfoot). Only “full citizens” had this right; slaves did not. Here the word stands for our freedom to approach God *without hesitation or inhibition*. Jesus Christ is my Advocate, my ‘great’ High Priest, and there are three things said of Him:

A. He is sympathetic with me.

The word "sympathy" literally means “*to suffer with*” and the intensity of the word is lost in the English translation “sympathy” (Lightfoot). Westcott describes it as “*the feeling of one who enters into the suffering and makes it his own.*”

B. He is similar to me.

“*He is tempted in all things as we are ...*” Persecution, disease, bereavement, hunger, thirst, weariness, ridicule, which leads us to be tempted “in all things.” Think about this: Your Redeemer is your kinsman. He is not a Roman god. He is the God-man. Because he is a Man who has endured all that men endure, and because his heart is ever toward us, He is touched by everything that touches us as a Father to His child.

C. He is sinless, unlike me.

“*Tempted as we are, yet without sin*” is a phrase ensuring right standing before God. Think about this – the blessing of the Judge is fundamentally a proposition of merit.

II. My blessings from God are due to Christ’s merits, not my own.

The merits of Jesus Christ, His perfection and His purity, ensure God’s grace to you. “*Mercy and grace in our time of need*” are given freely by our just God because of Christ. The problem most people have in understanding God is with His pure holiness and justice. It is very difficult for fallen man to understand the beauty and glory of God’s character. We get comfortable with our own frailties and our own failure and *assume* God’s mercy. God’s mercy and God’s grace follow you all the days of your life because of Christ! “*God is just and the justifier of one who has faith in Jesus*” (Rom. 3:26). His merit is yours!

III. My problem before God is my lack of faith, not my lack of performance.

“Let us draw near ... in our time of need.” When do you find yourself in great time of need? “Let us draw near...” Don’t let anybody fool you. Your time of need is designed precisely to show you the glory and beauty of Christ. It is precisely in your time of need that you are able to receive grace and mercy. Is your time of need a result of your own criminal activity? Is your time of need a result of your addiction? Is your time of need right now? Draw near because of Christ. Don’t run. Don’t hide. Don’t stay away. Draw near to Him.