

Confident Communion

Hebrews 10:19

I have met a few famous people in my life. Two memorable meetings with Presidents Ford and Carter rank high. Louis Zamperini, Billy Graham and Franklin Graham are also included on my list. I love reading accounts of average, common-day people meeting others whom they admire or revere. Men and women who can make judgments and decisions about us are the most nerve-wracking meetings, such as an interview for a new job, oral exams for a degree or career licensing, or other meetings cause us nervousness. Why? We want to please. We want acceptance. We want to be perceived well by them. There is, however, no greater nervousness than that of friendship with God. Why does He accept me?

I. It is assumed in this verse that Christians have confidence in their relationship with God.

“Therefore, brethren, **since we have** confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus” (v. 19).

- A. It is natural and normal for those without Christ to fear approaching God, and they should!
- B. Some *Christians* think it too forward to pray, praise or petition God freely, but it is not!
- C. The absence of boldness or confidence in a believer’s relationship with God is abnormal.
- D. Your confidence can be measured by your understanding of God’s cheerful joy regarding you.

II. The basis of your confidence is not something you do, but something you learn, then think.

“**Therefore**, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place **by the blood of Jesus**” (v. 19).

The word ‘therefore,’ is a connecting word, to connect what precedes with what follows our text.

What you learn in the first nine chapters of Hebrews is the basis of why you should have confidence.

- A. Christ is the fulfillment of the Law – the Old Testament is designed as a shadow of Christ.
- B. Christ is Emmanuel – God with us – come to do for us what we cannot do ourselves.
- C. Through Christ’s death God has removed Himself the curtain that blocked access to Him.
- D. God says to sinners, “My Son has paid the debt for your sins,” – Trust Him! Trust HIM!

“The rent veil is liberty of access. Will you linger still? The sprinkled blood is boldness - boldness for the sinner, for any sinner, for every sinner. Will you still hesitate, tampering and dallying with uncertainty and doubt, and an evil conscience? Oh, take that blood for what it is and gives, and go in. This will make your religion not that of one who has everything yet to settle between himself and God, and whose labor, and duties, and devotions are all undergone for the purpose of working out that momentous adjustment before life shall close, but the religion of one who, having at the very outset, and simply in believing, settled every question between himself and God over the blood of the Lamb, is serving the blessed One who has loved him and bought him, with all the undivided energy of his liberated and happy soul” (**Horatio Bonar** in his excellent work called *The Rent Veil*).

III. The only false confidence there is is that which bypasses the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

Religion too often bypasses Christ. We should read the Word and apply it. I am NOT talking about the kind of application that most Christians think of, as in "What should I DO for God?" I mean the APPLICATION that leads you to say, "I am OVERWHELMED by what GOD HAS DONE FOR ME!" Until you realize you don't HAVE to do ONE thing for God, try to change yourself to obtain the FAVOR of God, or make any commitment, promise or vow to God - and GOD ACCEPTS YOU and LOVES YOU just as you are because HE HAS DONE FOR YOU WHAT YOU CANNOT DO YOURSELF (i.e. 'cleansed you, promised to change you internally, given you every spiritual and eternal blessing you will ever receive by His grace,' etc.) then your FOCUS will be on the right place and you will experience the confident communion with God that Scripture considers normal for every believer in Jesus Christ.