

Drawing Near

Hebrews 10:21-22a

The priesthood of Christ can be divided and contemplated into two distinct branches: (1). the offering of sacrifice for sin, which *was finished by Christ* while on earth, and (2). the making of intercession for His people *which He continues in heaven*. Intercession means “to intervene on behalf of a person in need.” “..and since we have a great priest over the house of God” (v. 21) points to His intercession for us (7:25). Let us draw near. Let us draw near to God. Let us draw near to God boldly—*since we have a great priest*.

I. Intimacy with God is the greatest intimacy of all.

Intimacy is “into me you see.” Genuine intimacy arises from personal acceptance, love and security. A marriage falls apart because there is either real or perceived rejection; “*You are unworthy of me.*” The reason Christian people lack intimacy with God and compartmentalize their lives is because we never really believe we are personally accepted, really loved, and eternally secure. We do not draw near to God because we feel this way about God. There is one solution: We believe in a Great Priest. We are so Christ-centered in our walk with God and Christ-focused in our faith, we draw near to God.

II. Intimacy with God comes from realizing my sin is cleansed by Christ.

The writer of Hebrews *assumes* the believer understands the power of the death of Jesus Christ. I know that the language of ‘blood’ and the ‘shedding of blood’ is considered old-fashioned and even to some ‘blood’ in religion is offensive. God, though, has said, “*Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins*” (Heb. 9:22). The word “blood” is mentioned a dozen times in Hebrews 9. The old hymn is absolutely correct: “What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.” “*For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sanctify the flesh ... how much more will the blood of Christ ... cleanse your conscience to serve the living God?*” (Hebrews 9:12-14).

A. The work of our great priest **changes our character before God.**

“*For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified*” (Hebrews 10:14).

B. The work of our great priest **changes our condition before our God.**

“*Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more*” (Hebrews 10:17-18).

C. The work of our great priest **changes our confidence before God.**

“*Therefore since we have confidence to enter the Holy Place by the blood of Jesus*” (Heb. 10:19).

III. Intimacy with God comes from realizing Christ intervenes for me at all times.

The second aspect of the work of our great priest is His present work at God’s right hand in heaven. In all our approaches to the footstool of mercy we feel our need of such a Mediator, Advocate, and Intercessor as Jesus is at the right hand of the Father. He ever lives to make intercession (Heb. 7:25). Believing this view of Jesus, as ever making intercession for us, will encourage and embolden us to come before the throne, and there spread all our wants and woes. Our blessed Lord has said, to encourage us thus to pray, “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13). And, “*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done for you*” (John 15:7) - immeasurably more than you ask.

“*We in ourselves are, and always shall be while here, poor sinful creatures, fickle in feeling, mutable in frame, changing and changeable in affection, from day to day and from hour to hour. Where can we gather up any strength or encouragement in drawing near to God? From the sweet persuasion that He is ever looking upon his dear Son at his own right hand, and accepts us in Him.*” (J.C. Philpot).