Drawing Near To God

Intro: The Hebrew letter is a marvelous epistle showing the greatness of the Christian system over any other system. To properly understand and appreciate the letter, one must have some background in the Old Testament, especially in the tabernacle and its priestly ministry and service. The text we want to consider is an example of such: Heb. 10:19-22 “19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

I. TABERNACLE AND ITS APPLICATION

A. In the Old Testament, God had a peculiar nation of people—the Israelites or Jews.
   1. The nation consisted of 12 tribes, one of which was chosen by God as a priestly tribe—the tribe of Levi.
   2. The Levites ministered to and served God in the tabernacle.
   3. The Hebrew letter (chapters 8-13) declares that the tabernacle and its priestly ministry is a type of our ministry under Christ.

B. The Tabernacle:
   1. The dimensions were 50 by 100 cubits.
   2. The court: where all could stay—represents the world.
      a. Brazen altar
         (1) Animal sacrifices were offered here.
         (2) It represents the cross of Christ and the blood which He shed.
      b. Brazen laver:
         (1) Where priests would bath themselves prior to entering the tabernacle proper.
         (2) It represents baptism:
            (a) 1 Pet. 3:21 “21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”
            (b) Acts 22:16 “16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
   3. The Holy Place
      a. Only the priests were allowed to enter and represents the church. (All Christians are priests; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9 “5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.… 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”)
      b. The dimensions were 10 by 20 cubits.
      c. Contained three pieces of furniture:
         (1) Seven golden candlesticks: represents Christians
         (2) Table of Showbread: represents the Lord’s Supper
         (3) Altar of incense: represents the prayers of saints (Rev. 5:8 “8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”)
4. The Most Holy Place or Holies of Holies  
a. Only the high priests were allowed to enter and only on the day of Atonement; it represented heaven.  
b. Contained two pieces of furniture:  
   (1) Ark of the covenant: Represented God’s Word.  
   (2) Mercy seat: Represented God’s dwelling place of mercy.  
5. One other thing we should consider is the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holiest.  
a. It represented Christ’s body.  
b. Heb. 10:20 “20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;”  
c. Consider how people behave trying to get simply a glimpse of a notable today; what about going into the presence of God?  

II. **Boldness To Enter The Holiest (Heaven)**  
A. **Is it not wonderful that man has access to heaven?**  
   1. God’s home  
   2. To be able to come into God’s presence.  
B. **Boldness**  
   1. Not like the high priest when he would enter the Holy of Holies.  
   2. Jewish secular history tells us that high priests wore a rope around his ankle so that if he died in entering the Most Holy Place and the presence of God, others would be able to pull out his body.  
C. **By the blood of Jesus.**  
   1. The modernist view the death of Christ as any other person’s death: the blood of Christ mean’s nothing to them.  
   2. The only hope we have of entering into heaven is by Christ’s blood.  
      a. Heb. 9:22 “22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”  
      b. Mat. 26:28 “28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”  
      c. Eph. 1:7 “7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”  
      d. Col. 1:14 “14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”  
      e. 1 John 1:7 “7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”  
      f. Rev. 1:5-6 “5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”  
D. **By a new and living way.**  
   1. John 14:6 “6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”  
   2. This is equal to the previous statement: “by the blood of Jesus.”
3. It is new:
   a. The old way has been abrogated.
   b. Heb. 7:12, 18 "12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law…. 18 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof."

4. It is living:
   a. It never becomes old.
   b. Heb. 7:25 “25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

III. LET US DRAW NEAR TO GOD.

A. We have not arrived as yet, but we are able to draw near. How?

1. The human and the Divine are both emphasized, as in other Scriptures.
   a. Tit. 2:11-12 “11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
   b. Eph. 2:8-10 “8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

2. God’s part:
   a. “The blood of Jesus,” the “new and living way.”
   b. John 3:16 “16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
   c. Rom. 5:8 “8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

3. Man’s part: “With a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

B. What binds the Divine and human together?

1. Heb. 10:21 “21 And having an high priest over the house of God;”

2. What is “the house of God”?
   a. It is the same as the holy place.
   b. It is the church.
   c. 1 Tim. 3:15 “15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

3. This house, or church, has been purchased by the blood of Jesus; Acts 20:28 “28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

4. This house, or church, is His body.
   a. Eph. 1:22-23 “22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
   b. Heb. 10:20 “20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;”

5. How dare anyone say the church is not important?
C. Man’s part:

1. A true heart.
   a. In the Bible the “heart” embraces:
      (1) The mind or intellect.
      (2) The will
      (3) The emotions
      (4) The conscience.
   b. A true heart of sincerity: Are we really sincere in going to heaven?

2. Full assurance of faith.
   a. The Scriptures present many degrees of faith: little, weak, vain, dead, etc.
   b. Faith in Christ as the Son of God.
      (1) Mat. 16:16 “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
      (2) Acts 8:37 “And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
      (3) Rom. 10:9-10 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

3. Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience.
   a. Notice it is the heart that is sprinkled
      (1) It is not the body or the head.
      (2) This is not concerning sprinkling or pouring for baptism.
   b. It represents repentance.
      (1) Luke 13:3, 5 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
      (2) Acts 17:30-31 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained: whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”
   c. Heb. 9:14 “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

4. Our bodies washed with pure water.
   a. Consider the tabernacle service:
      (1) The priests received white robes to minister to God in the holy place.
      (2) The white robes consisted of the breeches, the coat, the girdle, and the bonnet and were worn by all the priests.
      (3) The high priest would then wear additional things on top of the white robes that were peculiar to His Office.
      (4) They could only “draw near” to God with white robes on.
   b. \( \nu\iota\pi\tau\omega \) (nipto) — \( \lambda\omicron\omicron\omicron \) (louo)
      (1) Washed is from the Greek \( \lambda\omicron\omicron\omicron \) (louo) and not \( \nu\iota\pi\tau\omega \) (nipto).
      (2) \( \nu\iota\pi\tau\omega \) (nipto) is to wash some part of the body, as the face, hands or feet.”
      (3) \( \lambda\omicron\omicron\omicron \) (louo) is “to bath oneself, used of washing the whole body.”
      (4) Zodhiates writes, “\( \Nu\iota\tau\omicron \) stands in contrast with \( \lambda\omicron\omicron\omicron \), to bathe,…. \( \Nu\iota\tau\omicron \) usually expresses the washing of a part of the body as the hands, the feet, the
face, the eyes. On the other hand, λουó, to bathe oneself, always implies not the washing of a part of the body, but the whole.”

c. How is this washing accomplished?

(1) By the blood of Christ:

(a) 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

(b) Rev. 1:5 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”

(2) When we are baptized in water:

(a) Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

(b) Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

(c) The power is not in the water but in Christ; 1 Pet. 3:21 “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”

Conclusion: When we draw near to God, He will draw near to us; Jam. 4:8 “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”