



## 25: Time To Consider Your Response

The writer of the book of Hebrews has finished his argument. He's made his case: what we have in Jesus is far, far better than anything that went before. Now, beginning with the word "therefore" at the start of chapter 9 verse 19, he's going to spell out some of the implications of what he's taught us. It's time for his readers, and for us, to consider our response.

"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, 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. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:19 – 25

Verses 19 to 21 give us a very concise summary of the main conclusions the writer wants us to draw from everything he's written so far.

Now we can come boldly into the presence of God, by the blood of Jesus. It's a new and living way — it's a way that didn't exist until Jesus opened it up. He made it possible "through the veil, that is His flesh." The writer's making a link there between the veil separating the Holy Place in the Tabernacle from the Holy of Holies, and Christ's flesh. It suggests that the rending of His flesh had to happen in order to open up our new way into God's presence. It calls to mind the tearing of the veil in the Temple at the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

We also have a High Priest who rules over the household of God.

- ◆ *Why do you think the writer calls the way that's been opened up into the presence of God a "living way"?*

Since we have this way into the presence of God and a High Priest of the kind he has described in earlier chapters, the writer reasons, in verses 22 – 25, that there are five things we ought do.

## Draw Near

We ought first of all to draw near to God. We're reminded that we should draw near with a sincere, true, pure, genuine heart, and in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Some see the reference to bodies washed with pure water as a reference to baptism, but it's probably more natural to make a connection with the ceremonial washings of the Old Testament.

- ◆ *What does it mean to draw near to God?*
- ◆ *What do these verses teach you about the attitude with which you ought to draw near to God?*

## Hold Fast

Secondly, we ought to "hold fast to the confession of our hope<sup>1</sup> without wavering" and we're encouraged to do that with a reminder that "He who promised is faithful."

- ◆ *What do you think it means to hold fast the confession of your hope?*
- ◆ *In what circumstances might you be tempted to waver in that?*

## Consider One Another

Thirdly, the writer continues with a line of thought that he's emphasised strongly all along. He reminds us about our responsibility to think about one another when we're holding on to our own confession. We're told to consider (to give deep deliberate thought to) how we might provoke or stimulate one another to love and good deeds.

- ◆ *What practical things can you think of to say or do that might provoke a brother or sister in the Lord to "love and good deeds"?*
- ◆ *Why do you think the writer considers this an important response to everything he's been teaching us?*

## Assemble Together

Fourthly, we're not to forsake and neglect getting together, as some do.

- ◆ *What's the purpose of the kind of assembling the writer is encouraging here?*
- ◆ *What might such a get-together be like? What might happen? How often do you think such get-togethers should happen?*

## Encourage One Another

Fifthly, we're to, "encourage one another; and all the more as we see the day drawing near". We've talked before about the nature Christian of encouragement; this is not the first time the word has come up.

- ◆ *What, do you think, is "the day" the writer's referring to here?*
- ◆ *What does it mean to encourage one another?*
- ◆ *In what ways do you encourage other believers?*

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<sup>1</sup> It's the confession of our hope, not faith as the AV wrongly translates the word.