

22. Understanding the Boldness That We Have as Christians

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand the superiority of the blood of Christ to the blood of every other sacrifice that was ever offered. All of the Old Testament sacrifices had to continue to be offered but Christ offered Himself only once because that was all that was needed to pay for our sins and give us eternal life. As a result, we as Christians can have great boldness. That will be the focus of our topic today.

As we come to Hebrews 10:15-18 we read, “But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, ‘This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,’ then He adds, ‘Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.’ Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.” Here, the writer of Hebrews reminds us of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to all Christians whether we are Jews or Gentiles. He again quotes what Jeremiah said about the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-34.

We see that the Holy Spirit witnesses to us. Romans 8:16-17 says, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” Because our sins are no longer remembered, we have the witness of the Holy Spirit in our lives that we are the children of God.

God says that He will put His laws into our hearts and into our minds. Matthew 22:37-40 summarizes the laws of the whole Old Testament when those verses say, “Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” Then, Christ summarized the whole New Testament when He said, in John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Here, we see that, as Christians, we are now under the law of love.

That is why Romans 5:5 promises us, “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” Here, we see that God has placed His Holy Spirit within our hearts as the evidence that we have placed our faith in Christ. As we grow in Christ, that same thinking begins to control our minds. Hebrews 4:14-16 reminds us, “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Here, we see that even when we do sin that we can come with boldness to the Father through Christ because He paid for our sins and the Father has accepted the payment.

We go on to read in Hebrews 10:19-22, “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.” In the Old Testament, the Jewish high priest could only enter the Holy of Holies one day each year and that was with great fear. In contrast, as Christians the Jewish believers could enter into the Holiest at any time by the blood of Christ. The same is true for each of us.

We can come with boldness because Christ has created a new and living way to enter the presence of the Father. In the Old Testament tabernacle, the high priest would pass through the veil as he went into the Holy of Holies. In contrast, Christ provided a new and living way. That new and living way is through His flesh. Christ now sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. Romans 8:34 says, “Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.” We enter the presence of the Father through the blood of Christ and Christ is speaking to the Father for us.

The writer of Hebrews told the Jews that they were now able to draw near to the Father with a true heart in full assurance of faith. In Psalm 83:28, we read, “But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Your works.” The Old Testament high priest entered the presence of God with fear because he knew that if he did something wrong that he would die. In contrast, the Jews were told that they could now personally draw near to God by believing in their hearts because the Father had shown His full acceptance of the payment that Christ made by raising Christ from the dead. Today, each person can come to the Father with that same faith.

The reason such faith is possible is due to the fact that our hearts have been cleansed from an evil conscience. Hebrews 9:14 says, “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” Many of the Jews were depending on their own efforts to please God. However, such works could never produce a clear conscience. In contrast, the blood of Christ takes away our sin at the moment any person, Jew or Gentile, places his or her faith in Christ. At the moment of salvation, we were given a new nature and Titus 3:5 tells us, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” That new nature changes both Jews and Gentiles so that our hearts are transformed and we have a desire to please God.

In 1 Corinthians 13:13, we read, “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” Faith, hope and love are also mentioned in this passage. Verse 22 talks about faith. Then, Hebrews 9:23 goes on to say, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” Two key things that give Christians hope are the resurrection of Christ and the return of Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:19-20 says, “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” Then, Titus 2:13 adds, “Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” We can look forward to the return of Christ with eagerness because Christ is faithful and will keep His promise to come

and take us to be with the Father for all eternity.

As Christians, the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts. Romans 5:5 says, “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” God showed His love to us by sending Christ to pay the penalty for our sins. Christ showed His love by paying the penalty for our sins and then sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Christ also told the disciples in John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” We are told to show that the love of God is in our hearts by our ministry to one another.

That is why Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “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.” The word translated “let us consider” means *to understand or to fix one’s eyes or mind upon*. Here, we see that the writer to the Hebrews urged them to pay close attention to and understand the needs of one another as Christians. We see that, as Christians, we are to stir up love and good works in one another. Love is to be the attitude that controls our heart, and good works are the actions that love produces.

We see that there are two things the Lord uses to stir up this love and good works in our lives. First, we are to get together with other Christians. This is important because our fellowship is to be both with the Lord and with one another. 1 John 1:1-4 says, “That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.” Here, we see that fellowship that includes both the Lord and other Christians will produce a full joy in our lives.

Second, we are to exhort one another. The word translated “exhorting” means *to encourage, to strengthen, to teach or to comfort*. Here, we see what we are to do as Christians when we get together. We are to encourage and strengthen one another and not criticize or judge one another. We are to help each other grow spiritually and to comfort one another. Here, we see that each time that we get together with other Christians that we are to seek ways to build them up in their spiritual life. This is a key that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to understand and apply. We will help them learn best by our own example as we make it our goal to strengthen, encourage, teach and comfort them day by day. Our children will learn what to do as they see what we do as we spend time with them and share with them the things that the Lord is teaching us in our lives. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children how to practice the boldness that we have as Christians by ministering to others.