

Series: Christ's Counter-Cultural Church

Sermon: A Better Temple: The New Testament Church as Eschatological Change Agent

Delivered by: Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor; **Date: August 21, 2016**

Bible text explored: Hebrews 10:19–25

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. [ESV]

Review and application questions

1. What were “the holy places” (v. 19) in the tent/temple of the first covenant? (See Heb. 9:1-5.)
What eternal places did they represent? (Heb. 8:1-2.)
2. So what was “the house of God” (v. 21) under the first covenant? (See Heb. 9:6-9.)
What is “the house of God” now? (Heb. 3:5-6.)
3. Who is the “great priest,” and what is “the new and living way” (v. 20) that allows us to enter the Most Holy Place with confidence? (See Heb. 9:11-12.)
How did the top-to-bottom rending of the curtain between the two holy places confirm the new way?
What, beside his sacrificial death, makes Jesus’ priesthood superior? (See Heb. 7:23-25)
4. How does a true heart (v. 22) cause us to draw near to the house of God?
“If you get Jesus you will get the church,” Pastor Moody insisted. Why, for college students, is chapel attendance an inadequate substitute for a local church connection?
5. How (v. 23) do we hang on to the hope we affirm?
6. How (vv. 24-25) do we motivate and encourage each other to acts of loving service?
Why is regularly meeting together a matter of growing urgency? (See 2 Cor. 6:1-2.)
7. How will embracing the local church transform our thinking . . .
. . . from just me to us?
. . . from just inward to outward?
. . . from just backward to forward?
. . . from just attending to investing (time, talents, treasure)?
8. A single snowflake, Pastor Josh observed, is delicate and fragile. But clustered together, snowflakes can bring a train to a standstill. How could the following excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” help fire us up?
“There was a time when the church was very powerful. It was during that period when the early Christians rejoiced when they were deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed in. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society. . . . They were small in number but big in commitment. They were too God-intoxicated to be ‘astronomically intimidated.’ They brought to an end such ancient evils as infanticide and gladiatorial contest.”