

HOLY BOLDNESS

Hebrews 10:19-25

The title of my message today is Holy Boldness. If there were ever a time in our nation that God's people need holy boldness, it is now. We need holy boldness because we live in a nation that is quickly descending into spiritual dusk and darkness. I talked to a middle aged man this week who has been in church all of his life, and he admitted to me that when it came to the way of salvation he was confused. But if one who has attended church all of his life feels that way, how do those outside of church feel? And it is a sad indictment of our nation's spiritual temperature that from time to time so many people will see a reference to John 3:16 on television and then scramble to the internet to see what it means. But the fact is, according to the Bible way of salvation, the vast majority of Americans are lost and on their way to hell, and only the holy boldness of God's people will ever turn them around.

But God's people need holy boldness for another reason. For if there were ever a time when Christians need to start pushing back it is now. I read this week that the proponents of gay marriage will be pushing for legalization in four more states in the coming year. If they succeed that would bring the total number of states where gay marriage is legal to ten. The pro-abortionists continue on their march of death year-after-year. We have begun just recently to be made more aware of the terrible curse of world-wide sex trafficking. The name of Jesus is being mocked and scorned like never before in the public arena. And nothing less than holy boldness will ever stem the tide of these abominations in the sight of God.

But today I am not speaking to you about holy boldness in dealing with men. I want to speak to you about holy boldness with God. I'm talking about the boldness like Abraham had when he continued to petition God for the sparing of Sodom and Gomorrah, and finally persuaded God to spare those wicked cities for the sake of only ten righteous men. I'm talking about boldness like Moses had when he came into God's presence and begged for God to spare Israel after they had worshipped the golden calf, and God listened to Moses and relented from harming His people (Ex. 32: 10-14). And the fact is, beloved, if you and I do not have such boldness with God we will never have boldness with men. And beloved, God wants us to be bold with Him so that we may have boldness with men and glorify His Name in Heaven and earth. Wouldn't you like to have this holy boldness with God? Well, let's turn to the book of Hebrews and find out how it can be yours today.

(pray & read Heb. 10: 19-25). In the very first verse of our text God tells us His **provision** for holy boldness, and that provision is holy blood, the blood of Jesus. But to understand why this is so we must go back to the OT, or the Old Covenant. Ever since Adam's fall into sin and his banishment from God's presence, mankind has

been searching for a way back to God. Every man is born with that hunger in his heart – how can I come to be at peace with God? And every religion on the planet bears witness of this, in the worship of the sun and moon and birds, bugs, and beasts, or like the Athenians in Acts 17, who in trying to cover all the bases even made an altar to what they called the Unknown God (Acts 17:23). But despite all of mankind’s efforts, the one true, holy God – Jehovah, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – the one true God has decreed that there was only one way to approach Him, and that is with a sacrifice of blood. God said in Lev. 17:11 that it is the blood that makes atonement for your souls.

Now, why would God demand such a thing? Because God in all of His holiness cannot wink at sin – He cannot let sin go unpunished. And Ezekiel 18:4 tells us the punishment: “The soul who sins shall die”. Death, physical and eternal death, is the only just and fair punishment for sin. Now, mankind cannot avoid the curse of physical death. The only two exceptions ever were Enoch and Elijah, and you can be sure that you won’t be the third. We are all going to physically die because of Adam’s sin and our sin. But we all have a much worse death sentence hanging over our heads, and that is spiritual death, separation from God in hell forever and ever. But thanks be unto God, He has provided a way in which we can be forgiven of our sins and avoid spiritual death. And that way is the shedding of blood.

Now, under the Old Covenant, the blood that was shed for the atonement for sins was from an animal sacrifice, from bulls, and goats, calves, and lambs. Every day God’s people would bring an innocent, spotless lamb to be sacrificed in the morning, and then again in the evening (Num. 28:3-4). And then once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest would go into that most sacred part of the tabernacle, the Holy of Holies, to offer another spotless blood sacrifice that made further covering for the sins of the entire past year. But there were three great flaws in the OT sacrificial system. It provided only **limited access** to God, offering only **limited peace** for a **limited time**.

You see, the only person who could go into the presence of God, the Holy of Holies, was the high priest, and he could do it only once a year. So God was always behind a great barrier, the veil of the temple, inaccessible to the common man. And Heb. 9:9 says that sacrifices of the OT “cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience” (NASB). All the animal sacrifices could do was provide a covering for sin; it could not provide a cleansing for sin. Though his punishment was removed, the worshiper still bore the guilt of his sin. And finally, the animal sacrifices were only temporary. It was a laborious, tiresome practice, but it had to be done, twice a day, every day bringing a sacrifice, and then once a year every year, bringing the special sacrifice on the Day of Atonement. There was no end to it. The only way it could ever end was if something would come to replace it that was better.

And beloved, that is exactly what God did. He brought a better covenant, a New Covenant, replacing the Old. Turn to Jer. 31:31-34 (read). God says that one

day He will make a new covenant with His people Israel. He will be their God, they will be His people, and all Israel will know Him, from the least unto the greatest. And the same covenant is repeated in Heb. 8 where we see that it is not only for Israel, but for the church. But what is the basis for the new, better covenant? Look at Heb. 7:22, 12:24 (read). If you want to know all of the requirements of the Old Covenant, all of the offerings, all of the washings, all of the foods and drinks, all of the garments that they could or could not wear, then read the book of Leviticus. But the requirements of the New Covenant can be summed up in only two words – “Jesus’ blood”. “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness”.

Beloved, I want to talk with you about the blood of Jesus for a few moments. The blood of Jesus is the most precious commodity in the world! Peter calls it precious blood (1 Peter 1:19). What makes it so precious? It is precious because of its purity. You have heard of people taking out insurance policies on certain parts of their body. For instance, a world renowned food critic named Egon Ronay had his taste buds insured for \$400,000. But that’s nothing to Bruce Springsteen’s voice. It is worth 6 million to him. But there is a British comedian named Ken Dodd who insured his buck teeth for 7.4 million dollars! So what value would you dare to put on the blood of Jesus? But before you take a stab at it, let me tell you, it is the blood of God (Acts 20:28). It is holy, pure, and perfect blood. And it is precious because of its purity.

And it is precious because of its power. How powerful is God’s blood? Well, let’s go back and compare it with the blood of the Old Covenant and see. Do you remember that we said that the Old Covenant was flawed because it provided **very limited access** to God? Only one person could actually enter God’s presence, and that was the high priest. But not so with the blood of the New Covenant! What happened the moment Jesus breathed His last breath on the cross? Matthew writes that the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, signifying to all men, “There’s no more barrier between you and God! Come, whoever you are! Come boldly into God’s presence through Jesus’ blood!” John writes about Jesus in 1 John 2:2, “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world”. Can you imagine such power? The blood that was poured out on the cross is sufficient to wash away the sin of every person who has ever lived or will ever live. So if you feel that you are estranged from God today, cut off from Him by your sin, friend, I tell you that the veil is torn asunder!! Ripped apart by the floodtide of Jesus’ blood, and if you will confess and forsake your sins there is nothing standing in your way from coming to Him.

But the OC was also flawed because of its **limited peace**. The blood of the OC could cover from sin, but it could not cleanse from sin. The worshippers were still guilty, and they knew it. OH, but not so with the blood of Jesus! It frees us not only from the punishment of sin, but from the guilt of sin. God says in Romans 8:1, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not

after the flesh, but after the Spirit". And in 1 John 1:7 God says, "If we walk in the light, as He himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin". Underline that word "all". Friend, it doesn't matter how black your sin is to you. Listen to the word of Isaiah, "Come now, let us reason together", says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Is. 1:18). If you think that your sins are ugly, and they are, then look at the cross!! Look at the ugliness of the bruised and battered body of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. See His blood flowing out of His hands and feet. Remember, it is God's blood you see. And know that God's blood is sufficient to wash away your every sin. "There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains!"

There was one more flaw of the blood of the OC. It offered limited access, for limited peace, for **limited time**. Those animal sacrifices were good for a few hours! Twice a day someone from Israel had to come with a sacrifice. And once a year they had to redo the special sacrifice in the Holy of Holies. But not so with the blood of the New Covenant. Not so with Jesus' blood. Look at Heb. 10:11-14 (read). Talking about eternal security! The blood of Jesus cleanses forever those who are washed in it. And to hammer home this truth the writer of Hebrews quotes the NC again: (Heb. 10:16-18) And verse 18 adds (quote). Jesus will never have to die again, because the first time He died sin's debt was paid in full.

Well, that is just a very brief picture of the all-precious, all sufficient, ever flowing, blood of Jesus. But now I want you to look quickly at three responses that you and I should have to this precious blood.

Let us **draw near**. Come boldly!!

Let us **hold fast**.

Let us **come together**.