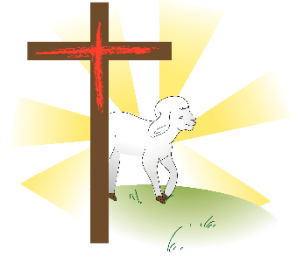


THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



11. A Call to Draw Near

(Leader's Notes)

Introduction

The way we live is a reflection of what we believe. Our beliefs are formed by what our parents, teachers, friends and society teach us. When we come to know Christ we need to learn new beliefs. In fact our minds need to be totally renewed. That is why it is so important to learn the truths in God's Word, so our beliefs will be changed and it will affect the way we live.

1. An Exhortation Hebrews 10:19-25

- ❖ The author summarizes the truths he has taught so far in verses 19 to 21. What are these truths?
(Truths about the tabernacle, the blood of Jesus, the sacrifice of Jesus, the New Covenant and the priesthood of Jesus.)
- ❖ Based on these truths we are given five exhortations, each beginning with the words, 'let us'. What are they? See v22-25
(Let us draw near to God, let us hold to the hope, let us spur one another on, let us not give up meeting, let us encourage one another.)
- ❖ The first exhortation is 'let us draw near to God'. How do the truths we have learnt in the previous chapters help us draw near?
(When we understand what Jesus has done as our High Priest, we will have confidence to draw near to God and know that we will be accepted.)
- ❖ What conditions must we meet if we are going to draw near? V22
 - *A sincere heart i.e. not half hearted or a divided heart*
 - *Full assurance of faith i.e. fully trusting him*
 - *Hearts sprinkled clean i.e. we must have confessed our sin*
 - *Bodies washed i.e. cleansed inwardly)*

The first two exhortations are about our relationship with God. Then the following three are about our relationships with other believers. God wants to use us to encourage others to draw near to him and not to give up in our Christian life.

Share

In what ways can we 'spur one another on' and 'encourage one another'?

2. A Warning Hebrews 10:26-31

- ❖ What serious warning is given to us in v26? Also see Numbers 15:30-31
(The warning is given not to deliberately keep on sinning.)

- ❖ Why is it more serious for a person under the New Covenant (now) to deliberately keep on sinning, than it was under the Old Covenant? V26, 29
(Jesus' sacrifice was the greatest possible, so if this is rejected, there is no other. If a person keeps on sinning it is like he is trampling the Son of God underfoot. It also treats the blood of Jesus as unholy and insults the Holy Spirit.)
- ❖ What are the consequences of deliberately sinning? V27, 30, 31
(The consequence is God's judgement, which is a consuming fire. We are told that he will repay us, which is something dreadful.)

Discuss

Christians today often take these warnings lightly, saying, 'God is love and he would never do such a thing'. Why is this thinking wrong? How can we cultivate a fear of God in our lives?

3. A Reminder Hebrews 10:32-39

- ❖ What were these Hebrew Christians like when they were first saved? V32-34
(They stood firm in the face of suffering, insult and persecution. They stood by others who were mistreated and in prison. They were joyful even when their property was taken.)
- ❖ How does the author encourage these believers and all of us to persevere? V35-39
(Firstly he reminds us of the reward we will receive:
 - *We will be richly rewarded v35*
 - *We will receive what is promised v36*
 - *We will be blessed v39**Secondly he quotes from Habakkuk 2:3-4 showing that God would not be pleased if we shrink back.)*

Reality Check

What were you like when you first came to know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour? Is there anything you need to remember and do again? Check your own heart.

Conclusion

One of the great truths in the Book of Hebrews is that we can now come freely to the Throne of Grace because of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus. What amazing love sent Jesus to the cross! Yet there are many Christians today who treat the sacrifice of Jesus lightly and think that a God of love would not punish those who disobey him. Yet we can see in this chapter that God is holy and just, and sin must be dealt with. Let's take seriously the warnings given in this book, and daily take heed to the exhortation to 'draw near'. God promises that it is worthwhile!