

Sermon Notes

There Is No Reason to Turn Back! *An Exposition of the Book of Hebrews*

#15 – “Bold, I Approach the Eternal Throne” – Hebrews 4:14-16

I. Introduction

A. Illustration of the Christian life

1. The sailing ship, the rudder, and strong wind.
2. Sober words from the writer, but with compassion
 - a. “My word of exhortation,” Heb. 13:22

B. The Text: Hebrews 4:14-16

II. Exposition

A. Hebrews 4:14

1. “A great high priest”
 - a. The only one to enter the Holy of Holies.
 - b. Day of Atonement
Propitiation –
Expiation –
2. Another use of Old Testament imagery.
 - a. Note many usages of Aaron’s ministry compared to Christ’s. (Heb. 2:17; 4:14, 51; 7:26, 28; 8:13; 9:11-12)
3. “Passed through the heavens”
 - a. Aaron ministered in the type while Jesus ministered in the real thing. – Heb. 9:12
4. “Let us hold fast our confession”
 - a. Same term used in 3:1
 - b. John 14:6
 - c. Creeds are helpful
 1. “Credo” – “I Believe”
 - d. J.C. Ryle

B. Hebrews 4:15

1. The call to perseverance.
 - a. Philip Hughes

2. Jesus is acquainted with our trials.

- a. Sin patterns, too.

C. Hebrews 4:16

1. “Draw near” or “Let us keep coming”
2. Thomas Watson
3. We are to draw near with confidence.
 - a. The law will always be our default. Remember your position in Christ is grounded on the work of Christ and **not** your own work.

III. Points for Reflection

A. We must balance our approach to God between fear and confidence.

1. Fear is often a problem area Christians need to overcome in prayer.
2. Key texts: Heb. 4:1; 4:13
 - a. The concern is to “take heed”.
3. God always views us through the covering of Christ, 4:16.
4. This is not a cause for easy believism.

B. Christ sympathizes with our situation.

1. Hebrews 4:15
2. Not aloof from our trials.
3. Most ancient rulers were unapproachable; not so with Christ.

C. Jesus knows our hardships with sin or the trials of life.

1. There is assurance – John 14:1-3, 18-19

D. There is confidence in prayer because of grace.

1. Hebrews 4:16
2. Four aspects of prayer – Spurgeon
 - a. Lowly reverence
 - b. Great joy
 - c. Enlarged expectations
 - d. With confidence.
3. In the words of the great hymn, *And Can It Be*, “Bold, I approach the eternal throne.”