

Celebrating our Access into God's Presence

Leviticus 16, Hebrews 9:1-15, 10:19-25

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I. Why do we have access to God?

- A. Because at the moment of Jesus' death, the curtain in the temple was torn in two.
(Mark 15:37-39)

- B. Because Jesus became our High Priest once and for all. (Hebrews 9:1-15)

- C. Because by the blood of Jesus, a new and living way was opened for us to draw near to God.
(Hebrews 10:19-25)

II. As we partake of communion this morning, we are celebrating:

- A. Our access to God.

- B. Our forgiveness of sins.

***For further study, pickup the handout "Tabernacle Day" by
Chris Hiestand at the Welcome Center.**

Hebrews 9:6-15 (The Message)

⁶⁻¹⁰ After this was set up, the priests went about their duties in the large tent. Only the high priest entered the smaller, inside tent, and then only once a year, offering a blood sacrifice for his own sins and the people's accumulated sins. This was the Holy Spirit's way of showing with a visible parable that as long as the large tent stands, people can't just walk in on God. Under this system, the gifts and sacrifices can't really get to the heart of the matter, can't assuage the conscience of the people, but are limited to matters of ritual and behavior. It's essentially a temporary arrangement until a complete overhaul could be made.

Pointing to the Realities of Heaven

¹¹⁻¹⁵ But when the Messiah arrived, high priest of the superior things of this new covenant, he bypassed the old tent and its trappings in this created world and went straight into heaven's "tent"—the true Holy Place—once and for all. He also bypassed the sacrifices consisting of goat and calf blood, instead using his own blood as the price to set us free once and for all. If that animal blood and the other rituals of purification were effective in cleaning up certain matters of our religion and behavior, think how much more the blood of Christ cleans up our whole lives, inside and out. Through the Spirit, Christ offered himself as an unblemished sacrifice, freeing us from all those dead-end efforts to make ourselves respectable, so that we can live all out for God.

Hebrews 10:19-25 (The Message)

Don't Throw It All Away

¹⁹⁻²¹ So, friends, we can now—without hesitation—walk right up to God, into "the Holy Place." Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The "curtain" into God's presence is his body.

²²⁻²⁵ So let's do it—full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.