

DRAWING NEAR
(HEBREWS 4:14-16)
Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Sermon Title: “*Drawing Near*” –Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Leviticus 8:1-13, 9:1-8, Ephesians 1:15-23

Scripture Text: Matthew Hebrews 4:14-16

Theme of Sermon:

God has made it possible through the priesthood of Jesus for sinners to draw near to Him, and He is a mediator who can sympathize with our difficulties, and provide mercy and grace to us.

Scripture Lesson

How is a person smitten with love for Christ, and thus will desire to draw near to Him?

(According to John Owen, *Works, Vol. 2*, pg. 139): “[When] the glory of His Deity, the excellency of His Person, His all-conquering desirableness, ineffable love, wonderful undertaking, unspeakable condescension, effectual mediation, complete righteousness [of Jesus Christ] lie in their eyes, ravish their hearts, fill their affections, and possess their souls.”

^{ESV} **Hebrews 10:19-23:** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let 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.²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

^{ESV} **James 4:8a** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

^{ESV} **Hebrews 7:25** Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

^{ESV} **Leviticus 9:7** Then Moses said to Aaron, "Draw near to the altar and offer your sin offering and your burnt offering and make atonement for yourself and for the people, and bring the offering of the people and make atonement for them, as the LORD has commanded."

^{ESV} **Isaiah 29:13-14:** And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,¹⁴ therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden."

“Christ’s High Priestly ministry has achieved for believers what Israel never enjoyed, namely, immediate access to God and freedom to draw near to Him continually” (O. Brien, Comm. on Hebrews).

“Christ’s earthly life gives Him inner understanding of human experience, and thus makes Him ready and able to give active help” (Ellingworth, NIGTC).

^{ESV} **Psalm 73:25-28:** Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

Outline

1) Who Can Draw Near?

Sinners through the Lord Jesus Christ

2) To Whom Do We Draw Near?

The Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of Sinners, the Son of God who has passed through the heavens

3) Why Must We Draw Near?

- a. Throne of grace not a throne of judgment
- b. We need mercy
- c. We need grace for today and for the future

Hymns:

1. 305 - Arise, My Soul, Arise

2. 306 - Jesus, My Great High Priest

3. 520 - Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Love in Christ,

Pastor Biggs