

The Confession of Our Hope

16 February 2020

Hebrews 10:19-25

Pastor Jason Mather

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: How do you best receive the care of others?

Worship: Hebrews 10:19-25

(Read aloud three times, spending time in reflection after each, listening for what God's invitation to you might be.)

19 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.
24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,
25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Bible Passage & Guiding Question *(The following question is intended to help frame your discussion. Keep it in mind as you review the sermon summary together.)*

Bible Passage: Hebrews 10:19-25

Guiding Question: What is the hope that we must hold fast to according to these verses?

Sermon Summary

Gospel community is a place where people experience Jesus together – in good times as well as through times of pain, hardship and sorrow. We are therefore a people of hope. Hope which is as vital to us as the air we breathe.

The Importance of Our Hope – Hope isn't merely what gets us out of bed each morning; it's what makes life worth living. It directs and moves us forward and is a powerful medicine when we are in the depths of despair. But ungrounded hope will leave us unsatisfied. Our hope is not in hope itself; it rests in the living God. We are called to hold fast to Him, "for He who promised is faithful" (v23). It is this hope which unites us as Christians and as a church. This is why hope is so vital. A life of following Jesus is tough. Regardless of our best efforts, each of us will struggle with following Christ and with our faith at various times in our lives. It's why we are called – as Charles Spurgeon said – to not look to our hope, but to Jesus: the source of our hope.

The Source of Our Hope – Jesus guarantees we are not alone. He promises that God has not *and will not* abandon us in the storms of life. In Jesus, we see that our Father deeply yearns for us to be in His presence. But our God is Holy, and we are not. Our relationship is therefore fractured. We cannot simply enter His presence or expect to be warmly embraced out of a sense of entitlement. But because of Jesus – Who has already acted, lived and died on our behalf – we are invited into God's presence (v19-22). He guarantees and secures our relationship with our Father in Heaven.

The Challenge of Our Hope – Our hope is that we are not alone – that God is with us. But that’s also part of the challenge, because we are now part of God’s family. We are connected, and we are therefore obligated to one another. And so “let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another” (v24-25). This is a call to *lovingly* provoke one another to grow deeper in our understanding and service of our Lord. This isn’t wielding truth from a position of superiority, because at the same time, we are called to engage with our brothers and sisters with loving encouragement. Each of us is called to be like Jesus... but this comes naturally to none of us. This is why we need the love, support, encouragement and challenge that only a family can provide.

Discussion Questions *(It’s better to wrestle deeply with a few good questions than to gloss over many.)*

- Hebrews was written to struggling Christians in need of hope. What is the hope the author of Hebrews offers? vs. 10:23
 - How can we be confident that we have access to God? vs. 19-21
 - How is Jesus the “great priest over the house of God”?
 - How does this relate to holding fast to our hope?
 - When are you most tempted not to hold onto your “confession of hope” and why?
 - We are exhorted to “consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds”. How do we do this?
 - Why ought we do this? How often should we do this?
 - “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” includes church and group attendance. How does being together help us not lose hope when things get difficult?
 - Do you feel obligated to one another in our church family? If so, in what way?
 - Do you have an example of this other than the Orange Theory illustration?
 - What encourages you most from this sermon and passage?
-

What Can We Be Praying For?

Pray for the health, peace and purity of the church this week. If time permits or if you would like to set aside the discussion guide for a longer prayer time for the church, please see [PCC Community Group Prayer Guide](#).

Engage & Experience

When was the last time you went up to someone and encouraged them, or cared for them, or gave them a shoulder to cry on, or prayed for them, or thanked them for something? Name some specific ways we can encourage one another to love and good deeds.