

HEBREWS 7
NOVEMBER 17, 2024
PASTOR DALE PISCURA

JESUS IS
BETTER
A Study in Hebrews

SERMON NOTES & QUOTES

Lyrics of “Before the Throne of God Above” by Charitie Lees Smith

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless Righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God
One with Himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God
With Christ my Savior and my God
With Christ my Savior and my God

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“The phrase “draw near to God,” or “drawing near to God,” is used on multiple occasions throughout the book of Hebrews. You find that it is clearly used for trusting in Christ for salvation, receiving the forgiveness of our sins, continuing to trust in Christ’s priesthood, persevering in faith despite difficulties, boldly coming to God in time of need, asking God for his help, being faithful to God, and keeping on doing the will of God.” - Alistair Begg

“Our Lord would have all His people rich in high and happy thoughts concerning His blessed person. Jesus is not content that His brethren should think poorly of Him; it is His pleasure that His people should be delighted with His beauty. We are not to regard Him as a bare necessity, like bread and water, but as a luxurious delicacy, as a rare and ravishing delight. To this end He has revealed Himself as the “pearl of great price” in its peerless beauty, as the “bundle of myrrh”¹ in its refreshing fragrance, as the “rose of Sharon” in its lasting perfume, as the “lily” in its spotless purity. As a help to high thoughts of Christ, remember the estimation that Christ has beyond the skies, where things are measured by the right standard. Think how God esteems the Only Begotten, His unspeakable gift to us.

Consider what the angels think of Him, as they count it their highest honor to veil their faces at His feet. Consider what the blood-washed think of Him, as day without night they sing His well-deserved praises. High thoughts of Christ will enable us to act consistently in our relationship with Him. The more loftily we see Christ enthroned, and the more lowly we are when bowing before the foot of the throne, the more truly shall we be prepared to act our part toward Him. Our Lord Jesus desires us to think well of Him, that we may submit cheerfully to His authority. High thoughts of Him increase our love. Love and esteem go together. Therefore, believer, think much of your Master's excellencies. Study Him in His pre-incarnate glory, before He took upon Himself your nature! Think of the mighty love that drew Him from His throne to die upon the cross! Admire Him as He conquers all the powers of hell! See Him risen, crowned, glorified! Bow before Him as the Wonderful, the Counselor, the Mighty God, for only in this way will your love for Him be what it should.”

- Charles Spurgeon

PRAYER TARGETS

1. Praise For God's Glory

Let us give thanks and praise to God, acknowledging His glory revealed in all creation. Psalm 104 reminds us of His hand at work in our world, so let's lift up our hearts in gratitude and praise for His majesty and power.

2. Adoration For Christ's Glory

Pray that we, as a church family, would grow in our adoration of God's glory, fully revealed through Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:15-20 speaks of Christ as the image of the invisible God, the One through whom all things were created. May our hearts be filled with awe and reverence for Him.

3. Draw Near To God

Ask that we would be faithful in drawing near to God, confidently coming before His throne through the finished work of Jesus. Hebrews 10:19-23 invites us to approach Him with a sincere heart, fully assured of His presence. Let us make this a daily practice, trusting in the access we have been given.

4. Growing In Generosity

Pray that God would increase our generosity as a reflection of His own character. Romans 12:8 and 2 Corinthians 9:1 encourage us to give freely and joyfully. May our generosity be an expression of God's love, reaching out to those around us in meaningful ways.

NOVEMBER MEMORY VERSE

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 4:16