

The PowerPoint can be seen on the Facebook video.

“The Outcomes of our Confidence” (Hebrews 10:19–25)(1.12.20)

Hebrews 10:19–25 (NIV84) (Let’s have them stand.)

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The word of God for the people of God.

LET US PRAY.

Title: The Outcomes of our Confidence

ICEBREAKER: Show t-shirt: careful or you will end up in my sermon.

INTRODUCTION:

Confidence is important to success. One of the reasons to get school children involved in activities is to give them a taste of confidence. Whether it is sports, music, art, dance, chess, robotics, or anything else, when the children learn, create, and accomplish, they gain a confidence that leads to ever increasing levels of success. Advocates for such programs point out that there is a carryover that leads to improved classroom performance.

Over the years, I have done a lot of coaching in a variety of activities. This week, the Upward Basketball program started and I am helping to coach two teams; one for each of the younger grandsons. Ben, who is in eighth grade is in his last year in Upward, but he also plays for The Pilgrim Academy. He has some talent, which I want him to grow into. I am constantly telling him, “Ben believe.”

Mental fortitude, of which confidence is a major ingredient, increases the likelihood of success. Now, Ben has been literally immersed in the Christian faith. When I say, “Ben believe,” he knows that not only am I calling on him to have confidence, I am reminding him that there are others that believe in him. I believe in and support him. His family believes in and supports him. And, he is part of something bigger than himself.

Extracurricular activities that lead to improved scholastic performance are great. Developing our gifts and talents is good. Building up our confidence is a blessing. But earthly success, cannot hold a candle to eternal success. And the beautiful thing in this scripture is that our confidence is not based on ourselves. Our confidence is based on what Jesus has done on our behalf.

BODY:

This depiction of Jesus’ ascension is intended to represent so much.

- He finished his earthly work.
- He is going to be our Advocate.
- In like manner, he will come again. (Acts 1)
- It connects the heavenly and the earthly realm. The heavenly and earthly assemblies.
- Hebrews: The Superiority of Christ in all things

Those who obey Christ's commandments abide in Him, and He in them. And this is how I know that He abides in me: by the Spirit whom He has given me. (1 John 3:24)

1 John 5:20 (NIV84) We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

A.W. Tozer: "The Spirit of God has impelled me to preach and write much about the believer's conscious union with Christ—a union that must be felt and experienced. I will never be through talking about the union of the soul with the Savior, the conscious union of the believer's heart with Jesus.

Remember, I am not talking about a "theological union" only. I am speaking also of a conscious union, a union that is felt and experienced.

I am aware also that from God's perspective there are qualities in the Divine Being that can only be known by the heart; never by the intellect!"

James 4:8 (NIV84) Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Luke 16:13 (NIV84) "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

1 John 2:15 (NIV84) Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

A sincere heart puts nothing before God.

The scene from Matrix: Jump Program. Morpheus says, "You have to let it all go Neo; fear, doubt, just believe. Free your mind."

Full. Full. Full.

1 John 1:9 (NIV84) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

We are a forgiven people, but always remember that is because of our trust in Christ's sacrifice for us. The Temple priest would sprinkle blood in the sanctuary and even on the veil. This was a foreshadowing of the work of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace:

nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my righteousness:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Ephesians 5:25–27 (NIV84)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

This applies to individuals.

This applies to the church, the assembly of the called. It is amazing to me that I have been criticized for focusing too much on the Bible.

Have you heard the saying, “If Satan can’t make you bad, he will make you busy?”

What things are trying to loosen your grasp upon the Lord?

Being in fellowship with other believers can help us to hold unswervingly.

Our hope connects us in this life to our next life, reaching to the high heavens.

Old time preacher W. Pulsford says we need, “An assured faith in the fact that we have the new and living way of access to God cannot fail to beget a steadfast hope. Faith not only warrants but demands hope, is in fact the substance of our hope. And He who is its Author has made abundant provision for its growth and expansion in the great exceeding precious promises He has given us, through which we “become partakers of the Divine nature,” and “receive the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls.”

The Good Shepherd is our Lord Jesus. Let us turn to page 873 in our hymnals and read Psalm 23 together.

Preacher and Teacher Warren Wiersbe said, “The three great Christian virtues are evidenced here: faith (Heb. 10:22), hope (Heb. 10:23), and love (Heb. 10:24). They are the fruit of our fellowship with God in His heavenly sanctuary.”

Spur is a rather pointed word.

Spurs are used to guide and communicate direction, speed, and other commands of the one in authority.

Don’t we all need a little spurring sometimes?

– Love (agape)

– Good deeds

I received a text this week: “You have a wonderful flock!!” This person was grateful for how members of the congregation had been helping them. How you were checking in with them. And, they went on to ask for more

prayer.

How can you encourage someone you don't know? Followers of Jesus are drawn together. We are the Body of Christ of which Jesus is the Head. All parts of the body are necessary. You are necessary to the other parts. Sometimes you may be the one struggling. Another time you will be the one helping. We are all on a journey and journeying together helps ensure we will reach our goal.

CONCLUSION:

From Doctor Horatius Bonar's Hymns of Faith and Hope:

The Work that Saves

Done is the work that saves!

Once and for ever done.

Finished the righteousness

That clothes the unrighteous one.

The love that blesses us below

Is flowing freely to us now.

The sacrifice is o'er,

The veil is rent in twain,

The mercy-seat is red

With blood of victim slain;

Why stand we then without, in fear?

The blood divine invites us near.

The gate is open wide,

The new and living way

Is clear and free and bright,

With love and peace and day;

Into the holiest now we come,

Our present and our endless home.

Upon the mercy-seat

The High Priest sits within;

The blood is in his hand

Which makes and keeps us clean.

With boldness let us now draw near,

That blood has banished every fear.

Then to the Lamb once slain

Be glory, praise, and power,

Who died and lives again,

Who liveth evermore;

Who loved and washed us in his blood,
Who made us kings and priests to God.

Eugene Peterson paraphrased Hebrews 10:19–25 in *The Message* like this:

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.

Amen and amen. Let us pray.