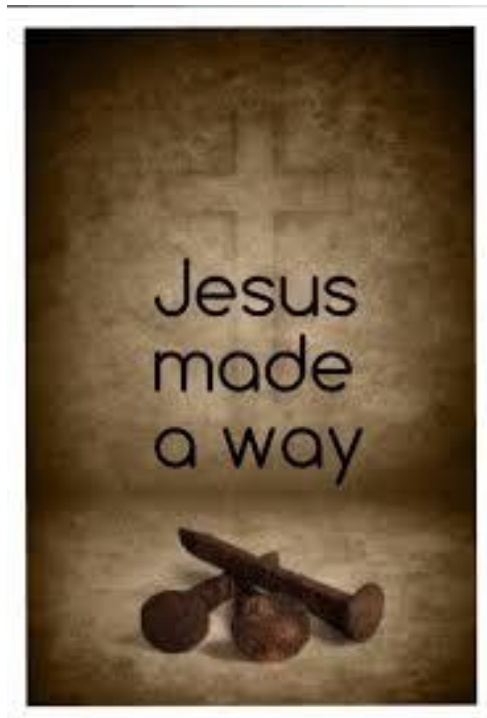


Jesus Made the Way

Hebrews 4.16

September 1, 2019



Introduction

- The argument for the necessity of Jesus builds from the supremacy of Christ and that placing hope in angels, Moses, the Law, or Joshua is hope misplaced.
- It's all about Jesus. Jesus is greater than anything or
- Jesus is eminently qualified to bring us into the presence of God as expressed in verse 16

Main Points: Because of Jesus...

1. We can approach the throne
 - Approach = *proserchomai* -- to approach, i.e. (literally) come near, visit, or (figuratively) worship, assent to:—(as soon as he) come (unto), come thereunto, consent, draw near, go (near, to, unto).
 - Jesus is the way to the Father; Ephesians 3.12
 - To find the throne you have to get directions from the Cross.

2. We approach the throne with confidence

- Confidence = Parresia -- all out-spokenness, i.e. frankness, bluntness, publicity; by implication, assurance:—bold
- Acts 4.13; 2Corinthians 3.12; John 16.25;
- Don't be afraid to be open, honest, and direct with God; He can handle it.

3. We will receive mercy there

- This is a reference to the mercy seat. The mercy seat has been replaced as the symbol and place of God's presence and atonement. Christ's cross and resurrection showed the perfect presence and accomplished atonement once for all (Heb. 9).¹
- 1Kings 20.30-31
- A third feature is the combination of *mercy* and *grace* as special favours dispensed from the throne. Already our high priest has been described as merciful (cf. 2:17). This is a prominent New Testament theme and is especially characteristic of the Pauline epistles.²

4. We will find grace in our time of need

- *for seasonable help, or help in good time; before it is too late; while there is still time to seek God's rest. Others, however, explain, when it is needed; or, before temptation leads to sin.*³
- 2Corinthians 12.9
- It's never too late to access God's grace and God's grace is always sufficient for our need

Conclusion

- In the face of growing apostasy, the writer of Hebrews tries to convince his hearers to keep the faith because Jesus is greater than anything or anyone in all creation
- Because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, we can boldly approach the throne of God, the mercy seat, and receive mercy and grace immediately and abundantly for truly his grace is sufficient for all we need.

Amen.

¹ Brand, C., Draper, C., England, A., Bond, S., Clendenen, E. R., & Butler, T. C. (Eds.). (2003). Mercy Seat. In *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (pp. 1107–1108). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

² Guthrie, D. (1983). Hebrews: An Introduction and Commentary (Vol. 15, p. 127). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

³ Vincent, M. R. (1887). Word studies in the New Testament (Vol. 4, p. 431). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.