

Sermon ~ Sunday, May 1, 2022, by Pastor, Dwight Benoit

Text: Hebrews 10: 19-25

Title: "GOD'S House vs. Houses"

House, n., bespeaks *human* habitations; *human* meeting places; dwellings where some say, I live or I stay; my shelter, my space...

<u>GOD'S House</u>	vs.	<u>Houses</u>
*Heaven, the abode of GOD		* <u>Earth</u> , it's your world
*House of Prayer		*Dwellings of (little & Big) Problems
*House where GOD speaks, delightfully manages		*Rent to own, own and overtaxed, can't fix one part before another break down.
*Everybody has their Divine <i>Purpose</i> : GOD , Man, Woman, Children -- Peace		*Whatever; What you want then? meet me halfway – Confusion
*Communion		*Commerce
* GOD'S gives HIS Blessings		*I come to get; Take that or less

"GOD'S House vs. Houses"

Our text this morning is a "wake-up call," says verse 23a of Hebrews 10 (KJV), to "professors of our faith", that is, (NLT) "the faith we say we have." This text, it's a reminder for those who have been "*saved* by **GRACE** through *faith* in **The LORD JESUS CHRIST**, to act like it! Ultimately, our text, is a *warning* and *exhortation*, to *stop playing games* with **GOD** and *commit* [devote, dedicate, give all] ourselves to **The LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

I want spend much time with "*exposition*," explaining comprehensively, this Book of Hebrews. Simply it declares, **JESUS is Better**, Better than *your* best! I want waste much time on "*illustrations*," but point out key words, like '*shadow*' in v. 1, "of things to come, and not reality, as compared to "But this **MAN (JESUS)** in v. 12; words like '*daily*' in v. 11, "And every priest standeth *daily* ministering and offering..." While v. 12 says, "But this **MAN (JESUS)** after **HE** had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of **GOD**... v. 13, till **HIS** enemies be made **HIS** footstool."

Focus with me, this message is about "application," implementation, practice, appliance, *walking the walk* not talking and talking till you *believe* your lie. Is **CHRIST** really in *your Christianity*? Are we cemented in our *faith* in **HIM**, or are you *faking*, *fooling* only yourselves?

[The **CHRISTIANS** in Hebrews were thinking about "*going back*," to a covenant that had been taken away; to sacrifices that never satisfied] they are being encouraged to sift through this new Day: remember our religious views, our political views, our family, our friends, our social support, our networking systems.] Like Sis. Louise Hamilton said, "That sounds cliches!"

Do not go back to that old house, stay with **GOD'S House**, *test your faith*, hold onto **The Truth** with both hands; don't forget about your *priviledged Gifts*... What *Gifts*???

1. Direct Access. (Hebrews 10: 19)

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s **Most Holy Place** because of **The Blood of JESUS.**”

[The Most Holy Place in the Temple was sealed from *view* by a curtain. Only the High Priest could enter this Holy room, and he did so only *once* a year on the Day of Atonement, when he offered the animal sacrifices for the nation’s sins. Mind you, animal sacrifices were only temporary and could not accomplish anything permanent. They could never completely deal with human guilt, in the heart. The people lacked the inward witness of full and final forgiveness. Like many now, they don’t have “remission of sin” but only “reminder of sin.” Last Sunday did not help... it only ‘covered’ sin, but they were not ‘cleansed.’

BUT **by The Blood of JESUS** (v. 12) we have “*access*” into **GOD’S Presence**, *confidently, boldly* and with *certainty*. [Problem: uncertified Psychiatrist. You only deal with symptoms. Psychiatrist by listening to talk and remove the “feeling” of guilt and take your money. But they can not remove the “guilt.” Tell you on your way out, ‘see the secretary for your next appointment.’]

OH, The BLOOD!!!

“So let us come boldly to **The Throne** of our *gracious* **GOD**. There we will receive **HIS mercy**, and we will find **GRACE** to help us when we need it.” (Hebrews 4: 16 NLT)

How is this possible? Note verse 20, “By the new and living way that **HE** opened for us through the curtain, that is, through **HIS** flesh.” [The new and living way is wrapped up in **JESUS’** life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension and coming again. It’s new because before **The Cross of Calvary**, it did not happen. Prior to *Calvary*, the ancients looked forward to it, but did not possess the direct *access* we have. They *trust* all the benefits of *prayer* but were still limited to the experience. [The Greek word for “new” means “slaughtered in advance” or “fleshly slaughtered.” The Priest of old had to “slaughter sacrifice after sacrifice” but in **JESUS** our **Slaughtered SAVIOR**, **HE** conquered *death* and the *grave*, and is **ALIVE** today!

Also, this “new and living way” it will never get old! **JESUS** has opened the way for us “through the curtain, that is, through **HIS** flesh.”

On *Calvary*, when **JESUS** hung, bleed and died...

“Behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.” (Matthew 27: 51)

Now we have “*access*” to **GOD** by entering through another veil. No one will enter **HIS Presence** without *first* passing through the curtain of **CHRIST’S** sacrifice on **The Cross**.

Second Gift, Divine Advocacy. (Hebrew 10: 21)

“...since we have a **Great High Priest**...” **JESUS** is more than a *great high priest*;

HE is The Greatest and The Highest Priest! **HE** is so Great, **HE** only needed to make one sacrifice for sin. (**HE** died, *once* and for all!) and,

“...**HE’S** over **The House of GOD.**” **GOD’S House** is composed of **The Church**.

“Moses was certainly faithful in **GOD’S house**, but only as a *servant*. His work was an illustration of the truths **GOD** would reveal later. But **CHRIST, The FAITHful SON**, was in charge of the entire household. And we are **GOD’S** household, if we keep up our courage and remain confident in our hope in **CHRIST.**” (Hebrews 3: 5, 6 NLT)

As **The Church**, we have a **Divine Advocate WHO** is *seated* at **The Right Hand of The Throne of Majesty**, ministering on our behalf (Hebrews 8).

Good morning, **Church**, *sinful* man, and **Holy GOD** can come together because of **JESUS**.

Apart from **HIM**, we are all *condemned* men and woman. Our *sin separates* us from **GOD** and *testifies* against us. We hated **GOD** and loved ourselves, we worship pleasures more than **GOD**. *By our own merits*, none of us have the right to knock on **GOD'S** door.

JESUS, The SON of GOD, born of a virgin, entered this *sinful* world as the only man without *sin*. **HE** was born under the Law and *obeyed GOD'S Law* perfectly. **HE** lived a *sinless* life of flawless *obedience*. **HE** was obedient unto death, even death on a **Cross**. Died a criminal's death, suffered the fulness of **GOD'S wrath** against *sinners*. **HE** took the punishment lawbreakers deserved to justify *sinners* before a **Holy GOD**. Anyone who *trust* in **HIM** and **HIS** sacrifice for the *forgiveness* of their *sins* will be *saved*. This is '*good news*' for great *sinners* because **GOD** has provided a **Greater SAVIOR**. But the story don't stop here...

*In **GOD'S House**, *we Remain FAITHful*. (Hebrews 10: 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."

"*Draw near*," is a command *to go all the way with GOD*. It is not an 'on again/off again' approach to godly living, but a *commitment* that rejects the world and pursues **CHRIST**.

[Worship is what we were made for!]

*In **GOD'S House**, *we Remain FASTENED*. (Hebrews 10: 23)

"*Hold fast*" means "to cling to" or "to take." "...let us hold tightly to the **hope** we say we have..." It's not enough to sign a card, get wet, and join a house, or come with a letter. [**GOD'S House** is *not* a Club!] ... "For **HE** who promised is **FAITHful**." **GOD** will never let go of us, so we should tighten our grip on **HIM**.

*In **GOD'S House**, *we Remain FRUITFUL*. (Hebrews 10: 24) "Let us consider how to stir up one another unto **love** and good works." This is what **CHRISTIANS** do. We don't sit on a rock and contemplate our *navels*, some central point of place, position, and power. We *stir up* literally "provoke" or "incite" others in a good way. We *dedicate* our minds toward provoking other **CHRISTIANS** to love and good works.

"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*."

This is *not* about, "*When you can*, it's about, *why you can't!*"

The three Great **CHRISTIAN** virtues are evident...

V. 22, true *heart* in full assurance of **faith**...

v. 23, "...let us hold tightly to the **hope** we say we have..."

V. 24, "...stir up one another unto **love**..."

Question? **WHO'S House** do you live in?