

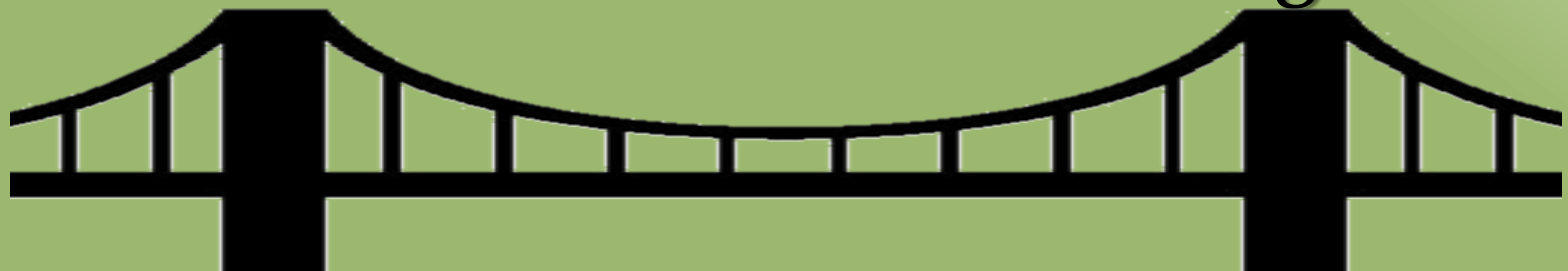
The Bridging Exhortation



HEBREWS 4:14-16

Jesus Christ, our High Priest (14)

As we will see in the later chapters of Hebrews, one of the major themes is Jesus Christ as our High Priest. This verse shows His human nature with the name Jesus and His divine nature through the title “Son of God.” His example, power, and sacrifice should motivate us to “*hold fast.*” This is a “*bridging exhortation*” for the Christian to hold fast, so that they may approach the Throne of Grace and receive God’s grace.



Jesus Christ, our High Priest (14)

This is true since Jesus is your Great High Priest and the pioneer of your faith! The first several chapters of Hebrews contain many exhortations such as this one, and are an important reminder of the responsibility we have, as believers, to follow God faithfully.



Jesus Christ, our High Priest (14)

Now, in Divine Service, you occupy a paradoxical place...where you have access to heaven... here...on earth! But only through Jesus, as your Great High Priest! And, there is no restriction!



Jesus, The Great High Priest

Jesus Christ, our High Priest (14)

What exactly is the “Bridge?” Since a bridge leads from one place to another, what’s the exhortation?

Hold
firmly to
your
confession
of Jesus as
God’s
royal Son!

Between is the reason:
a negative (15a); and a
positive (15b)



Jesus, The Great
High Priest

So that you
may
approach
His Divine
Throne of
Grace

Jesus Christ, Your Sympathic High Priest (15a)

**You can approach the Divine Throne of Grace
only through Jesus, your Sympathic High Priest.
How so?**



Jesus Christ, Your Sympathic High Priest (15a)

The Greek verb that is used is key! The word is *συμπαθῆσαι* (*sympathesai*) – *to have compassion for the wretched by joining with them in their suffering.*



Jesus Christ, Your Sympathic High Priest (15a)



suffer



e
iest.



Jesus Christ, Your Sinless High Priest (15b)

Yet, unlike the high priest of Israel, your Great High Priest is sinless! Jesus did not become sinless through His suffering; rather, He was sinless in all His suffering!

Since Jesus is sinless, He could suffer with sinners in order to take on their sin and take it away from them (*cf.* 9:26, 28)



Jesus, Your Great
High Priest



Another Exhortation! (16)

“... let us come near to the throne of grace” is the another appeal to the congregation (to you!). This exhortation is very important, especially since it will be repeated (10:22). This appeal is liturgical and royal.

The best way to explain this is by a CHART!!!



	Heb 4:14-16	Heb 7:19-25	Heb 10:19-22	Heb 12:22-25
Who may Approach?	Confessors of Jesus as the Son of God	“We” All those who draw near	Brothers of Christ	Sons of God Those who do not refuse Him
To Whom or What?	The Throne of God	God	The holy places	+ Mt. Zion + Innumerable Angel + Assembly of the Firstborn + God, the Judge + Jesus
By What means?	Our confession	A better hope Through Jesus	+ The Blood of Jesus + The New and Living Way	The New Covenant His Blood
With What?	Freedom of Speech		+ Freedom of Speech + A true heart + Sprinkled w/ Blood + Body washed with pure water	
On What basis?	The Great High Priest, Jesus!	Jesus, Priest for eternity by Divine Oath	We have a Priest over the house of God	Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant
For What purpose?	To receive mercy	To be saved	For the forgiveness of sins	To hear Jesus To receive His Kingdom To receive grace

Another Exhortation! (16)

“...freedom of speech”

You have NO reason to be intimidated or speechless as you approach an audience with your heavenly King, since you have received freedom of speech!

This *“freedom of speech”* is by virtue of your confession of faith in Jesus as God’s Royal Son and Royal Priest.

Another Exhortation! (16)

“...receive mercy and find grace...”

Thus, the purpose of your assembly (Divine Service) is to receive gifts from your Lord. Even though you do not deserve anything from Him, except divine retribution.

In Divine Service, at the word *“Lord, have mercy on us”* that’s precisely His action toward you, for the sake of Jesus as His Royal Son and Royal Priest.

Summary

As we close Chapter 4, this part of the sermon sums up the theology of worship in Hebrews. As you, His dear children, approach your Lord and King, in this heavenly place, you have access to His Throne of Grace (the Altar)! Your participation is dependent upon Jesus and your baptismal confession of faith in Him as God's Royal Son and Royal Priest.

In His Word and Sacrament, He freely offers to you His grace and mercy. Therefore, these final verses of Ch 4 teaches you that worship is first and foremost a matter of reception from God!

Next Week!

Chapter 5

I. The role of the high priest (1-3)

II. The appointing of the high priest (4)

III. Jesus appointed High Priest by God (5-6)

