**Greater Than All - wk 12 – Who’s in the House?**

**Have you had to forfeit a sports game or board game? Quit a race?**

**Last wk ended the primary theological argument to a group of Jewish Christians. The primary arch - don’t give up but grow up!**

**They wanted to go back, the writer says, “Why!?” Jesus is greater than all of heaven, angels, earthly priests, the temple, even the law. Jesus is greater than SIN! He is the creator greater than all creation come to save us! Those who are truly made new in Christ perseverance in this.**

**What follows is encouragement to keep the faith. What do we do with this? How do we apply this? Very practical.**

**Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, (in light of all this!!!) brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place (Heb 4-5) by the blood of Jesus, (Heb 8-9) 20 by a new and living way (Heb 8) (Jesus is… the Livingway) opened for us through the curtain, (Heb 5-6) that is, his body, (Heb 9) 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, (H. 4-8)**

**No priesthood needed – Jesus the better and final high priest**

**No temple needed – Jesus is and sits in the better temple.**

**No more sacrifice is needed - Jesus is better sacrifice satisfies what is needed. We now through Jesus have access to God!!!**

**The new and living way has come!!**

**The writer makes the case for 10 chapters – so now since we have all this - 3 Responses - #1…) 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.**

**In light of what Jesus did – and what we now know! LET US!!**

1. **Let us draw near to God - “Let us draw near to God…”**

**The problem of sin and separation from God has been settled – thru Jesus – you can confidently draw near to God by Jesus.**

**This verse tells us how**

* **We Draw near to God with humility and transparency**

**“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart…”**

**This is not an arrogant faith, but a humble clarity of what Christ has done. We humbly draw near.**

**There is no approaching God without humility.**

* **We Draw near to God with full assurance - in the work of Christ “…and with the full assurance that faith brings…”**

**The assurance that we are forgiven in Christ completely – that you are made righteous in Christ.**

**In Christ we have assurance that our sins are no more!**

**In Christ we have assurance that our prayers are heard!**

**In Christ we can have assurance that we are truly right w/God!**

**1 John 5:12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

**We can have assurance of our salvation – in Christ.**

**We draw near to God with the assurance faith brings**

* **We Draw near to God with a clean conscience (I am forgiven)**

**“…having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience…”**

**The blood of Jesus applied to our hearts and minds!**

**You don’t have to prepare more – pray more, read more, witness more, come to church more, dress nicer, or be a better person to draw near… If you are in Christ, you can draw near now! Your sins are forgiven!**

**Remember Jesus finished the work – draw near! Enter in! Without Jesus – you don’t have that assurance or access.**

* **We Draw near to God w/ a life that honors the one who forgave us**

**“and having our bodies washed with pure water.” (is this baptism - maybe)**

**Many contend this is a refence to our life – a public declaration of an inside cleansing - life that reflects Jesus.**

**In light of what Jesus did (1) Let us draw near and…**

**Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly (hold fast - Hold tight) to to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.**

**In light of what we now know! LET US!!**

1. **Let us hold tight to the hope – “Let us hold unswervingly the hope (supernatural confidence) we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”**

**“Hold fast” – lit means take possession of – to keep!**

**“Unswerving” – unbending and firm.**

**We will face opposition and resistance in life! Our faith, like a stone in a storm, is unmovable – unyielding. What I want to be remembered for – that Ted is a rock! Stable – secure – unmovable!**

**This not about holding on to your salvation. Take comfort, you are in Christ - Hold tightly to this truth that we are Christs!**

**We can do this – because “he who promised is faithful.”**

**We are unfaithful – people are unfaithful – But God is faithful!!**

**BTW – this enables to love others the way Christ loves us. Those around me may fail – But God never well!!! I can hold him tight – because he holds me tight!**

**(1) Let us draw near (2) Let us hold tight to this hope and (3) …**

**Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another (stir up, motivate, literally to provoke!) on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, (don’t give up on the gathering - neglecting meeting) as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

**In light of what Jesus did – and what we now know! LET US!!**

1. **Let us stay committed and connected to each other**

 **“let us consider… one another” Consider one another. Your Christian journey includes other Christians.**

**Current trend - narcissistic faith or church hopping. Following the speakers, worship, blessing hunters. What you want, what you feel, what you like, your preference. But is church really about you? Consider one another…**

**You need them and they/ we need you. think about others faith**

**This is 1 of 42 one another’s in the NT – we need each other.**

**Life can be discouraging (especially last couple yrs) we need each other more than ever. Discouragement can cause us to avoid people and avoid community. // Often, the first thing to drop when discouraged... is church. Consider one another…**

**\*\* Online church is a temporary tool – to a final fix. For the current season we are in it is helpful for teaching, but difficult for community and relationship.**

**Church (Ekklesia) is the assembly / gathering of the called out. Christianity is not like golf – it is a team spot.**

**A few things about being committed and connected - we are to…**

* **Encourage one another to love – “spur one another on toward love”**

**I think of a cowboy, provoking the horse with spurs. Spur him!**

**Spur - Lit word – to provoke– stir up one another to love! (agape) Love the way Jesus loves us – unconditionally.**

**Love does not just happen – it must be encouraged and stirred up. It must be practiced with others. Church is not just information – it is community – growing in Christ together – \*\* learning to love.**

**How do you love others online? How can you stir love online?**

* **Encourage one another to good deeds - “spur one another on toward… good deeds. Provoke - stir up one another to good action!**

**The word for good is the word – beautiful. That is what serving others is to God and others! Love and good deeds go hand in hand. Love results in action. Let’s do this together (outreach)!**

* **Encourage one another to stay in community – be present**

**10:25 not giving up meeting together, (gathering, official assemble, this is not coffee at the Vive - reference to worship gathering on the Lords Day) as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another… (present and engaged)**

**Pastors love this verse – I do. Not because we want your body in the building, but because we understand the power of God’s plan for community in our walk with God. This is not an attack - Better together!**

**The habit of missing verses the habit of coming. This is not a legalistic view of church attendance. The habit should be we come (normal) and sometimes miss, not the other way around.**

**\*\*You often form good habits, you fall into bad habits.**

**We are to encourage / exhort one another to be present.**

**My “I missed you” - it not a guilt text, call or post – it is to spur to provoke you to be present according to Hebrews.**

**We (I) have an obligation to encourage other believers to get in church and stay connected. The gathering is a tool for our growth and a deterrent to discouragement.**

**33% reduced risk of death // 84% reduced risk of suicide // 29% reduced risk of depression // 50% reduced risk of divorce // 68% less despair // 33% reduced risk of teenage drug use.**

**We are not to just go if we feel like it, need it, or can fit it in. We come to be encouraged and to encourage others. You make my day – my week. We come to worship God together and to know we are not alone.**

**Larry Osborne – “Some decisions are too important to make alone // some trials are too hard to bear alone // and some temptations are too strong to resist alone.”**

**We need each other.**

**I do get concerned that Covid is developing a new habit – online. I understand some are not physically able or are limited due to health concerns and risks – but can’t make it a habit. (1st service)**

**At some point it is time to take the precautions and gather together. If we can go to restaurants, sporting events, and birthday parties – we can come to church.**

**(We do this) – 10:25 - “…all the more as you see the Day approaching.” As the days get harder and harder – we need each other more and more!**

**And it is possible the days will get harder – all the more we need to stay committed and connected.**

**The writer is telling them - things that work against their gathering must be regarded as serious dangers. We need each other!!!**

**It comes down to this today… Do you have doubts – have confusion - have questions? Feeling discouraged…**

**3 Possible responses:**

* **Drop out**

**Hebrews 10:25 …not giving up meeting together…**

**Some have dropped out. Many have given up!**

**Greatest decline in church involvement in history of the US has occurred in the last 2 years.**

**Go back to the old way and quit**

* **Draw back**

**Hebrews 10:39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back…**

**Less involvement – less interaction.**

**I am here but I don’t want to do anything anymore.**

* **Draw near**

**Hebrews 10 (In light of all that Christ has done for us) 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings…**

**Press in, press forward, seek answers**

**We draw near to God and to others.**

**Are you dealing with doubts, feeling discouraged, feeling distant from God and others? Draw near to God through Jesus?**

**Salvation invitation.**

**Prayer.**