



Hebrews 10:19-22

Let us Draw Near Sun, Jun 29th 2008

Article: Christians: No One Path to Salvation (Released Monday, 2/23/08)

Americans of every religious stripe are considerably more tolerant of the beliefs of others than most of us might have assumed, according to a new poll released Monday.

The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life last year surveyed 35,000 Americans, & found that 70% of respondents agreed with the statement "Many religions can lead to eternal life."

Even more remarkable was the fact that 57% of Evangelical Christians were willing to accept that theirs might not be the only path to salvation, since most Christians historically have embraced the words of Jesus, in the Gospel of John, that "no one comes to the Father except through me."

Even as mainline churches had become more tolerant, the exclusivity of Christianity's path to heaven has long been one of the Evangelicals' fundamental tenets. The new poll suggests a major shift, at least in the pews.

Perhaps you have heard or been a part of the talk of this on airwaves, internet

- For me – sad...scary...shocking....and I pray not true here
- **Jesus did clearly declare the truth – John 14:6**
 - That thought – has undergirded our study for weeks in Hebrews
 - Simply – if you think others can get to heaven w/o Jesus
 - Being good, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Mormonism, etc
 - If you believe that–you & Jesus disagree. He is right, you are wrong
- **Jesus said is a broad road – many on – think on road to heaven – not**
 - Is only a Narrow road that can get you there – **Matt 7:13-14**
- **As we have said – some struggle with the narrowness of that**
 - For me – I am so glad that there is a road out...a road to heaven

That is a healthy beginning for us– because text points out wonder of narrow road

- Note the first word – **"Therefore"** – connection, because of this, this
- In a transition verse in flow of thought....and actually whole book
- Takes what we have been talking about–and begins to apply it specifically

Before dive in – step back and look with me at the structure of the thought

- Gives us two summary statements of what Jesus is to us
 - **v.19 & v.21** – Note **"having"** – what we have in Christ
- Gives us three points of application stemming directly from this
 - **v.22, v.23, & v.24** – Note **"Let us...."**
 - Today...deal with the first application...in next weeks other two

I. Because of What is Ours

1. Brethren – therefore Brethren

- a. Note with me – this is addressed to Christians...and only Christians
- b. Sometimes I call it an F.B.O. truth – For Believers Only
- c. World does not have this – though 70% think anyone can
- d. Christian – you have something that others don't have
- e. Non-Christian – not saying this to thumb our nose at you – be cruel
 - i) Tell you in love what you don't have – so you can be saved
 - ii) Tell you that you are sick – so that you can be cured – with us

2. Having Access to God – enter the holiest

- a. **Enter the Holiest** – God's presence, greatest place in universe – highest
- b. **Bold Access** – free, not complicated, difficult or hindered
- c. **by blood of Jesus** – can't have without – Jesus died, had to die for us
- d. **by new way** – didn't exist before
- e. **by living way** – alive – vibrant, buzzing with life, power, reality
- f. **Which He Made** – created, consecrated – in His flesh – not physical temple – by in Him, by Him, through Him
- g. All this we have discussed in greater detail in the past weeks
- h. **Main point – we have this amazing access to God in Christ**

3. Having a High Priest

- a. **Jesus is our High Priest** – understood – what these chapters been about
- b. **Mediator, helper** – one that stands to bring us to God, God to us
 - i) One who knows us, cares about us...ever at right hand praying for us
- c. **King, Royal –over the house of God–** talked of Priest according to Melchizedek
 - i) Simple concept for here – Priest and King – all authority is His
- d. **Main point – have One amazingly able to assist us in access**

4. This is what we have – these things are ours

- a. These are our possessions...what is rightfully and presently ours in Christ

II. Let us Draw Near

1. Draw Near

- a. Such an amazing reality...is main point of all I want to say...feel wordless
- b. This is the point of life – without Him...all is vanity, empty
- c. This is the point of the Bible – love God with all we are
- d. This is the promise of God – says if we draw near – He will meet us
- e. To be near God....wow
- f. Consider these verses: **Ps16:11; Jude 24; Heb 4:16; James 4:8**

2. With being real – with a true heart

- a. Idea is opposite false, opposite fake
- b. God hated this, Jesus affirmed **Matt 15:7-8** (quoting Isaiah)
- c. Exactly what Jesus fixed – **v.16** – God is doing a work inside you, real
- d. He wants you to come before Him...in reality

3. In Full Confidence – in full assurance of faith

- a. Idea is we can, ought to know – this is ours – point of all that proceeded this
- b. Not afraid of getting caught & kicked out...welcome, have a right to be near

4. With a Clean Conscience – having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience

- a. Actually spent all week last week look at these words – the conscience
- b. Point us – no more condemnation in Christ – no more accusing of unworthy

5. With Pure Washing – our bodies washed with pure water

- a. Can I tell you honestly – I wrestled with this phrase more than the others
- b. First approach – what thought said, wanted it to say – talk of sanctification
 - i) What I mean – is that in Christ – we are clean...yet being cleansed **v.14**
 - ii) There is truth in that reality – Jesus spoke of in **Jn 13**
 - iii) Yet...as studied–not what saying –this is done, past–**washing not cleansing**
 - iv) If would be dishonest with the text to pursue that understanding more
- c. So what is this saying here...best way to put – made acceptable, presentable
 - i) Backdrop was the annual sacrifice on the day of atonement
 - ii) Sprinkling of blood – as applied to the conscience
 - iii) Washing – clothing with robes – made presentable
 - iv) Simply...in Christ – you are accepted, made presentable
 - v) **Eph 1:3-6** – made acceptable, pleasing
 - vi) **Illus. made gracious...beautiful, favorable – like Cinderella entering ball**

Conclusion

Christian – you have, possess, what others don't

Non Christian – this is not yours

- Sad part is that many think it is 70% of Americans – wrong
- On the broad road...that leads to destruction
- Don't have God now...or after you die
- Call you to Christ

Christian – this is yours

- This amazing access to God, this help of Christ – is Yours
- The horror is that we have it...but miss it – don't take advantage
- **Illus: fake cell phone vs. a real cell phone**
 - **World, at best has a plastic counterfeit – they can talk to it...but it doesn't work...nobody really on the other end. Sad picture**
 - **Christian we have the real deal – odd part, is it is ours, and we don't use it, we don't talk on it – we don't approach boldly our God**
- **Why don't we draw near to God as we ought?**
 - Some – Feel phony- yet we are to come with true heart
 - If drawing near to God feels phony – doing it wrong
 - In Christ – we come with reality – being real
 - How could you hide anything from God? Why try?
 - Present self – in reality and have God deal with you
 - Some feel that such a thing is beyond them- yet have full confidence
 - Specifically says – we have this – we should know this
 - Know this is yours – nothing arrogant about –insulting to doubt
 - Some feel unworthy because of failure– yet have a clear conscience
 - You have a cleaned conscience in Christ – done – paid for
 - No more condemnation
 - Some feel ugly, unwelcome, un-presentable –yet, washed pure
 - You have been made acceptable, clean, pure
 - God wants to spend your days with you – to be near

Point – let us draw near

- Not just talk about it – let us draw near
- Not just think about it - let us draw near
- Not just understand it – let us draw near

Eph 3:8-12