

## **Let us draw near**

*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.  
Hebrews 10:22*

The epistle to the Hebrews is full of rich imagery and clarity. One could use it to construct a chart of imagery from the Old Testament to its corresponding reality in the New Testament. After concluding the supremacy of Christ's priesthood in comparison to the old covenant Aaronic priesthood through chapter seven, the writer then turns in chapter eight to describe the superiority of the new covenant administered by Jesus, as God had promised through the prophet Jeremiah. He then throughout chapters nine and ten proceeds to intricately demonstrate how the shadowy elements of the old covenant images are eclipsed, and therefore done away, by the reality of Jesus Christ's life, body, ministry, blood and sacrifice, and eternal living Spirit. Midway through this chapter he caps his conclusion with this exhortation in our text, which combines words of reality with those from the fulfilled imagery, to draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith. And upon what basis should this assurance rest? The preceding verses have stated.

“For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.” No more are continual offerings required, because Christ's superior offering is sufficient to perfect, or complete the sanctification, of all who trust in Him. We therefore have “boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.” The veil of imagery in the tabernacle was torn at the same time that His flesh was, in reality, torn, as He presented Himself as the perfect sacrifice. He has therefore through His eternal work opened the way to God's holiness for all who are sanctified, i.e., made holy, by faith in His blood and righteousness. By this reality, the sprinkling of the blood of animals and the washing of the ceremonial implements are done away, being replaced by the spiritual cleansing of our hearts and consciences from sin, and of our bodies to be instruments of righteousness unto God (Romans 6:13; Ephesians 5:26-27).

He then, upon the basis of this full assurance of faith that draws us near to God, adds the exhortation: “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised.” He has provided all that we need to anchor our souls in the sure and steadfast hope that “entereth into that within the veil” (Hebrews 6:19).