

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
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Sermon Title: Confidence Because of Christ, Hebrews 10:19-25

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**INTRODUCTION:** Review of Hebrews—

1. Author: We don't know the author.
2. Audience: Jews were the intended audience. There were two types of people:
  - a. Those who were considering leaving the faith
  - b. And, those who needed encouragement.

Hebrews may be a bit harder for us to understand than other scriptures because it was written to people who think a bit differently than we do.

Today, we will look at Chapter 10, and I want to highlight three points. Here they are:

1. I have confidence in the work of Christ of long ago.
2. I have confidence the work of Christ is relevant for today.
3. I have confidence the work of Christ will be relevant for tomorrow.

**First, I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE WORK OF CHRIST OF LONG AGO.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 10:19-25 <sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**EXPLANATION:** In the Old Testament, not one single person would have dared to enter the Holy of Holies in the temple other than the priest. And, he only did it once each year. Between the place where the people could enter and the place where the priest went once each year was a thick veil, somewhere between three to four inches thick.

Go back to verse 19: The Old Testament people did NOT have confidence to enter the most holy place, but New Testament believers do have confidence because of Christ.

Old Testament believers were separated by that veil or curtain, but for us today, Jesus is the veil. Go to Matthew 27:51 and Mark 15:38. They tell us that at Jesus' crucifixion the veil was torn from top to bottom. God tore the veil. It could not be done with human hands, and therefore, Jesus becomes the veil for us.

Go back to verses 20 and 21 and look at them while I explain. In the Old Testament, only one priest could pass through the veil into the presence of God. But, today, all believers can pass through Jesus to go into the presence of God. Jesus is our high priest, and we have access to him at any time. He is not merely a man, like the earthly priests who could only perform one function at a time. As King of Kings, he is the King of Multitasking. We can all go him simultaneously. He intercedes at the right hand of the father, praying for us simultaneously. We do not have to stand in line. We do not have to beg him. We do not have to enchant him like an idol or a charm.

We are to approach him with a sincere heart and with the full assurance he is our Savior. Look in verse 22: *having our hearts sprinkled* – What does this mean? The Old Testament priest took blood and sprinkled it on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant as an atonement for people's sins.

**APPLICATION:** Today, each one of us has been sprinkled by the blood of Jesus, which forgives us of all sins.

**Second, I HAVE CONFIDENCE THE WORK OF CHRIST IS RELEVANT FOR TODAY.**

**EXPLANATION:** The writer of Hebrews did the comparison-contrast here to remind the Jewish reader how different life is with Christ. The new way was so much better than the old way. Why would anyone want to go back?

**ILLUSTRATION:** Occasionally, I'll hear people talk about cars, and someone will say while pining for yesteryear, "They don't make 'em like they used to." And, really, that's probably a good thing. Many motors had to be rebuilt around 60,000 miles. Cars rusted sooner than cars today. And, really, very few drive yesteryear's cars as daily drivers.

One of my sons gets excited about old technology. He bought an old camera and then couldn't find film for it. He bought a cassette player and then gave up on it. I'm boxing it up, and one day when he has his own place, I'll hand him his box of old technology. Old Technology reminds me of "OT" for Old Testament. Old Technology is put away for the new, which people agree is better.

Occasionally, there is some type of new technology that doesn't really fare too well and eventually goes away. We have some older people here who would remember the Vegomatic? I was about seven-years-old when my dad bought my mom the ultimate kitchen gadget that was supposed to save time for the busy housewife. The TV commercial made everyone want to have it. My dad put a tomato in the Vegomatic, and when he pressed down on the handle, it had the same effect as it he'd hit that tomato with a hammer. Tomato bits and pieces and tomato juice splatted everywhere. My mom decided a sharp kitchen knife worked well enough and required less clean up.

**APPLICATION:** The writer of Hebrews gave people the advantages of the new way with Christ, begging the question as to why anyone would want to go back to the old, obsolete way of worshipping him. And, the great truth about God's new way was there was nothing about it which needed to be refined. There was no waste with the new covenant. There was nothing about the saving work of Jesus that would become obsolete.

**Third, I HAVE CONFIDENCE THE WORK OF CHRIST WILL BE RELEVANT FOR TOMORROW.**

Listen to me: The saving work of Jesus, because of what he did on cross, needs no update. God gave his best through Jesus, and he offers his best to us today.

**ILLUSTRATION:** One hundred years ago, people went to church with no electricity. There were a few cars, but most arrived on horses and in buggies. Our clothes looked completely different. Today, we all arrived in nice modern cars to a nice modern building. And, a thousand years ago, the world looked vastly different than just one hundred years ago.

**APPLICATION:** But, yesterday's message about Christ and today's message about him are still the same. And, listen to me – no matter what the future holds, the message will still be the same. If the Lord should tarry another hundred years and if man can go back and forth to the moon, Mars, and beyond; if cancer and other diseases are eradicated from the earth; if the lifestyle of people a hundred years from now is completely different than it is today, guess what? The message of Christ will still be the same.

I want you to think about that for a moment. You have the same truth of Christ as the writer of Hebrews.

Since this message never changes, since it never needs any updates, then it's important for us to know it! It's important for us to live it and to learn more about, so we can live it out more.

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 10:23 <sup>23</sup> *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.*

**EXPLANATION:** We could easily say “Let us hold unswervingly because Jesus is unswerving.”

A promise is an indicator of something to come. God always keeps his promises. People may break their promises, but God will not break his promises.

**APPLICATION:** So, what are we to do today? We are to hold on to the promise. We are not to shrink back as a verse says later in this chapter.

The promise is: someday Jesus will return not as a sacrifice for sin, but as a Savior to take his people home. We hold onto the promise even if we do not see it in our lifetime.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Recently, I read a woman's Facebook post where she claimed to be an atheist. She rambled on about a few things, and I thought *what a boring life*. For what purpose is she living? She's living for the hope of today, basically making a living, buying a few things, and building some type of earthly security. She said she believes we are all just matter and energy. Again, what a boring life. In no way do I mean to sound arrogant or condescending to this woman. If what she said is true, then it means my entire life and vocation is nothing more than a sham. It means the consoling I've given at funerals is false hope. It means the baptisms I've done are nothing more than aquatic exercise. It means the prayers I've prayed have been nothing more than some type of internal meditation.

**APPLICATION:** I'd much rather have a life with deeper meaning which offers hope for a better tomorrow because of the resurrected Lord.

If you really believe in that hope then we must join together unswervingly hanging on to the hope we profess.

**CONCLUSION:** These messages from the Book of Hebrews have stimulated quite a few conversations and emails. I really love these conversations because some of these truths are rather abstract and require us to think. These truths require us to stretch our faith, because we learn the work of Jesus Christ is much bigger than we originally thought. Some of you are outgrowing your childish ideas of Jesus as merely a little poor baby in a manger. You are realizing the shocking truth he owes us absolutely nothing yet he cares for each one of us.

If you put your hope into yourself, you'll disappoint yourself, and someday, you'll awake to the fact you can no longer do anything for yourself. I've had some experience with hospice patients at a hospice residence here in Nashville. One thing I've learned is the dying process is a process of letting go.

If you put your hope into people, they will let you down. How many of you have been let down by at least one person? How many of you have been let down by more than one person?

If your hope is in Christ, then you are secure. How many of you can say you've been let down by Jesus? Is there anyone here who would say you wish you'd never walked this road of being a Christian?

I am confident in the work of Christ of long ago. He completed his work and left nothing undone.

I am confident the work of Christ is relevant for today. It needs no updates.

I am confident the work of Christ will be relevant for tomorrow. People in the future will come to Christ through faith and repentance the same way we do today.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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Thanks to Judy Andrews and Nancy Claire Smith for their editing assistance.

Sincerely, Paul Gunn  
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