

Back to #3: ^{2,4} consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

- ✓ First, you are your brother's keeper! It is impossible for the elders of this church to shepherd everyone who comes here. For the body to be healthy, every member needs to take responsibility to encourage their fellow members.
- ✓ Second, this ministry implies knowing one another on more than a superficial level. Again, it is impossible to know everyone in this church well, but each of us can and should know some fairly well. This means meeting together outside of Sunday mornings.
- ✓ You might be able to develop your faith & hope while alone (but very questionable)...but not love! Developing love is a communal activity of the church.
- ✓ Finally, this takes some deliberate focus and effort. You must take your eyes off of yourself and think about others. Treat others as you would want them to treat you.

Application/further contemplation:

To love and good deeds: "God is asking you to love as you would want to be loved if it were your child who was blind from drinking contaminated water; to love the way you would want to be loved if you were the homeless woman sitting outside the café; to love as though it were your family living in the shack slapped together from cardboard and scrap metal." Chan

Got room to grow?

1. Which of the three exhortations do you need most to work on (1,2, or 3 in the lesson)? Jot down some specific ways that you can grow in this area.
2. A young believer tells you, "I feel so unworthy to draw near to the holy God." How would you counsel him [her]?
3. If you know of a believer who is drifting from the Lord, how can you know whether you should get involved? How would you go about encouraging him [her] in love?

Helpful outline to study further: Hebrews from 10:19 – 12:29:

- Saving faith 10:19-25
- False faith 10:26-39
- Genuine faith 11:1-3
- Heroes of the faith 11:4-40
- Persevering faith 12:1-29

Series: None

Title: Lettuce Is Good For Us

Topic: Putting our position into practice

Intro: In the first four chapters, the author of Hebrews demonstrated how Jesus Christ is superior to all in His person. From chapter 5 through 10:18, he shows how Christ is superior to all in His priesthood. But beginning at 10:19 and running to the end of the book, based on the truths that he has presented, he shows how Christ's superiority should spur us on to enduring faith, even in the face of trials. He shows us here how to put our position in Christ into practice.

Lesson:

Hebrews 10:19-25

New in 20 comes from a Greek word that originally meant "freshly slain". Right after that we read of course that He is also "living," risen from the dead...

Because of what Christ did and who He is and because of our position as a follower of Christ, then *let us* live out 3 habitual practices.

Three exhortations for living with each other so we are stronger:

Because of what Christ did and who He is,

1. ²² *let us* (habitually) *draw near to God*.

What a great privilege this invitation is, to draw near to the living God! But it won't happen if you don't make it a priority to spend time alone with Him.

"Surely we only have to be realistic and honest with ourselves to know how regularly we need to turn to the Bible. How often do we face problems, temptation and pressure? *Every day!* Then how often do we need instruction, guidance and greater encouragement? *Every day!* To catch all these felt needs up into an even greater issue, how often do we need to see God's face, hear His voice, feel His touch, know His power? The answer to all these questions is the same: *every day!* As the American evangelist D. L. Moody put it, 'A man can no more take a supply of grace for the future than he can eat enough for the next six months or take sufficient air into his lungs at one time to sustain life for a week. We must draw upon God's boundless store of grace from day to day as we need it.'" John Blanchard *How To Enjoy Your Bible*



"This 'drawing near' must be the motive for all subsequent action (referring to 23-25). As the wick of a lamp continually draws oil for the light, so let us continually draw from God the strength and grace we need to function." Hurt

A few verses of seeking God or drawing near:

Isaiah 55:6 *Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.*

Matthew 6:33 *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Matthew 7:7 *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*

Psalms 27:8 from David: *When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face Lord, I will seek."*

Because of what Christ did and who He is,

2. ²³ *Let us (habitually) hold unswervingly to the hope we profess.*

"Hold unswervingly or hold fast" implies that there is some danger or difficulty that is trying to _____ from our confession of hope in Christ.

1 Peter 1:13 *Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;*

Look how Spurgeon explains:

"You are Christians, not for a time, but for eternity. Your new birth is not into a dying existence but into life everlasting. Continue your confession, and never conceal it. There are times when you will be inclined to put your flag away into the canvas case and hide your coat of arms in the cellar. Then you may fitly judge that the devil is getting advantage over you, and that it is time that you ceased to be beguiled by his sorceries. Tear up the wrappings, throw the bag away, and nail your flag aloft where every eye can see it. Whenever you feel inclined to be ashamed of Christ, do not deliberate but say, "This is wrong. There is coming over me something that I must not endure. If I were in a right state of mind I should never feel like this." Never yield to shameful cowardice; scorn such detestable meanness." Spurgeon

Because of what Christ did and who He is,

3. ²⁴ *And let us (habitually) consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. [And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities.] AMP*

"Consider" means to direct one's whole mind to an object. To immerse oneself in it. This means that you have to give some _____ to this or it won't happen.

"Spur or stimulate" is an unusual word to use here. It normally has a negative connotation, meaning to provoke. Here, the author may be using it ironically to grab attention. This word implies that Christian love needs to be _____.

John Wesley's Rule of Conduct: "Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can."

How we can spur one another toward love and good deeds:

(not 4.)²⁵*Let us not give up meeting together,*

(not forsaking our own assembling together) NASB

- "The church, an intentional community of disciples living out life together." unknown
- We are not independent, but interdependent or mutually dependent.
- If you don't go to God's house, why should He come to yours?
- A de-churched Christian should be as fictitious a character as a unicorn, zombie, tooth fairy, troll, mermaid or Martian.
- Kent Hughes said, "It is true that a person does not have to go to church to be a Christian. He does not have to go to home to be married either. But in both cases if he does not, he will have a very poor relationship."

(not 5.) ^{25b} *But let us encourage one another (but encouraging one another)*

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