



Hebrews 4:14-16

Abiding in Jesus is the means of rest before God

Depend on Jesus as the only means of access to the heavenly Father (4:14)

¹⁴ *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

- ❖ In the previous section of verses, the writer of Hebrews presents the importance of entering God's rest – the means of entering that rest is trusting and abiding in the WORK of Jesus Christ
- ❖ The work of Jesus is essential and exclusive
- ❖ Jesus "*passed through the heavens*," indicating the highly exalted quality of His work as our high priest – our *great high priest*
 - ❖ In the Old Covenant, the human high priest represents the people before God in the holy of holies in an earthly temple
 - ❖ In the New Covenant, the Son of God does the work as our great high priest (the superior and supreme beyond any Levitical high priest)
 - ❖ Jesus does this work on our behalf in the exalted presence of our Holy God
 - ❖ There is nothing or no one greater than Jesus, the Son of God
 - ❖ Jesus is incredibly both the **sacrificial lamb** and the **great high priest**
 - ❖ Hebrews 9:11–12
 - ❖ Hebrews 9:24

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- ❖ “*let us hold fast our confession*” – the writer of Hebrews puts forward another aspect of perseverance
 - ❖ We confessed Jesus as Savior and Lord
 - ❖ We are to continue confessing Jesus as Savior and Lord
 - ❖ We are to **take hold** of this confession firmly to the end
 - ❖ **These are not mere words; this is our life**
 - ❖ Here is the summation presented by Moses at the end of his life before the children of Israel entered the Promised Land
 - ❖ Deuteronomy 32:45–47
 - ❖ The work of Jesus in the New Covenant is the fulfillment of all God’s promises and resources for His people
 - ❖ John 14:6

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- ❖ Dear church, worshipful thankfulness ought to characterize every aspect of our lives as followers of Jesus
 - ❖ We need to hold fast to our confession of Jesus as our glorious Lord and Savior
 - ❖ Opposition and affliction are a reality for those who walk in the will and ways of Jesus
 - ❖ Through it all:
 - ❖ Christian households are to be places of worshipful affirmation of the work of Jesus
 - ❖ Christian churches are to be places of resounding worship as we corporately rejoice about the rest we have because of the glorious work of Jesus
 - ❖ Through the wonderful work of Jesus, we have forgiveness and eternal fellowship
 - ❖ Turning from Jesus is to reject the only means of forgiveness and fellowship with the Lord

Jesus is the sinless high priest who understands the inabilities of His people (4:15)

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

- ❖ Jesus is our glorious and great high priest

- ❖ But His position and work do not set him up as only a **transcendent** ruler and priest

- ❖ Jesus is an **immanent** Savior and Lord who connects personally and caringly with His creation

- ❖ Saying that Jesus is transcendent is to say that he is exalted, above, beyond us

- ❖ Saying that Jesus is immanent is to say that he is present in time and space, that he is near to His people with love and concern

- ❖ What Hebrews teaches us is that Jesus identifies with human beings

- ❖ His ability to sympathize with His people goes well beyond feelings and emotions

- ❖ When Jesus sympathizes with His people, He actually supports and helps those who are afflicted

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but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- ❖ Having walked this earth encountering opposition, ridicule, beatings, and death, Jesus understands the struggles of His people and promises to support them through it all
- ❖ It is not accurate to say that the Lord doesn't understand what you are experiencing
- ❖ By the power of Jesus Christ, we can resist the power of sin's temptation to compromise and capitulate
 - ❖ Through Jesus Christ, we are not losers
 - ❖ Christ empowers us to be conquerors
 - ❖ Romans 8:37
 - ❖ We are not victims; we are victors
 - ❖ Rather than blaming Jesus for our failures, we need to trust Jesus for triumph

Followers of Jesus can approach their King with the assurance of acceptance and help (4:16)

¹⁶ *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,*

- ❖ We are instructed to approach the *throne*
 - ❖ Whose throne?
 - ❖ King Jesus
 - ❖ Hebrews 1:8–9
- ❖ The promises we find in Hebrews are to instill confidence in us to appear before our ruling and reigning King Jesus to claim His power and authority in our lives
 - ❖ All of Christ for all of life!
 - ❖ We are encouraged to approach the *throne of grace*
 - ❖ The confidence we have is not in our achievements but in the work of Christ for us, in which we rest
 - ❖ To rest in the work of Christ is to draw on the work of Christ

Followers of Jesus can approach their King with the assurance of acceptance and help (4:16)

that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- ❖ We don't approach the throne of grace to have a pity party
- ❖ We believe that our Lord is sovereign over all that happens in our lives on His earth
 - ❖ This includes the needs that we encounter each time
 - ❖ The phrase "*time of need*" could also be translated "*well-timed need*"
 - ❖ Every need we have comes at the exact time God determines
 - ❖ We're surprised by many of the needs that come upon us
 - ❖ God is in total control of the needs
 - ❖ God controls the mercy and grace necessary to meet those needs
- ❖ The mercy of the Lord relieves our misery
- ❖ Unfortunately, there are times when we choose to wallow in misery rather than request His grace
 - ❖ We are not required to deny the need or the misery it causes
 - ❖ But we are empowered not to wallow in the misery and trust in our Lord's promise to provide the grace we need

Questions to Consider

- ❖ What does it mean to you to hold fast to the confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?
- ❖ How does it encourage you to know Jesus understands your weaknesses and cares about you as you face affliction and opposition as you advance His gospel purposes?
- ❖ What should be your heart as you prayerfully approach Jesus on His throne of grace?
- ❖ How does knowing that the needs you experience come as a well-timed display of your Lord's sovereign care?



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