

The New and Living Way; Hebrews 10:19-25

1. New or old?
 - a. This is the time of year that we make resolutions (New Year's), promising to do something new and different to change the direction of our lives.
 - i. Just making a resolution tells us that we have things that need to change in our lives.
 - ii. There are things we don't like about our lives, and we recognize we need change.
 - b. The statistics tell us that almost two-thirds of the people who make New Year's resolutions fail to complete the first month.¹
2. The Way.
 - a. The new and living Way.
 - i. This new way is not like the old way.
 - ii. Hebrews 8:8–10: “For he finds fault with them when he says: “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”
 - iii. The Hebrew writer quotes Jeremiah, written sometime around 586 BC.
 1. Jeremiah says there will be something very new and different, unlike the Law of Moses.
 2. The Law of Moses set up the veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.
 - b. Through the curtain.
 - i. There is a big difference between the Mosaic Law and Christianity.
 - ii. Leviticus 16:2–3: “and the Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.”
 - iii. Sin separated mankind from God.
 1. Before the sin in the garden, mankind (Adam and Eve) walked in the cool of the garden with God.
 2. The sin in the Garden of Eden separated us from God.
 - iv. The veil represented that separation.
 - v. Christ tore that veil away with His sacrificial death on the cross, putting us back into a “garden” relationship with God.
 - vi. Mark 15:37–39: “And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

¹ Janin, Alex. “When “Drop It” Is the Best New Year’s Resolution.” Wall Street Journal, 3 Jan. 2023, www.wsj.com/articles/throw-out-your-new-years-resolutions-try-these-antiresolutions-instead-11672705706#. Accessed 27 Dec. 2023.

- c. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can now enter (with confidence) the most holy place and communicate with God directly
 - i. Confidence - boldness, openness, publicly, plainly.
 - ii. This Greek word also brings the idea of boldness in speech.
 - iii. So we can boldly bring our prayers directly to God.
 - iv. There is no longer any intermediary; no one is between us and God.
 - v. We have direct access to God!
 - vi. So draw near to Him!
3. Draw Near
- a. The present tense of the Greek brings the idea of continuing to draw near. Lenski says, "Let us not cease for any reason."
 - i. Remove whatever is in your way of drawing near to God.
 - ii. nothing in this world is better or worth more than your relationship with the Messiah.
 - b. With a true heart.
 - i. Ezekiel 33:30–31: "As for you, son of man, your people who talk together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, say to one another, each to his brother, 'Come, and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord.' And they come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear what you say but they will not do it; for with lustful talk in their mouths they act; their heart is set on their gain."
 - ii. Matthew 15:7–9: "You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"
 - 1. We approach God for many reasons.
 - 2. Mostly because we are in pain and suffering (sometimes to bring thanks and honor to Him).
 - 3. But it is only through our faith in knowing He is the One True God, and He can deliver us.
 - c. With full assurance of faith
 - i. "Full assurance is linked to faith! A life of faith is the evidence of conversion. The finished work of Christ and the witness of the Spirit produce assurance."
 - ii. "a changed and changing life of faith is the evidence that one has truly been redeemed. The normal result of meeting a Holy God is a holy life." Bob Utley
 - iii. Acts 17:31; because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."
 - d. Bodies washed with clean water
 - i. The New Testament knows of only one washing, namely baptism.
 - 1. Ephesians 5:25–27: "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."
 - 2. "The washing of water in connection with uttered Word." Lenski
 - 3. Titus 3:4–5: "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but

according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,”

4. The washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.
 5. Paul is washed with water.
 6. Acts 22:16: “And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.”
- ii. Since baptism cleanses, the Hebrew writer says, “our bodies washed with pure water.”
 1. 1 Corinthians 6:11: And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
 2. 1 Peter 3:21: Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
 3. Acts 2:38: And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - iii. Baptism is our death, burial, and resurrection, imitating Jesus’
 - iv. Romans 6:3–7: “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.”
- e. Because we can go “through the veil,” hold fast!
4. Hold Fast.
 - a. Hold fast - hold firmly, to possess.
 - b. Confession of hope.
 - i. Titus 2:11–13: “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,”
 - ii. 1 Peter 1:13: “Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
 - c. Without wavering means unbending.
 - d. We must possess, with unbending ferocity, our confession of Christ as our Lord and Savior!
 5. The new and living way.
 - a. We have gone through the veil.
 - b. Entered into the most holy place to commune with God.
 - c. Hold fast!