

An Invitation Worth Considering

Hebrews 4: 14 – 16

“Let us then approach the throne of grace (v. 16a).

October 25, 2009

What is the most impressive invitation you have ever received? I once received an invitation to come to the state capital to meet the governor of our state and receive an award for scoring in the highest percentile on a standardized West Virginia History exam. But when I arrived at the appointed time, I got a dose of reality: two people from all 55 counties were chosen for the ceremony! I got lost on the last row – you can’t even see me in the official photo. But I still was personally invited by the governor.

Certainly, you would seriously consider an invitation to come to the White House and attend an audience with the President. Of course you would! There would be very few circumstances that would cause you to decline the invitation. “Dear President Obama. I am sorry to decline your gracious invitation; my car is in the shop, and I must be available when the mechanic calls. Sincerely, Dan Wilkerson.” I think not!

Even if your political stance were opposed to the President, you would consider the invitation, if only to have a story to tell your grandchildren.

Today, I want to talk about an invitation I received that God has sent to me, and one I am sure He has sent to you. It is an invitation to gather around the throne of Grace. Let’s read the invitation in Hebrews 4: 14 – 16 (read). Do you see the invitation? Here it is: “*Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of Grace... (v. 16a).*”

Now as with any invitation I receive, I now must decide if I am going to accept God’s invitation – or if I am going to file it in the circular file and forget it. So the obvious question I must ask myself:

Why is this invitation worth considering?

1. Only there am I going to find the rich mercy for which I am searching (Hebrews 4: 16; Ephesians 2: 4a “*But God, being rich in mercy...*”).

A. I may receive an occasional sprinkle of grace in this world, but just a sprinkle.

1. I may do something that deserves termination at my job, but instead my boss only gives me a reprimand; that is mercy – then later he cuts my salary.

2. A felon receives a lighter sentence rather than the maximum – that’s a drop of mercy; a spouse breaches the vows of their marriage and, while still holding it over their head, the offended spouse does not divorce them – that is a sprinkle of mercy.

B. I don’t know about you, but I don’t want just a sprinkle of mercy; I want it to flood mercy when I mess up.

1. And the only place I know to find mercy in abundance is at the throne of Grace.

2. All of us desperately need floods of mercy. God understands that, and He invites us to come to the very place we can find that mercy.

C. I am glad that today, although the wage of my sins is death, by God’s mercy I have eternal life; today, even though my sins are scarlet red with the blood guilt I carry, by God’s mercy they are pure white as snow; although I have messed up my life, by

God's grace I have been forgiven.

The second reason this invitation is worth considering is:

2. There I will find grace to help me through my problems (v. 16).

A. How many of you today have problems? How many are trying to solve – or cope with – your problems on your own? How many of learned, sadly, that many times your problems are bigger than you can handle on your own?

1. And so if I told there is a place you could go to get help with your problems, would you agree to meet me there?

2. Well, God says you can find help in time of need at the Throne of Grace!

B. Is sickness a time of need? Or is a financial problem? How about a problem with alcohol or drugs or gambling – how about a problem with pornography? I think so.

1. Anytime we are burdened, weighed down, feeling overwhelmed — that is a time we need help with our problems.

C. The Apostle Paul had a problem – he characterized it as a “thorn in the flesh” – and he went to the Throne of Grace asking God to remove the thorn.

1. He left the throne, not with the problem removed but with the grace to deal with the problem.

2. Let me tell you this: **You always leave the Throne of Grace with more than you brought with you.**

3. Paul left with an adequate dose of God's grace, which was sufficient to deal with the problem he faced.

This is an invitation I must consider, because:

3. Jesus has personally experienced – and overcome – the things I am going through (v. 15).

A. Jesus truly knows us; nothing is hidden from Him.

1. Now add to that knowledge the fact that Jesus has experience with the same things I am facing in my life – and He was victorious over them!

2. Doesn't that make Him someone with Whom I need to be talking?

3. And if He invites me to His throne to talk with Him, shouldn't I seriously consider accepting that invitation? **I think so!**

B. **Knowledge and experience are powerful tools when they work together.**

1. If I am going to have surgery, I certainly want a surgeon who has experience – and not just knowledge – with the surgery I am facing.

C. So, knowledge and experience in the hands of Almighty God – how powerful is that?

Finally, it is an invitation I ought to consider because:

4. Jesus is the only one who can introduce me to the Father (v. 14; Matthew 11: 27).

A. If there is someone I would really enjoy meeting – or someone I feel compelled to meet – and you happen to know him, then I will certainly ask you to introduce me to him.

1. No one knows the Father better than the Son; and so, when the Son invites me to the Throne of Grace, I am going to go there.

2. I know that, by going to the Throne of Grace, I am going to meet Jesus and He can take me to the Father.

Today, in His Word God has shown us four solid reasons why we ought not decline the invitation to come to the Throne of Grace. So, we need to put aside our excuses, focus on the gracious invitation, and come confidently to the throne.

Let's pray!