

## The Wednesday Word, May 7, 2014: Our Gracious High Priest

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may ... find grace to help in time of need.

Everything that Christ does as our priest flows freely from His finished work. Having redeemed us, He entered into the heavenly sanctuary to apply the benefits of His finished work to us (Romans 8:33-34). Since this is true, we may now come boldly to the throne of grace ... and find grace to help in time of need.”

But how should we approach Him? According to our verse, we are to come ‘boldly.’ To come ‘boldly’ means we are to come with confidence, pouring out our hearts to Him, holding nothing back. It means, “saying it all” with assurance and frankness. It is there, at His throne that we confess our sins, our fears, our hopes and our griefs to the One who is filled with tender compassion for us. Horatius Bonar says;

“Tell the High Priest, not what you desire to be, nor what you ought to be, but what you are. Tell him the honest truth as to your condition at this moment. Confess the impurity of your motives; all the evil that you feel or that you don't feel; your hard-heartedness, your blindness, your unteachableness. Confess everything without reserve. He wants you to come to Him exactly as you are, and not to cherish the vain thought that, by a little waiting, or working, or praying, you can make yourself fit, or that you can persuade Him to make you fit.”

Notice how our verse tells us of our freedom in the gospel. Under the law, every mouth was shut because of guilt (Romans 3:19), but now, under grace, our mouths are open wide because we have a faithful high priest (Hebrews 4:16). We may tell Him everything.

Notice also that our high priest sits on the Throne of Grace. It's not the Throne of law, it's the throne of love. It's not the throne of religion, it's the throne of rescue. It's not even called the Throne of Majesty, although it could have been. If verse 16 had said, “Let us come to the place of enthroned sovereign majesty,” we would have been afraid to go there because we know our failings and fallings. Sin makes cowards of us all (Proverbs 28:1). The thought of God the majestic ruler strikes fear into us. He's too boundless, too big, and too powerful. How wonderful then to read that, the throne of our royal Priest is the Throne of Grace.

The One who is enthroned and seated in grace, is grace incarnate. Wonder of wonders, in His doing and dying, He became our substitute. He is the One who is touched by the feeling of our infirmities. He is the One who is headquartered on the Throne of Grace, and there is no wound the law can make that His grace cannot heal.

To go to His Throne, the only 4 things we need to be convinced of are that;

- (1) We have a great high priest.
- (2) We are sinners.
- (3) Our high priest has a sympathetic ear.
- (4) He freely invites us to come to Him.

This is why we can come freely and without pretending to be what we are not. We have already been accepted apart from our works. What we do or haven't done can neither improve nor diminish that. Our

High Priest knows our failures and He, in spite of what the legalizers tell us, is not recording them (Romans 4:7-8).

Our High Priest is entirely ours, His perfect obedience, His perfect prayer life, worship, sacrifice at Calvary and perfect resurrection are all ours! When He sat down on the throne of grace, He was ours. We are constantly in His thoughts for we are precious to Him. The more we are convinced of these things, the more we will come boldly to Him.

And that's the Gospel Truth!