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Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

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Let Us Live the New Covenant Life

Hebrews 10:19-25

I. What Christ Has Given Us

Hebrews 10:19-21 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God

A. His Body and His Blood

1. Jesus has shed His precious blood for us
 - a. We have seen the entire theology of the blood of Jesus Christ
 - b. The blood of bulls, goats, lambs could never take away sins (Hebrews 10:4)
 - c. BUT Jesus shed His blood for us ONCE FOR ALL
 - d. Vs. 19 “by the blood of Jesus”
 - e. Vs. 20 “that is, His flesh” (i.e. Jesus’ body)
 - f. God prepared a body for Jesus that He might give that body on the cross for sins
2. This gift of the Son of God is of infinite worth... God did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all (Romans 8:32)
3. Jesus gave His flesh for the life of the world; Jesus gave His blood to cleanse us from our sins

John 6:54-55 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

B. A Perfect Atonement

1. The result of this gift of the body is a perfect atonement for sins

2. God's wrath has been completely removed
3. Our sins have been completely covered
4. Christ's righteousness has been imputed to our account
5. So the Author to the Hebrews says:

Vs. 22 ...having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water

6. Our guilty conscience has been CLEANSED... we no longer have a sense of impending doom, impending wrath because of our guilt
7. Our bodies have been washed with pure water
 - a. Some people think this hearkens back to the atonement and purification of Aaron & his sons to be priests and fit to enter the Most Holy Place

Exodus 29:4 Then bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and wash them with water.

- b. Others think the washing with pure water refers to the ordinance of Christian baptism

1 Peter 3:21 this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also-- not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God.

- c. Best of all is just to consider it part of the perfect atonement that Christ has worked to allow us to come into the presence of such a Holy God

Ephesians 5:25-27 Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Titus 3:4-5 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit

Ezekiel 36:25-27 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

8. This atonement is perfect in every way

- a. God is perfectly at peace with us, perfectly satisfied with the work of His Son for us
- b. We have been cleansed both INSIDE and OUT
 - i) INSIDE: Our hearts have been cleansed, not only from a guilty conscience, but also from the allegiance and affection we had for sin
 - ii) OUTSIDE: Our bodies have been washed with pure water, meaning we are walking in newness of life, imitating Christ in His holiness, forsaking sin in that new resurrected life we live by the Spirit

9. On the basis of this perfect atonement, we now have...

C. Access to God's Holy Dwelling Place

- 1. This is the point the Author had been making... the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle symbolized God's throne room, His dwelling place
- 2. The curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place symbolized the restriction, the prohibition that every single Israelite had from the presence of God... only the High Priest was permitted, and that only once a year
- 3. When Jesus died, the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; God had made what this text says

Vs. 20 a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body

- 4. We now have not only the RIGHT to draw near to God, but we are COMMANDED to do so even in this text (more on that in a moment!!)
- 5. So here, Jesus has given us the right of access to the very throne room of God, the very presence of God Himself

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

- 6. Christ has given us this access by the blood He shed, by His body given on the cross, by the perfect work of atonement—the sprinkling He has done to cleanse our hearts and our bodies from sin and to make us perfect in God's holy eyes... because of this Christ has given us ACCESS
- 7. He now gives us one more necessary gift... CONFIDENCE to enter

D. Assurance of Faith = Boldness

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus

1. NIV: confidence; KJV: boldness
2. This is “full assurance of faith” mentioned in verse 22... more on that in a moment
3. Christ has worked in us this boldness, this confidence by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit
4. Why “boldness”?
 - a. The restrictions of the Law of Moses that we have mentioned: the DEATH PENALTY came down upon anyone who was not a son of Aaron if he ventured into the Holy of Holies
 - b. Deeper: the holiness of God, which ABHORS sin and lashes out in righteous wrath against it... fear and trembling accompany drawing near such a holy God
 - c. God in many ways throughout scripture gives us a sense of the terror of His presence

Exodus 20:18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance

Isaiah 33:14 "Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?"

1 Timothy 6:15-16 God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

- d. It takes astonishing BOLDNESS to draw near to such a terrifying God
5. This gift of the BOLDNESS of FAITH is what Christ gives to us

So... we have a full list of what Christ gives to us:

His body and blood...

A perfect atonement...

Access into the presence of God...

Confidence to enter

II. What Christ Calls Us To Do

A. Let Us Draw Near to God

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

1. Drawing sinners near to God is the goal of Christ's saving work
2. Sin put us at a distance; Christ brings us near
3. This is the GREATEST GIFT God could ever give us in this world: intimacy with God

The Psalmist in Psalm 73 had to learn this in a very powerful way:

Psalm 73:21-28 When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, ²² I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. ²³ Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. ²⁷ Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. ²⁸ But as for me, it is good to be near God.

4. This is a PRESENT EXPERIENCE of intimacy with God... not our future glory in His presence
 - a. It commands us to draw near NOW
 - b. Especially, it commands us to do so "in full assurance of faith"
 - c. Faith is

The assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen

 - d. In heaven, we will have FACE to FACE fellowship with God; we will draw near then in perfection
 - e. Faith is absolutely UNNECESSARY in heaven
 - f. So this command is for a present experience of intimacy with Almighty God
5. By tempting us to sin, Satan is seeking to put a distance between us and our God; to use God's holiness against us

Isaiah 59:1-2 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

6. He entices us to sin, then accuses us of those sins
7. The Author urges us to draw near to God by faith
 - a. Not to claim that our purity of lives is ever sufficient to merit drawing near to God
 - b. Not to wait until we have lived the perfect day, or the perfect hour, so we can DESERVE to come close to God
8. Now: our sins can greatly damage our assurance, not our standing with God
 - a. We are no more deserving to draw near to God when we have had the most obedient day of the year; and we are no less deserving when we have had the most disobedient day of the year
 - b. BUT when we violate our conscience, we greatly damage our own ASSURANCE... the Author speaks here of FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH
 - c. He speaks of having our consciences cleansed and our bodies washed with pure water
 - d. The more faithfully we live our Christian position out in daily lives, the more confident we will be to draw near to God
9. Practical Application
 - a. Make intimacy with God the greatest goal of your life
 - b. Every day, set it before yourself that you will walk in constant consciousness of Christ by the Spirit; you will seek by faith to be aware of God's holy presence
 - c. Like Enoch and Noah or old, you will seek to WALK WITH GOD
 - d. You will fight indwelling sin by the power of the Holy Spirit so that your assurance will be MIGHTY and you will feel CONFIDENT drawing near to God
 - e. If you have sinned, still, make it your immediate goal to draw near to God for cleansing and forgiveness

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- f. You will make intimacy with God the goal of your daily quiet time: you will seek to develop a hunger and thirst for the living God

Psalm 63:1-3 O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. ² I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. ³ Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.

B. Let Us Hold Unswervingly to Hope

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

1. The whole goal of the Author in writing to these persecuted Jewish believers was to give them STRENGTH to PERSEVERE in their profession of faith in Christ
2. They had made an initial profession, despite much persecution; why? Because they believed in the lavish incredible promises of the Gospel
 - a. They could see with their mind's eye the promised New Heaven and New Earth;
 - b. They could visualize the magnificence of the New Jerusalem, the city of the living God
 - c. They could sense the holiness of the mighty angels—100 million of them—eager to serve God
 - d. They YEARNED to see these things, to be in that place
 - e. And their hearts were filled with HOPE: a biblical hope, based on the certainty of God's promises and the vividness of God's descriptions
 - f. This hope was strong, an anchor for their souls in the midst of a storm of trial and persecution
3. The Author has already described this vigorous, living HOPE... he described how God labored to give His people a sense of absolute certainty about the promises of God so that their HOPE would be unshakable:

Hebrews 6:17-20 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. ¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf.

4. The Author here wants them to HOLD UNSWERVINGLY to our hope
 - a. Word translated “hold” = seizing the promises with the powerful arms of faith
 - b. “Unswervingly” = no doubting; no wavering, no flickering, no trembling in faith... not easily moved, not having a heart shaken like the fluttering leaves of a tree in a strong breeze

5. The Ground of Unshakeable Hope: the FAITHFULNESS OF GOD
 - a. As we just saw a moment ago in Hebrews 6:17-20, it is IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE!!!
 - b. We are insulting God if we think He will renege on His solemn promise to save us completely—to raise us up on the final day and bring us to a glorious inheritance
 - c. The Author is urging us to IMITATE GOD: be as unshakable in your hope as God is in keeping His promise!!!

6. The heart attitude of CONFIDENCE in drawing near to God, and HOPE in living every day is the goal of this entire epistle
 - a. The author wants everyone who reads this to become immovable in a bold faith
 - b. We can look at everyday life and laugh at the troubles we face
 - c. We are buoyant in trials, energetic in service, because of this FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH and this UNSWERVING HOPE

7. Does this HOPE characterize YOU today?
 - a. Can you close your eyes and allow the joy of your future inheritance in Christ wash over you, cleansing you from doubt, fear, guilt, worry, anger, etc.?
 - b. Do you see by faith the greatness of the New Heaven and New Earth, the majesty of the New Jerusalem, the beauty of the place?
 - c. Do you flicker through unbelief in your financial trials? When you struggle to make ends meet, do you get depressed?
 - d. How about your struggles with sin? Do they cause you to doubt the promises of God for you?
 - e. What about relational trials? Illness or physical pain? Do any of these dim your hope... make you flicker?

The first two exhortations were internal... having to do with our own FAITH and HOPE

Now the Author urges us Christians to LOOK OUTWARD to other Christians, to build them up in their faith

C. Let Us Consider One Another

NIV: *Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*

ESV *Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works*

1. "Let us consider"

- a. The Christian life is a life of THINKING... of careful consideration
- b. We Christians are to give deep and careful thought in general
- c. The Greek word here refers to the a diligent inspection of something; concentrating on it, pondering it thoroughly

Luke 12:24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!

Luke 12:27 "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

ESV *Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession*

2. Not HOW but WHO:

LET US CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER...

- a. The grammar is clear: the direct object of the verb "consider" is "one another"
 - b. Most translations immediately put in a "how": "Let us consider HOW we may spur one another on to love and good deeds"
 - c. But that implies a TECHNIQUE... a METHOD... we are not here commanded to think about a technique or method... but about a PERSON
- #### 3. Provoke, spur on, stimulate... AMAZING WORD
- a. Greek word = "paroxusmos" from which we get "paroxysms"...

Webster's definition: A sudden attack or violent expression of a particular emotion or activity

e.g. "All the toddlers were having paroxysms of laughter over the puppet show... they were literally rolling on the floor"

- b. The word in Greek usually refers to "provocations" that lead to conflicts, or embittering the spirits of others; stirring someone up to anger or resentment; doing something that causes a heating up of someone's spirit
- c. But here the use is completely positive: **SPURRING SOMEONE ON to LOVE and GOOD DEEDS**, not to anger or conflict

Illus. SPURS... HORSE...

Better: microwave... getting **ARMED UP** to a ministry

4. The end result: **LOVE and GOOD DEEDS**

- a. The desire is to greatly increase the **FRUITFULNESS** of the Body of Christ
- b. Therefore, the consideration should be of two sorts:
 - i) What are the needs of the Body of Christ... individually and corporately?
 - ii) What are the gifts of this specific person?

Illus. How Mark Dever loved me in both ways

First, when I was a single man, living with my parents—"Who's loving you right now?";
Second, my greatly encouraging my teaching gift

- c. Though we are not saved **BY** good works, we are saved **TO** good works

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Titus 2:14 [Jesus] gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- d. Those good works are the very things that build up the Body of Christ, the church, to full maturity

Ephesians 4:12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Ephesians 4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- e. All of us need stimulation to be maximally fruitful in our Christian lives
- f. Our flesh is constantly opposing the good works that God has ordained for us to do

Romans 7:21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

- g. Also: we need the benefits of other people's spiritual gifts to prepare us for the use of our spiritual gifts
 - h. As we sit under good preaching/teaching, as we are in a loving and encouraging body of Christians, as people pray for us, as we know the needs of others and have opportunities to serve them... all of this is the matrix for MAXIMUM FRUITFULNESS in the Christian life
5. Reminder: two great reasons to be in a church the rest of your life
- a. Negative: to protect us from our internal sinfulness... our blind spots; Hebrews 3

Hebrews 3:12-13 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

- b. Positive: to maximize our fruitfulness for God's glory and our rewards on Judgment Day
6. Know and Be Known, Part II:
- a. Hebrews 3: in order to protect someone from their own tendency toward a sinful unbelieving heart and the deceitfulness of sin, we must KNOW and BE KNOWN
 - b. Hebrews 10: In order to spur someone on to love and good deeds, we must KNOW and BE KNOWN

7. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- a. Develop relationships with people at FBC for the very purpose of knowing each other enough to CONSIDER THEM in order to stimulate them to love and good deeds

- b. Choose a handful of people to consider and pray for them, to learn how to spur them on to love and good deeds
- c. Go through the phone list for the same purpose
- d. Make a major focus of the Home Fellowships fulfilling this same purpose... seek to consider each member of your Home Fellowship in heartfelt prayer and ask God “What are some fruitful ministries that he/she could be involved with? How can I personally stimulate him/her to love and good deeds?”

D. Let Us Keep Meeting Together

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing

1. Foundational to all we’ve been saying: you’ve got to KEEP MEETING TOGETHER with the Body of Christ
 - a. God delights in having His people ASSEMBLE TOGETHER
 - b. We are redeemed out of isolation and brought into a glorious family, a worldwide family of God
 - c. In the Old Testament, the Jews were called on to assemble together as a nation in corporate worship three times a year... therefore the Psalmists celebrate frequently the “great assembly”

Psalm 22:25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows.

Psalm 26:12 My feet stand on level ground; in the great assembly I will praise the LORD

Psalm 35:18 I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among throngs of people I will praise you.

Psalm 40:9-10 I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, as you know, O LORD. ¹⁰ I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly.

- d. Heaven is already a place of glorious ASSEMBLY

Psalm 89:5-7 The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones. ⁶ For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings? ⁷ In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.

Hebrews 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly

- e. In heaven, there will be a multitude greater than any can number from every tribe, language, people and nation in one glorious assembly

Revelation 7:9-11 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." ¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God

- f. There is no loneliness, no isolation, no alienation, no arrogant superiority... we are going to ASSEMBLE TOGETHER into one place, with the throne of God and of the Lamb in the center of everything
- g. So, an essential element of the healthy Christian life on earth is the assembly of ourselves together with other believers

2. The Author puts it negatively: don't give up meeting together

- a. The Greek word translated "give up" is also translated "forsake"... a willful choice to not go to church
- b. The Hebrew Christians were under severe persecution, and some may have chosen to forsake the assembly of themselves with other Christians to avoid being attacked
- c. Others were perhaps drifting away from Christ through a gradual process of increasing worldliness and sin, and were thus forsaking the assembling of themselves with other Christians because they no longer had a taste for Christian worship, fellowship, and instruction

3. The HABIT is the issue

- a. The Author refers to the fact that some are in the habit of forsaking the assembly
- b. It is not a matter of an isolated issue... that it is some unforgiveable sin if you ever miss church
- c. It is a matter of the HABIT PATTERN which results from a shifting heart... a lack of desire to assemble

4. APPLICATION

- a. Do you have an increasing desire to meet with God's people week by week, a yearning for public worship, a delight in the proclamation of the word, a deep taste for Christian fellowship? You are **HEALTHY**
- b. Do you have **NO DESIRE** for these things? You are **UNREGENERATE...** not a Christian at all?
- c. But what about in the middle? Our desire may wax and wane... it may be caused by some conflict we have with another church member, or some sin issue in our lives, or some disaffection with something going on in the church... or even worse, we may gradually develop a taste for a quiet Sunday sleeping in, or playing golf, or going to a vacation home, or something **OTHER THAN** church... it is a very dangerous habit to get into
- d. The elders of the church look at church attendance as a **KEY DIAGNOSTIC** to spiritual health... if someone starts pulling back from attendance, we must pursue it and find out **WHY????** "Where there's smoke, there's fire..." and where someone is **ABLE BODIED** and not attending worship, there is inevitably clear evidence of a **HEART DRIFTING FROM CHRIST**, a growing hardness of heart caused by sin's deceitfulness
- e. Whatever would cause you to decrease in your affection for the Body of Christ is a deadly danger to your soul
 - i) Secret sins that make you feel guilty and estrange you from God... the last thing you feel like doing is going to church, surrounded by seemingly happy and holy people
 - ii) Bitterness and unforgiveness: a relationship that has soured, a harsh word spoken, some thoughtless deed that has caused hurt; perhaps a sin of omission—the church showed you no love at a time when you needed someone to care; as a result, you feel hostile to the church
 - iii) Pride and arrogance toward other Christians... feelings of superiority; you are better than others, and you don't need them; they are only holding you back in your Christian life; you have such a fruitful ministry during the week and such great quiet times, why would you need to go to church (problem especially for people in full-time ministries with parachurch groups)
 - iv) Lack of submission to God-ordained authority—the elders; you don't like the direction the church is going on this or that issue; some elder or pastor hurt you in some way, or failed to serve you when you

needed help; this causes a feeling of anger, a resistance to the leadership of the church, and you begin to skip worship

- v) Increasing love of the world—pursuit of career, money, power—that dominates your life so much you can't make time for church any more; or increasing love of the world's pleasures: hobbies, pastimes, travel, vacations,
- vi) Increasing love of sleep and rest and ease: you say, "I work hard throughout the week, and I need a day to decompress and relax"; I love sleeping in, and I never get to do it... Sunday is the best day for it"

5. The elders of the church **HAVE TO BE DILIGENT** on this issue; if someone makes it a habit to forsake the assembly of the saints, the elders (and others in the church) need to be **ALERT** and deal with it; if the people won't repent, they need to be removed from the membership of the church through church discipline... **AND** the church **MUST** support that process...
6. **TOO MANY BAPTIST CHURCHES** have church rolls filled with people who never come... let the church be diligent to achieve an accurate church roll: everyone on the membership list is either faithfully attending or physically unable to do so (and is thus receiving ongoing homebound ministry from the church); **NO THIRD OPTION**

E. Let Us Encourage Each Other

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

1. The final exhortation in this string is the verb we've seen again and again in Hebrews...

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

2. in fact it is the point of the entire epistle

Hebrews 13:22 Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written you only a short letter.

3. the action: speaking words of exhortation, encouragement, instruction, warning... whatever is needed to keep someone safe from sin and productively loving and doing good deeds
4. The time frame: **ALL THE MORE AS YOU SEE "THE DAY" APPROACHING**

- a. "The Day" is Judgment Day, when we must give an account of every earthly action
 - b. As we see that Day approaching, we should encourage each other... the stronger our faith, the more we will see the DAY approaching
5. General: let FBC be a place of incredible ENCOURAGEMENT in the Christian life
- a. Let this be place where we speak words of blessing, thanks, praise, instruction... even urging and warning and rebuke where needed
 - b. Let this be a place where we are genuinely committed to each other's WEALTH on Judgment Day
6. Specific: Men's and women's mentoring... accountability relationships