

The Radical God  
Heb 4:14-16

Therefore..so far...

- Since we know that Christ is the exalted son of God
- Since we know He is the better Joshua, the better Saviour
- Since we have the Word of God, the living active Holy weapon against sin and evil revealing the Truth to us about God and life in Him

One more 'Since' for the 'Therefore' (Heb 4:14)

- The True, Highest High Priest
  - The High Priest over Israel carried the blood from the outer court, through the Holy place, into the Holy of Holies...every year
  - Jesus takes His blood to the Holy Presence of God in the Highest Heaven, once for all (2 Cor 12:2-4)
  - What the priest could never do, Jesus did for all of His people throughout time and space (1 John 2:2)
- Therefore...Hold Fast
  - Hold Fast is a term of conflict, like in battle, the root is *kratos* the Greek God of Strength, *krateo* here is to seize, with strength
  - We are to seize with great strength, because of our great High Priest, the confession we have been given (Heb 3:1)

The Radical God (Heb 4:15)

- What it truly means that Jesus sympathizes with us
  - The Stoic philosophy that had a prevalence in ancient Greek and Roman culture believed that God(s) main characteristic was that of *apatheia*, inability to feel anything at all. A God that felt things could be manipulated and controlled
  - Epicureanism, essentially Stoicisms opponent philosophy, believed that God(s) was completely detached, essentially inhabiting the space in between the worlds
  - Judaism had a correct understanding of God and His character as given to them in the Law and the Prophets, but He was largely overarching, Sovereign Over but Completely Seperate
  - In Christ, God has *sympatheo*, sympathized with us
- In Christ, God was truly revealed as Father, even more so, having gone through Suffering for us
- The root word for *sympatheo* is *pascho*, to suffer
- Specifically this word is used only twice in the new testament, both in Hebrews, and reveals a physical interaction beyond just an emotional connection
- In this way Jesus was tempted, in the same ways we are tempted...yet without sin
- "A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find out the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness.

They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it: and Christ, because He was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means—the only complete realist.” -C.S. Lewis *Mere Christianity*

- Jesus has gone before us in a way that can sympathize with us, yet it was so much more than we experience which offers Him an unequalled capacity for sympathy, and that makes Him the Radical God. Unlike the gods devised by man...the One True God suffered that we might have a High Priest that can administer true salvation for us, His beloved

The Result of having a Radical God (Heb 4:16)

- Here lies the pleading of the author, do not turn back to the mundane temporal security of the Law and its weak atonement, run to the Radical God, the true High Priest because He offers a new Throne and a new approach
- Remember how Isaiah approached the throne (Isa 6:1-5)
- Jesus, our High Priest, calls us before the throne with confidence
- This is because of our sure foundation, suddenly the throne has become of throne of Grace
- Through Christ, the throne is clothed in Grace and sitting upon it is our Father, we need not fear and hide from its majesty, we can boldly approach it with the confidence placed in our perfect Pioneer Saviour High Priest
- In turn, we don't find judgment and terror, we stand in awe as the Father grants us grace and mercy right when we need it
- \* his is the case the author makes, how much better is Jesus then the Law, Priests, and Prophets...approach confidently the Throne of Grace