

Sermon Notes - 05.29.2022 – Draw Near to God – Living in the Presence

James 4:6-8 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." **7 Submit therefore to God.** Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.** Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

One Day We Will Draw Near for All Eternity

Psalms 24:1-10 A Psalm of David. **The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.** **2** For He has founded it upon the seas And established it upon the rivers. **3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place?** **4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.** **5 He shall receive a blessing from the LORD And righteousness from the God of his salvation.** **6** This is the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face—*even* Jacob. Selah. **7** Lift up your heads, O gates, And be lifted up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in! **8** Who is the King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle. **9** Lift up your heads, O gates, And lift *them* up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in! **10** Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah.

Micah 4:1-2 And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And **the peoples will stream to it.** **2** Many nations will come and say, "**Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob. That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths.**" For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Song:

Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
And to the house of our God.
Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
And to the house of our God.
And He will teach us of His ways.
And we will walk in His paths.
And the law shall go forth from Zion. And the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

We Can Have a Taste of it Now – Do We Live With a Lonesomeness that God Didn't Intend?

Psalms 69:16-17 **Answer me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness is good; According to the greatness of Your compassion, turn to me,** **17** And do not hide Your face from Your servant, For I am in distress; answer me quickly.

Draw Near to Listen – The Blessing is in What We've Heard from God (1 Corinthians 14:24-25)

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 **Guard your steps as you go to the house of God** and **draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools;** for they do not know they are doing evil. **2** Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. **For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.** (This is the fool who is both stupid and arrogant)

Beware of Pretending or Trying to Hide Things from God

Isaiah 29:13 & 15 Then the Lord said, "**Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me**, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*. ... **15** **Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are *done* in a dark place, And they say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?"**"

You Can Close Your Heart, But God Knows Your Thoughts Before You Think Them

Psalms 139:1-6 O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. **2** You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. **3** You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. **5** You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. **6** *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.

We Have the Privilege of Drawing Near to God Though Jesus

John 14:6 Jesus *said to him, "***I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.***"

Hebrews 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our confession.** **15** For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. **16** Therefore **let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Drawing Near - God's Favor and the "Better Hope"

Hebrews 7:19 (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand **there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God**

The "better hope" here refers to the more sure and certain expectation of heaven introduced by the gospel. There is a better foundation for hope; a more certain way of obtaining the divine favor than the Law could furnish." ~ Barnes' Notes

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore **He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**

Together, We Share the Blessings of Drawing Near

Hebrews 10:21-25 and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, **22 let us draw near** with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23 Let us hold fast** the confession of our hope without wavering, for **He who promised is faithful;** **24** and **let us consider** how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.**