

I. Lesson: The Better Way (Hebrews 10:19-39)

A. Let us Come Closer to the Way (10:19-22)

1. Having discussed our secured path to the presence of God, the writer continues his argument about our access, or the “new and living way” (v. 20). We come to God with boldness into the holiest place where we had no previous access (v. 19), Jesus as high priest grants us entrance (v. 20), we have been sanctified to be counted worthy to enter by the blood of Jesus (v. 21).
2. The accomplishments of Christ demand that when we come in boldly, we know with certainty, “full assurance” (v. 22), that we are in the most holy place, not in the tabernacle but in the very presence of the living God. There is no holier place. And our minds and hearts have been cleansed so that we can remain in that presence (v. 22).

B. Let us Hold on to the Way (10:23-31)

1. The writer urges the audience to “hold on” to the confession of “faith/hope” without wavering (v. 23). The temptation to let go of such a new way for them was difficult given social pressure to let go and persecution. But if they were aware of what they were holding on to they would not let go.
2. For those holding on, the task is to encourage others to hold on as well. We are to motivate others to “love” and do “good works” (v. 24). But this is only possible if we are willing to not “forsake the assembling of ourselves together” (v. 25). No Christian can truly walk this walk alone. He or she must be part of the assembly of the saints which helps us all remain in steadfast relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. But going back becomes ever-so convenient for those who choose not to hold on to their hope in Christ. But when we go back there is no more offering for sin (v. 26). Jesus is the only offering that allows us to escape the wrath of God. If we go back, we will have a punishment worse than death (vv. 28-31)

C. Let us be Patient and Confident in the Way (10:32-39)

1. The writer reminds them that they have already suffered persecution because of their faith and their relationship to the writer and his companions in the ministry (vv. 33-34).
2. Persecution and rejection are not sufficient reasons for rejecting the faith. The writer appeals to them to have patience (v. 36). The promises of God are only ahead in Christ Jesus. They are never obtained through going back to one’s old ways. It is only a “little while” and we will see the Lord (v. 37). That is, hold on until you reach the end. If they drew back, if we draw back, we will lose everything we have been waiting for. The only thing waiting for us behind us is destruction (v. 39).