

Heb. 10:19-22 “Sprinkled Clean”

For the Children: In the OT, there were many washings, sprinklings and dippings – for the priests and the people. Sometimes, with water – to teach that sinners need to have their sins washed away by the Lord Jesus; and sometimes by blood – to teach that sin is removed only by Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. Baptism teaches us the same truths: we need the Lord Jesus to deal with our sins, so we can draw near to God. He allows all His people, young and old, to draw near to Him in worship. But if you want to be near to Him forever, you need to have faith in the Lord Jesus. **Questions:** What does it mean to “draw near” to God? Why do we need the Lord Jesus to do that? Can babies also draw near to God?

Introduction:

First Point: The Basis of Our Drawing Near

- 1) Christ’s Sacrifice: Through Jesus’ blood – His sacrifice – we become like priests, who could draw closer to God in the OT Tabernacle. His work has torn down the “veil” that separated the people from the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. He has done so by dealing with our sin. Unlike the OT sacrifices, this is a “new and living way” that effectually brings life to sinners.
- 2) Christ’s Priestly Work: Like the OT High Priest, the Lord Jesus offered a sacrifice (Himself) and intercedes for His people. Unlike the OT priests, His work is effectual (as noted before).
- 3) Christ’s Cleansing Work: The reference in v. 22 to “hearts sprinkled clean” and “bodies washed with pure water” brings to mind all the “washings” (“baptisms”) of the OT, as well as baptism in the NT. See Heb. 6:22. The OT ceremonial baptisms involved sprinkling with blood or dipping into it, or sprinkling or bathing in water. See Ex. 12:22, 24:6; Lev. 4:16,17; 14:6,16,51; Num. 8:7. That this is the background to our text is seen in Heb. 9:11-14,, 18-22. All of these ceremonies, like NT baptism, point to the washing away of sin by Christ’s sacrifice. His work cleanses both our conscience and, ultimately, our body. Therefore, we can draw near to God with a cleared conscience.

Second Point: The Manner of Our Drawing Near

- 1) In Faith: We can only draw near to God in the full sense by means of faith. By faith, we are enabled to lay hold of Christ, whose work deals with our sin, guilt and condemnation, making us acceptable to the holy God.
- 2) With Sincerity: Faith must be sincere, whole-hearted – as opposed to mere theoretical assent. See Jam. 1:8.
- 3) With Assurance: Faith believes the promises of God in Christ and takes them to heart. Therefore, there must be a deep-rooted assurance of sonship/salvation.
- 4) Two Aspects of Drawing Near: All members of the covenant-community, young and old, are enabled to draw near to worship God, as part of His congregation. The covenant-children are “set apart” for that (1 Cor. 7:14). However, only those united to Christ by faith, having been born again by the working of the Holy Spirit, will know the nearness to God that carries on in His presence into eternity. Those who try to draw near without treating God as holy, will eventually be removed – as with Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 9:3).

Conclusion:

