

The Ordinary Means of Grace for the Church

Prayers: Invocation for Christ

Hebrews 4:14-16

PASTOR'S PRAYER

Great God and Glorious Savior, grant us your Spirit this morning that we might be stirred to pray with fervent and faithful confidence in Jesus Christ our perfect high priest who intercedes for us even now as we cry out to you. Come and cause us to pursue you. Pursue you and your promises more than the trinkets of the world and their empty promises. Pursue you in Christ, for Christ, by Christ that we might glory in Christ as we approach your throne of grace with humble confidence and great joy knowing we have a great and sure Savior in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, forever. Amen & Amen.

OUTLINE

1. Let us Hold Fast our Confession (vv. 14-15)
2. Let us Draw Near with Confidence (v. 16)

Central Textual Truth

Draw near with confidence to receive grace in Christ.

Central Sermon Aim

I want SGBC to draw near with confidence to receive grace in Christ.

God's Spirit must fill the sails of our ministry. It is not the hand that scatters the seed which makes it spring up, but the dews and influences of heaven. So it is not our preaching, but the divine influence of the Spirit that makes grace grow in men's hearts. We are but pipes and organs. It is God's Spirit blowing in us that makes the preaching of the Word by a divine enchantment allure souls to Christ. Ministers are but stars to light you to Christ. The Spirit is the lodestone to draw you.... Oh, then pray for us, that God will make his work prosper in our hands. This may be one reason why the Word preached does not profit more, because people do not pray more. Perhaps you complain the tool is dull, the minister is dead and cold. You should have whetted and sharpened him by your prayer. If you would have the door of a blessing opened to you through our ministry, you must unlock it through the key of prayer.

Thomas Watson