

Pilgrims who Worship: Living for an Unseen Throne

Hebrews 4:14-16 “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

John Calvin: “. . . for though the high priest carried the names of the twelve tribes on his shoulders and symbols on his breast, yet he alone entered the sanctuary, while the people stood in the court. But now by relying on Christ the Mediator we enter by faith into heaven, for there is no longer any veil intervening, but God appears to us openly, and lovingly invites us to a familiar access.”

Christian pilgrims are “pilgrims who worship” – we “draw near” to God.

Hebrews 10:1 “For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near [proserchomai].”

Exodus 16:6-9

Exodus 34:29-33 Leviticus 9:1-5

Leviticus 9:7

Pilgrims who worship are pilgrims who already “draw near” to the heavenly temple in Christ.

Hebrews 4:16

Hebrews 7:23-25

Hebrews 10:1-4

Hebrews 10:19-22

Hebrews 11:6

Hebrews 12:18-24

The first covenant saint was a pilgrim in worship - enduring but looking toward the future. For the second (or “better covenant”) saints that future has come. The earthly sacrifices, earthly priests, and the earthly tabernacle are all closed, part of an old age. We have *already* begun worshipping the way we will always worship.

Several points of application for pilgrims who worship.

- (1) *Prayer.*
- (2) *The centerpiece of worship.*
- (3) *Evangelism.*
- (4) *Jesus is worship leader.*

Muether: “By remembering our desert location, we increasingly realize our desperate state and our need for God's provisions. The means of grace, through the ministry of the Word and sacrament, offer genuine nourishment. To reject that healthy diet and seek alternative nourishment is to claim to be wiser than God and yearn for the diet of Egypt.”