

A New and Living Way

(Celebrating Baptism weekend)
Hebrews 10:17 – 25

Big idea: We turn to the first practical part of the letter to the Hebrews to get some ultra practical advice for new baptizees.

Connecting

1. What is a habit or routine in your life that has had a surprisingly powerful effect on you over time—for good or bad?

Observation

2. When most people think about “Christianity”, what do you imagine they think it to be? Share some various ideas.

Understanding

3. Read Hebrews 10:19–22. What images or phrases stand out to you in this section? What do these verses teach us about what Jesus accomplished for us?
4. The sermon emphasized that the goal of salvation is not merely forgiveness, but closeness with God. Why is that an important distinction? How might that change the way someone thinks about the Christian life?
5. A Christian who never spends time with God was compared to “a child with a pass to Disney who sits on a bench all day.” What makes that illustration effective? What are some ways Christians can unintentionally “miss the point” of knowing God personally?
6. The sermon emphasized that God is personal and relational—not merely an abstract force or idea. How does thinking of God as someone who can truly be known affect the way we pray, worship, or read Scripture?
7. Read Hebrews 10:23; Romans 8:1. Why do you think people—even sincere Christians—struggle so deeply with guilt and condemnation?
8. Read Hebrews 10:23; Numbers 13:27 – 33; Matthew 14:22 – 33; 1 Peter 1:13. Explain how what you look at causes fear...or peace. How does this affect someone’s assurance of salvation?

Living

9. Read Hebrews 10:24–25. According to these verses, why does gathering with other believers matter so much? The sermon strongly challenged the idea that someone can follow Jesus well while remaining disconnected from the church. Why do you think people drift away from consistent Christian community?
10. How are you doing at drawing near? Holding fast your confession and assurance? Meeting together with other believers and encouraging them and stirring them up to follow Christ? What steps can you take to continue strong in these areas?

Looking ahead: Read Matthew 5:31, 32. What do you know about the Bible’s teaching on divorce?
Prayer together: Pray for one another in terms of drawing near, holding fast, and meeting together!