

The Throne of Grace

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”
Hebrews 4:16

The First Context (2:9 – 3:6) ... Jesus in His Person

- A. Jesus is crowned with glory and honor and fulfills what David wrote in Ps 8:4-8 (Heb 2:9).
- B. The Captain of our salvation, in this world and the next, became so by suffering (Heb 2:10).
- C. He took upon Himself our nature, so that we are all as one, so we are brethren (Heb 2:11-13).
- D. We are flesh and blood, so Jesus took our nature to destroy Satan’s death claim (Heb 2:14).
- E. He has delivered us from the greatest fear and bondage of all – death of the body (Heb 2:15).
- F. He was made in all ways like His brethren – us – to be a perfect high priest for us (Heb 2:17).
- G. Because He suffered temptation, He can succour (**help**) us when we are tempted (Heb 2:18).
- H. He is the great Person of N.T. Christianity, very far above Moses of the O.T. (Heb 3:1-5).
- I. We are Christ’s ... if we hold fast our confidence and rejoicing in hope to the end (Heb 3:6).
- J. [Hebrews 3:7 – 4:11 is a parenthesis taken from Psalm 95:7-11, describing the N.T. rest.]

The Second Context (4:12 – 5:3) ... Jesus in His Compassion

- A. Jesus is the omniscient and omnipotent Word of God, causing both fear and joy (Heb 4:12).
- B. His omniscient power is used to help our weaknesses and to exploit our enemies (Heb 4:13).
- C. The greatness of Jesus Christ should cause us to reject any thought of desertion (Heb 4:14).
- D. The greatness of Jesus Christ as High Priest includes His experience in our pain (Heb 4:15).
- E. Priests are chosen from among ordinary worshippers to be very compassionate (Heb 5:1-3).

The Third Context (5:4-10) ... Jesus in His Passion

- A. Jesus did not presume on His office of High Priest, but God chosen Him to it (Heb 5:4-6).
- B. Jesus has endured suffering you will never face, and He obediently chose death (Heb 5:7-8).
- C. His glorification after suffering makes Him the perfect Author of our salvation (Heb 5:9-10).

The Text (4:16)

Let

- A. This imperative verb construction could be formed, “Therefore, you should come boldly ...”
- B. Other similar examples can be found in this very chapter of Hebrews (Hebrews 4:1,11,14).
- C. The Holy Spirit’s choice is much more friendly and encouraging, as Paul included himself.

Us

- A. Paul has appealed to all believers including himself with this same pronoun (Heb 4:1,11,14).
- B. Only the elect, believing children of God can approach the throne of God for grace (Heb 3:1).

Therefore

- A. What is the “therefore,” there for? By His experience to sympathize perfectly (Heb 4:15)!
- B. Consider the various contexts above, with the emphasis on 4:15. Our text is the conclusion.
- C. We should conclude from the comparisons and descriptions before, to run to Christ in prayer.

Come

- A. We must move ... from our worldly environment to another place ... where God is (Col 3:1).
- B. From the end of the earth we can go to the throne room of Almighty God (Ps 43:3-4; 61:1-4).
- C. We do this by worship and by His word, but most of all by prayer in the Spirit (Phil 4:6).
- D. Esther could not approach her king's throne without an invitation. But this is our invitation!
- E. How should you come? With total humility and submission to Him alone (Hosea 14:1-7)!

Boldly

- A. We cannot fear; we cannot doubt. We should come boldly to our Father God (Heb 10:19-22).
- B. We should come as adopted children, whom He gladly adopted when yet ugly and unruly!
- C. Boldly? On what basis? On the basis that Jesus has also suffered like us (Heb 2:17-18; 4:15).
- D. Hezekiah feared to approach his king's throne with a sad face for a real need (Neh 2:1-2).
- E. But we have a great High Priest that is perfectly suited for us to come to God through Him.

Unto

- A. It is a place ... where Christ sits at God's right hand, and we take His way (Heb 10:19-22).
- B. We set our affection on things above where Christ sits by the prayer of faith (Col 3:1-2).

The

- A. There are not many thrones or other thrones to which we can go, but only to the true God's.
- B. This is no average throne, or even a great throne. This is the infinite throne of Almighty God.
- C. This is no average throne, or even a great throne. This is the throne of grace, that is, ***Grace!***
- D. They that observe lying vanities, or other sources of help than Almighty God Himself, forsake their own mercy (Jonah 2:8-9)! What was this man's salvation? From a fishy mess!

Throne

- A. It is a throne, for we are going to the Command Center of God Almighty over the universe.
- B. It is a throne, because we are going to the King of kings and Lord of lords – God Almighty.
- C. It is a throne, so there should be no doubt as to ability, power, or influence to fully help us.
- D. Whose throne? The throne of Almighty God, with Jesus Christ our High Priest seated beside Him (Heb 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; Acts 7:56; Rom 8:34; Eph 1:20-22; Rev 3:21).

Of

- A. Is it a throne of terror? Of unmitigated justice? Of just reward for our sins? No! No! No!
- B. Any throne worthy of the name should intimidate those approaching it ... except this one.
- C. This is a King against Whom there is no rising up (Pr 30:31), but we may come boldly!

Grace

- A. Do not wait until you are better to come, for it is a throne of grace – *demerited favor of God*.
- B. A king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion, but his favor is as dew upon the grass (Pr 19:12)!
- C. Esther feared to approach her king's throne. They fasted three days and nights (Es 4:15-17).
- D. The *grace* and *mercy* should be seen in light of the *therefore*, by 4:15 ... practical mercy for trying situations and pain in life, whether caused by our sins, others' sins, or a sinful world.

- E. Consider the practical application of *mercy* for various trials of life (James 5:11; 3:17; Phil 2:27; II Cor 4:1; Rom 12:8; Luke 18:39; 17:13; 10:37; 1:58; Matt 17:15; 15:22; 12:7; Dan 4:27; Is 30:18-26; Pr 14:31,21; Ps 109:16; 103:6-18; 41:4; 37:21; Job 37:13; Neh 13:22; 1:11; Ezra 9:9; 7:27-28; Ex 15:13; Gen 43:14; 39:21; 24:27; etc.).
- F. The practical use of *grace* or *gracious* (Genesis 43:29; Exodus 22:27; Num 6:24-27; etc.).
- G. The practical use of *gracious* and *merciful* in combination (Psalm 116:1-9; Joel 2:12-14).
- H. God's throne is a throne of justice to the wicked, but favor to the righteous (Ps 34:15-16).

That

- A. We pray with purpose. We do not pray merely from habit or ritual, but to arouse our God!
- B. He honors the purpose, for He has warned that we often have not for not asking (James 4:2)!
- C. If He prayed with strong crying and tears, do not forget your privilege to fast (I Cor 7:5).
- D. Our eyes wait on the LORD our God for mercy as servants and handmaidens (Psalm 123:2).

We

- A. Fools and the wicked can call all they want, but He will not hear their cries (Psalm 18:41; Prov 1:28; 15:8; 28:9; Isaiah 1:15).
- B. It is His delight to hear and answer the prayers of His elect, who faithfully call upon Him.

May

- A. "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matt 21:22).
- B. No good thing will He withhold ... He will give the heart's desire ... (Psalm 37:4; 84:11).

Obtain

- C. He has perfect knowledge of our needs before we even ask them of Him (Matthew 6:8,32).
- D. We will obtain ... if we come boldly believing (I Tim 2:8; Mark 11:23-24; James 1:6-8)!
- E. Blessing and favor have already been purchased for us by the redemptive work of Christ.
- F. We have been adopted as the sons of God, so it is His good pleasure to give us good things.

Mercy

- A. The *grace* and *mercy* should be seen in light of the *therefore*, by 4:15 ... practical mercy for trying situations and pain in life, whether caused by our sins, others sins, or a sinful world.
- B. Mercy upholds the king's throne ... thus the throne of Almighty God and Christ (Pr 20:28)!
- C. Consider the practical application of *mercy* for life's trials (James 5:11; 3:17; Phil 2:27; II Cor 4:1; Rom 12:8; Luke 18:39; 17:13; 10:37; 1:58; Matt 17:15; 15:22; 12:7; Dan 4:27; Is 30:18-26; Pr 14:31,21; Ps 109:16; 103:6-18; 41:4; 37:21; Job 37:13; Neh 13:22; 1:11; Ezra 9:9; 7:27-28; Ex 15:13; Gen 43:14; 39:21; 24:27; etc.).
- D. The practical use of *grace* or *gracious* (Genesis 43:29; Exodus 22:27; Num 6:24-27; etc.).
- E. The practical use of *gracious* and *merciful* in combination (Psalm 116:1-9; Joel 2:12-14).

And

- A. It is not only mercy, but merciful graciousness that helps us, as we see in the coming words.
- B. There is no redundancy in the Spirit's choice of words. We should rejoice in the repetition.

Find

- A. We should expect His comfort and help, for He has our tears in His bottle (Psalm 56:8).
- B. The psalms are filled with David crying for help and obtaining it from the Lord. Use them!
- C. We will not seek in vain, for He guarantees success, if we come in faith (Jer 29:13; Pr 8:17).

Grace

- A. Bathsheba feared before David her king, but she obtained her heart's desire (I Kgs 1:15-16).
- B. The *grace* and *mercy* should be seen in light of the *therefore*, by 4:15 ... practical mercy for trying situations and pain in life, whether caused by our sins, others sins, or a sinful world.
- C. Consider the practical application of *mercy* for life's trials (James 5:11; 3:17; Phil 2:27; II Cor 4:1; Rom 12:8; Luke 18:39; 17:13; 10:37; 1:58; Matt 17:15; 15:22; 12:7; Dan 4:27; Is 30:18-26; Pr 14:31,21; Ps 109:16; 103:6-18; 41:4; 37:21; Job 37:13; Neh 13:22; 1:11; Ezra 9:9; 7:27-28; Ex 15:13; Gen 43:14; 39:21; 24:27; etc.).
- D. The practical use of *grace* or *gracious* (Genesis 43:29; Exodus 22:27; Num 6:24-27; etc.).
- F. The practical use of *gracious* and *merciful* in combination (Psalm 116:1-9; Joel 2:12-14).

To

- A. There is grace implied or spoken or theoretically, but then there is grace that helps. Consider!
- B. We need God's grace through Christ for a reason ... because we are in need of gracious help.

Help

- A. Our friends are often like Job's friends, worthless comforters, but not Jesus Christ, for He has suffered difficulties and can succour, or help, us in any situation (Heb 4:15; 2:16-18).
- B. When you think you need no help, you had better think again, very soberly (I Cor 10:12).

In

- A. While we always have needs, if we are sober, there are also special times of greater needs.
- B. It is during these times we are pressed by necessity to realize greater dependency on grace.

Time

- A. In time of need, you must have a king that can relate, has the power to help, and will help.
- B. There are times of need more pressing than other times, and every year of living proves it.
- C. A time coming for each of us ... the physical and eternal aspects of death (II Tim 1:18).

Of

- A. We have good times and bad times, and we must consider both very carefully (Eccl 7:14).
- B. We live many days, months, and years ... but there are desperate times of need for His grace.

Need

- A. If you do not need His help right now (though you surely do), you will certainly need it soon.
- B. What do you need? Consider wisdom. He gives it liberally without upbraiding (James 1:5).

Conclusion:

1. Have you tasted that the Lord is gracious, then you know the throne of grace works (I Pet 2:3)?
2. Sing of the throne of grace, which we shall not always need ... *A Throne of Grace (Ingram Cubbin)*.