

**Sermon: Gathering Around Christ.**  
**Series: *Gathering and Scattering***

**Scripture: Hebrews 10:19-25.**  
**Date: August 25, 2024**

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) As you think about this passage, what does it reveal about how God designed us? What does it teach us about how we image God (reveal him, reflect him, represent him)?

**2. What does this passage teach us about us?**

a) Our passage speaks of gathering in the presence of God with confidence. What attitude do you typically bring into the church gathering? Confidence? Love? Fear? Apathy? Guilt?

b) We experience the transforming presence of God as we experience gathering with the body of Christ. Do you agree with this statement? Where have you seen this to be true in your own life? Or, along these same lines, how have you seen gathering help you to “hold to your confession of hope without wavering” (v.23)?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) Look closely at verses 19-22 again. What is the basis of our gathering with confidence? What specifically has Jesus done to make it possible for us to enter the presence of God?

b) Think about your answer to 2a. Is the work of Christ the source of your personal confidence in the presence of God? Or is it your own self-righteousness and good deeds? Might you subconsciously think that entering God’s presence at church covers over your bad deeds?

**APPLICATION**

a) Consider the verbs in this passage (v.22-25). What are we being commanded to do? Where can you start today? For example, do you need to start with “drawing near together.” Or do you need to start with “stirring up one another?” What personal commitment will you make to obey the Lord in this way? Can your group hold you accountable?

**PRAYER**

- Thank God for being faithful to his promise to make a way into his presence.
- Confess ways that you have tried to live out your faith on your own.
- Thank Jesus for making a “new and living” way into the presence of God.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to gather with, stir up, and encourage others in the faith.