

Approaching The Throne

Text: Heb. 4:14-16

Intro:

1. A recent article in Time Magazine ~~was~~ was entitled, "The Evolution of Depress.".
2. In this article, Robert Whitte, the author opens by quoting the now infamous but well known Unabomber by stating: (2) - The Unabomber → "I attribute the social + psychological problems of modern society to the fact that society requires people to live under conditions radically different from those under which the human was evolved..."
3. When hear these words → repulsed by the actions of this unknown terrorist, but when we read what he writes, are some insights which make sense.
4. Obviously, God did not create us to live in the stress box society we have manufactured.
 - 1) VCRS + microwave have their merits, but in the employ some of our ~~best~~ best highly efficient lives → times when things ~~is~~ experience an overwhelming sense of despair.
 - 2) Depression rate has been doubling every 10 years.
 - 3) Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young adults in N. Ameria → ~~the~~ topped only by

car accidents + homicides.

4) 15% of all Americans have had a clinical anxiety disorder.

5) Pathological, even nuclear alienation is a hall mark of our time.

5. Truly analyze it → live in a state of social isolation + stratification.

1) 25% of Am. households consist of a single person.

2) Up 80% from 1940 → at times of centers it was almost 0%.

3) According to Harvard Professor Robert Putnam

~~6. Result of social isolation~~ the most isolating technology is television → especially when hooked to a VCR + a coaxial cable.

4) Words of Robert White → "When you're watching TV 28 hours a week - as the average American does - that's a lot of social bonding you're not doing."

6. The result of all this is a rock of narcissism (Egoism), wife battering, child abuse, drug addiction and a ~~state~~ ^{time} of sexual aberrations.

7. To put it mildly → too many people live in a social, psychological + spiritual void → a mutual wasteland of God's creative gifts.

1) Between 1957-1990 → per capita income in America more than doubled.

2) ~~Yet~~ → ~~1/3 of 6~~ yet, according to David Freese in his ~~book~~ ^{writing}, "The Pursuit of Happiness" - ~~the~~ ~~survey~~ only 1/3 of Americans report being "very happy."

8. Well, we all feel the pinch → what is the way out → How do we cope with the stress? Inflation? Depress? Lack of significance + meaning? Frivolous life of TV which ~~is~~ ~~low~~ ~~and~~ wages as to compare ourselves with imaginary models + ~~the~~ success schemes?

9. Only one answer → Turn to the source → Source is the Word of God → Word of God is the revelation of God as creator, ~~the~~ redeemer, sustainer + Father?

1) What is truth? → in the Word.

2) What is good? " " " "

3) What is love? " " " "

4) What is order? " " " "

5) What is happiness, meaning, significance, purpose, joy, peace? → in the Word.

10. Meaning of Psalm 103:

1) Verses 1-5; 8; 19-22 ->

(1) Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

(2) Praise the Lord, O my soul;
and forget not all his benefits.

(3) Who forgives all your sins + heals all your diseases.

(4) Who redeems your life from the pit + crowns
you with love + compassion.

(5) Who satisfies your desires with good
things so that your youth is renewed
like the eagle.

(8) The Lord is compassionate + gracious,
slow to anger + abounding in love.

Ps. 103: 19-22 . 1 ^{you.}

(1) The Lord has established his throne in
heaven.

(2) And his kingdom rules over all.

(3) Praise the Lord, you who are his angels ->

(1) you who do his bidding

(2) " " obey his word

(4) Praise the Lord all his heavenly hosts -
you his servants who do his will.

(5) Praise the Lord - all his works - angels
in his dominions

(6) Praise the Lord - O my soul.

11. Meaning of Isa. 66: 1, 2, 5b:

Isa. 66: 1, 2, 5b → This is what the Lord says:

- (1) Heaven is my throne + earth is my footstool.
- (2) Where is the house you will build for me?
- (3) Where will my tabernacle be?
- (4) This is the one I choose →
- (5) He who is humble + contrite in spirit.
- (6) " " trembles at my word
- (7) Let the Lord be glorified that we may see ^(joy) grace

12. What the Bible is talking about when uses the word, "prose."

#3013

- 1) Ps. 29:11
- 2) Ps. 119:165
- 3) Isa. 26:3
- 4) Jn. 14:27
- 5) Jn. 16:33.

13. Point is: Fill the void when:

- 1) Praise the Lord.
- 2) Humble in heart.
- 3) Contrite in spirit.
- 4) Tremble at His Word.
- 5) Allow the Lord to be glorified in our lives.
- 6) Practice Praise.
- 7) Fill the void → (1) Hold firmly to faith in power
(2) Approach the throne of glory with confidence.

14. Sounds good! Like to live life like that?
How? make it work?

1) Cuylet is the technological trap → gadgets
are a necessity →

4) Ill. Henry Ford → in 60's → wants
his own horse town neighborhood → ~~no~~ garages,
gravel roads → modest houses → reminders
of days of a slower/softer/easier life that he
helped destroy.

(2) Ill: Heremits + wants

2) How ~~can~~ can we get through all the stuff +
approach God? Ill: Little boy + Steven's doves.

15. Whole part of book of Hebrews → tells us
what Christ is doing now → method of
approaching the throne + touching God.

16. Give a formula for activating the very
presence + power of God →.

I. Accents God comes through the
priestly office of Jesus Christ.

1. Allayer in quest to know God

1)

Near To The Throne

Text: Heb. 4: 14-16

Intro

1. Any way we look at it → every serious believer is in a constant quest for the historical Jesus.
 - 1) Want to know him better.
 - 2) " " understand his way.
 - 3) " " reflect his character.

2. By the same token - at some time or other - all asked some very fundamental questions about Christ.

1) Q: "Why was he born?"

a) A: Jn. 1:18 → "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father. He has declared Him."

b) Conclusion: Christ was born to give us a full + identifying revelation of God.

2) Q: Why did Jesus have to die?

(*) A: Gal. 1:4 → Christ gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God + Father,

(5) to whom be glory forever + ever - Amen.

(*) C: Christ died to redeem us from all + every sin.

3) Q: Why did Jesus have to be resurrected?

~~Q~~: (1) A: I Cor. 15:14 → And if Christ has not been raised our preaching is useless & so is your faith. vs 49: And just as we have been born in the likeness of the earthly man so shall we bear the likeness of the heavenly man. vs 53 → 55.

(2) C: Christ was resurrected to validate our preaching; authenticate our faith; and to give us the hope of eternal life.

4) Q: Why did Jesus have to ascend?

(1) A: the book of Hebrews → Quote text: Heb. 4:12-16.

(2) C: Christ ascended on high to bring us near to the throne.

3. Above all else → God wants a relationship with the best of His creation → each one of us whom He has handcrafted:

1) K. J. → vs. 16 → let us draw near to the throne.

2) NTU → Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence.

3) Ameypid → Let us then fearfully, confidently & boldly draw near to the throne of grace.

Way we touch God is through the

(9) ~~8~~

3. ~~How~~ a superior person or high priest:

1) Better than prophets

- (1) Appointed or heri
- (2) Channel of creation
- (3) Expositor of destiny.
- (4) Repletions of glory.
- (5) Ephraim of all things
- (6) Purifier of sins
- (7) at God's right hand.

2) Better than angels

- (1) Rank: By inheritance a more excellent name.
- (2) Relationship: Son of God / Angels commanded to worship him
- (3) Keys: regis forever + heri.
- (4) Revelation: Heeds the scepter of righteousness.
- (5) Redemption: left a ransom for sins.

3) Thou Moses: servant / Christ is the Son.

4) Thou Joshua: Temp^{reit} (25-40); Christ - eternal.

5) Thou Aaron → many similarities:

(1) Like Aaron

- (1) Taken from among men.
- (2) Chosen by God
- (3) Heel companion
- (4) Learned obedience
- (5) Prayed
- (6) Suffered.

- (2) Unlike Aaron.
- (1) God's only son
- (2) Priest after Melchizedek
- (3) Author of eternal salvation.

4. Center of heaven (see sheets)

~~5. Ill: Joshua → Joshua~~ John Smith

II. Actualization of ~~the~~ a relationship with God even though many + grow.

1. Heb. 4:16 → sets a formula for actualizing a relationship with God. → actualization is the internal registration of a principle that governs life.

2. See the formula

1) Faith → (+)

(1) vs. 14 - "held firmly to facts we profess."

(2) Look at the word development.

① Eng. word faith comes from Latin fides →

② Took on two senses of meaning.

1-- Fidelity → loyalty to a principle/person to whom or what one is bound by promise or duty.

2-- Belief → intellectual process having to do with the acceptance of a proposition.

(3) Heb. 11:1 → 6 → best definition

Self: Anybody else up there?

(4) Self: Knowing it can be done! (See sheet)

2) Plus Confidens:

(1) vs. 16 → with heart // N.T. confidens is boldness

(2) Word development: - N.T. word → 2 things:

(1) Courageous manner of those who preach the gospel (Acts) → also use of free citizens → stood up + speak in the public assembly. - Moral freedom to speak truth publicly.

(2) Iniquation + fortitude to approach God without fear because of redeeming work of Christ.

(3) Self: Quit or shut Left // Prevent story

3) Plus Merit

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Plus → 3) Mercy → ~~the~~ God's willingness not to give us what we deserve. → spoken of 4 times as much in O. T. as N. T. → 26 times in Ps. 136 → Story:

- (1) Eternal purpose of God's nature.
- (2) That God, God to seek the temporal good + eternal salvation of those who oppose him even themselves against his will → even
- (3) Even at cost of infants self-sacrifice.

+ 4) Plus Grac

4) Grac → God's unwanted favor → deny for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

- (1) mercy → without deserved punishment
- (2) Grac → Return favor

(3) Grac is the fundamental character of God → upholds all other attributes:

- ① Rom. 3: 24 → free gift.
- ② Rom. 1: 7 → Forbearance of people.
- ③ Tit. 2: 11 → Incarnation in Christ.
- ④ Rom. 5: 20 → greater than sin.
- ⑤ Heb. 2: 9 → Purpose of Calvary

Ill: Small story from prison chaplain.