

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for October 5, 2014

Christ Our Great High Priest
Hebrews 4:16

Christ's priesthood is superior to all other priesthoods (Hebrews 4:14-10:18).

The author of Hebrews in Hebrews 4:14-16 focused his readers on Christ's heavenly, high-priestly ministry.

How did the author focus his readers on the heavenly, high-priestly ministry of Christ in Hebrews 4:14-16?

The author, at the beginning of Hebrews 4:14, drew attention to truths that he had already introduced in the epistle.

The author, based on the truths that he had reiterated at the beginning of Hebrews 4:14, then exhorted his readers.

Because Jesus the Son of God was in fact their great heavenly, high priest, the author exhorted his readers to hold fast their confession (Hebrews 4:14).

Because Christ was their great heavenly, high priest and could sympathize with their weaknesses, he exhorted his readers to draw near with confidence to the throne of grace in order to receive help in the time of their need (Hebrews 4:16).

The word translated "draw near" (PROSERCHOMAI) is a present tense indicating that the readers were to be continually approaching God's throne of grace.

The word "confidence" (PARRESIA) can also be translated "boldness" (Acts 4:31).

In the Bible, mercy and grace are like two sides of the same coin.

We experience God's mercy when the judgments of God that we deserve are withheld from us.

We experience God's grace when the blessings of God that we do not deserve are poured upon us.

May we, knowing that we have a great, high priest who has passed through the heavens, draw near with confidence to God's throne of grace so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in the time of our need.