

Hebrews 10:19-25

Provocation 2021

Since this is all true ...

I. The Way is Open

A. To the Holy Presence

B. By Jesus Body & Blood

II. Draw Near to God!?

A. Confident in Christ

B. With a Sense of Self

III. As His Covenant People

A. Gather Together

1. Engage

2. Testify

B. Provoke Each Other

1. Edify

2. Inspire

... carry on with confidence!

Children, Listen ...

1. Who made it possible for sinners to be at peace in the presence of God

Who is holy and sinless?

2. What does it mean to draw near to God?

3. Why is it important for God's people to be together?

4. How can we help each other live our lives for the Lord?

Sanctified Provocateurs

Who would have ever thought that God's people would be given full license to provoke one another!? But that's just what the writer of Hebrews does under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The word he uses in v. 24 (translated "stir up" ESV – "encourage" NIV – some translations can get quite soft even wimpy and weird about it) is actually quite sharp. Provoke captures the sense it well. But while that term often has negative connotations suggesting inciting a bad response, here it is used in an intense but sanctified way. The writer actually provokes his believing readers to seriously consider their relationship to God based on Christ's work in order to prompt them to draw near to Him with confidence. And then, he stirs us up to provoke one another to live Christlike lives of love and service. Finally, he exhorts us to resist the temptation to become lax and negligent regarding gathering together as God's people.

If you feel provoked today, understand that it is a poking and prodding to pursue the good things the Lord has provided for you in Christ and as part of His community and trust that it is, after all, the Holy Spirit through God's Word stirring you up to take action concerning thing of the Faith.