

A Word from Our Preaching Elder:

Sunday, May 3rd 2009

Good Morning Church,

Have I told you lately that I love you and feel incredibly blessed to be able to serve you as one of our pastors and to have the privilege of opening God's word with you each week? Sometimes I just kick back in amazement at how kind God has been to us — and continues to be day after day. Of course we aren't perfect, far from it. That's why we need the Gospel so constantly! But I was thinking about it right after we'd taken the Lord's Supper together last Sunday. We draw near each week because we are poor and needy; we have sinned and fallen short; we have failed to love as we ought to love; our faith is weak and pitiful. But oh! He is merciful! And He receives us freely on the basis of His finished work on the cross. Therefore we can draw near, not only to Him (joy of all joys!) but also through Him to one another! And there we find that we are loved and forgiven, accepted and made one in Christ! Wonder of wonders!

Thus, each week we can celebrate this promise:

Hebrews 10:19-25,

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

With that wonderful assurance in mind, now listen carefully to the warning that is part of this morning's message from Mark 9:38-50.

Amazed by His Grace!

Pastor Scott