



November 13, 2022

**Abounding Grace: Experiencing and Expressing
God's Goodness - Cleansing Grace**

Hebrews 4:14-16

For Discussion and Reflection:

1. God has dealt with your sin! Jesus sacrificed himself to atone for your sin. It's his blood sprinkled on the mercy seat. What does that mean for you personally?
2. The apostle recognizes that his audience benefited emotionally from their regular sacrifices for sin. There was something "cathartic" about it that they were struggling to let go of (Hebrews 9:9). While he challenges their hope in the practice, saying, "the blood of bulls and goats can never take away sin," (10:4) he assures them at the same time. Consider the need for not only our flesh to be cleansed but our conscience, Hebrews 9:11-14. Which is more freeing? What are the implications of a conscience freed from guilt?
3. In that same text, notice the author doesn't say, the blood of Christ cleanses from sin, but from "dead works." What are the "dead works" he is referring to? What "sacrifices" do Christians sometimes make in an attempt to cover or atone for their sins? How does God view those works? How does the author want us to respond to Christ's sacrifice?
4. Consider Hebrews 10:1-10. What is the author's main argument? How does he conclude in v10? "Sanctify" means simply to "make holy." Sometimes biblical writers use the word to refer to our standing with God and other times the progress we are making in holiness. What is the author's use in this text? To have a firm answer, read 10:11-14, focusing on v14.
5. How does the author want his audience to approach God? Read Hebrews 10:19-22. Notice how he draws his fuller argument together with comments about Christ's ability to purify our body and our conscience. Why are both important? How should this affect our view of ourselves before God?
6. Read the warning the author imposes next, Hebrews 10:26-31. Why would he offer this warning? How does this compare to Romans 6? Does God's mercy and grace in Christ free us to treat sin lightly?
7. How does the author anticipate God's forgiveness will affect our community, Hebrews 10:24? How are the forgiven to stir each other up? In what context does that occur?
8. How does the author anticipate the "forgiven" will respond to the offenses of others? What about to future temptations? Read Hebrews 12:14-17.
9. How does our experience of forgiveness through atonement find expression? What are some signs in your own life that you aren't living in the mercy and grace of God?