

**Sermon Notes of  
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on November 14, 2021:**

**"Forgiven and Perfected for All Time  
(Hebrews 10:11-25)"**

**[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman, at church in the Y, shows us that we stand in relationship with God totally forgiven and totally perfected because of what Jesus did for us.]**

Introduction:

- It was around 5 years ago that you had first heard the phrase, “We stand in relationship with God with no fear, no shame, no guilt and no doubt.”
- Now, when you first heard that, did it sound just a little strange?
- Was this statement too good to be true?
- It wasn't something that we grew up with in our church culture.
  
- A while back, Rick Shallenberger, down in Lexington, asked Pastor Craig, what his passion was.
- After thinking about it, he said that he wanted our members to be able to feel like they stand in relationship with God with no fear, no shame, no guilt and no doubt.
- Now, we have this relationship with Jesus Christ and the history of our church has not always seen that in a positive way, but perhaps in a little fearful way.
- And so we have to completely eliminate those kind of thoughts.
  
- So, let's define what these four words mean.

Fear:

- Merriam-Webster definition: an unpleasant emotion caused by being aware of danger; a feeling of being afraid.
  - Now, do we want to walk through life this way?
  - Do we want that emotion to exist in our thoughts?
  - We don't want to walk around with unpleasant emotions and feeling afraid.
  - Now, over the past 4 to 5 years, how many of us feel that we have every reason to stand in relationship with our Father, Son and Spirit without fear, shame, guilt or doubt?
  - Hopefully, we really believe that.

Shame:

- Definition: a painful emotion caused by consciousness of guilt, shortcoming, or impropriety.
  - This is one of those already-not-yet kinds of concepts.
  - This concept of our standing in relationship with God this way is seen through the eyes of the Father.

- This is how the Father sees us, through His Son Jesus, because we have been forgiven of everything and we have been reconciled, regardless where we might be personally – falling short in our humanity.
- And this will never change – we are completely forgiven, completely washed of sin and completely reconciled between us and God.
- Today's passage of scripture will make this very clear.

### Guilt:

- Definition: feelings of deserving blame especially for imagined offenses or from a sense of inadequacy; self-reproach.
  - Now, when we see in scripture that the Father has completely forgiven and forgotten all of our sins because of what Jesus has accomplished, there is no reason to feel guilt.
  - And when we fall short at times, it means that we just reach out to the Father, in repentance or forgiveness and our relationship with God is back.
  - But, always, always from God's perspective, His relationship with us is positively wonderful and will never change.
  - Now, it takes some time to change our thinking about how God feels about us, because of what we had wrongly thought in the past.

### Doubt:

- Definition: to be uncertain about something; to believe that something may not be true or is unlikely.
  - Should we have any doubt about how much the Father, Son and Spirit loves us?
  - We should have no doubts, whatsoever.
  - And through our transformation, our old wrongful thoughts are changing and becoming renewed and transformed.
  - Now, in the past, some of us didn't want to be cremated when we died, because we didn't want to burn twice.
  - You know what – we will never burn because of what Jesus has done for us.
  - That is wrongful thinking.
  - So, we have to continually remind ourselves what the truth is.

### Today's verses:

- Now, as we've been walking through Hebrews, we have seen that Jesus is our Great High Priest.
- We've seen what the Levitical priests could and couldn't do and what Jesus did ultimately as the Great High Priest.
- And, we can be so thankful for what Jesus accomplished for us.

### **Hebrews 10:11 (NASB), Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;**

- This is almost like the definition of insanity, which is doing the same thing over and over again, expectantly a different result, and not getting it.

- That would be a frustrating job, knowing that what they were doing wasn't making any headway.
- But, this system foreshadowed the coming real system.

**12) but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time,**

- Did Jesus offer a sacrifice for just sometime, or part of the time, or a piece of the time?
- No, He offered a one sacrifice for all time.

**12b) SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,**

- Now, the priests were always standing, because they were constantly working trying to get a different result.
- But, sitting down meant that Jesus completed His work. IT'S OVER WITH.
- So, there was only a need for one sacrifice – not anymore.

**13) waiting from that time onward until HIS ENEMIES ARE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET.**

- We need to change our understanding of who these enemies are.
- It's not humanity because all are included in Jesus' reconciliation.
- Now, death has been stated as an enemy and it will be eliminated.
- Satan and his demons have been described as enemies.
- And perhaps those who have a mindset of opposition could be called an enemy from a subjective stand point.
- But God, from his objective love, care and concern would call any of His children, believers or not-yet-believers, as enemies.

**14) For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.**

- Jesus has perfected not just for some time or part of the time or a little bit of the time, but for ALL time for those who are sanctified.
- There is no time that we aren't sanctified and perfected forever.
- And it wasn't anything that WE did.
- If we had to rely on our own actions, life would be a pretty slippery slope.
- But, Jesus and the Father and the Spirit have done it because God loves us and His ultimate grace has been lavished upon us.
- There will never be a time that anyone one of us would not be considered perfected.
- And none of us can change that – we can't reverse this.
- We are perfect – in God's eyes, because of what the Son did.
- Now, we can get down on ourselves and think we've lived a challenged life and come up short.
- No, because that's the subjective thoughts talking to us.
- But God's objectiveness is the reality and that's what matters.
- Our transformation helps us get rid of those doubts and our potential fearfulness and potential shame.

- We may struggle with those things, but that's not the reality, but our subjectiveness.
- Now, are all of us sanctified?
- Would everyone here, agree that we are sanctified? We should, because we are.
- Scripture tells us that because of a believing spouse, their unbelieving spouse or their unbelieving children are also sanctified. (1 Cor. 7:14)

**15) And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, 16) “THIS IS THE COVENANT WHICH I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, DECLARES THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEARTS, AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR MIND,” He then says, 17) “AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL NO LONGER REMEMBER.”**

- Now, we would have to agree that God has a pretty good memory.
- But, He chooses NOT to remember our sins, because when Jesus, through His one sacrifice, eliminated all sin.
- Now, to the Father, that was as if we never had sinned, because He has chosen to forget them forever.
- So, can we see why we can truly believe that we stand before God with no fear, no shame, no fear and no doubt?
- It's the objective truth of who we are in God's eyes.

**18) Now where there is forgiveness of these things, an offering for sin is no longer required.**

- And that's because this forgiveness has been given to us through all eternity.
- It's done, because Jesus sat down.

**19) Therefore, brothers and sisters, 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, through His flesh,**

- This is an illusion to the veil covering the entrance way into the Holy of Holies in the temple, 3 ½ inches thick, which was torn from the top to the bottom at the death of Jesus.
- This tearing represents the fact that we now have access to God all the time – there is no longer a separation.

**21) and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, 22) let's approach God 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.**

- Isn't this speaking of no guilt forever?
- These verses are here telling the truth about us, because of what Jesus, our Great High Priest, did for us.
- But we just didn't see it before.

**23) Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24) and let's consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds,**

- So, we have been perfected and forgiven of sin for all time.
- Now, what are the implications of this?
- How should we respond? How should we act? How should we participate?
- We're told that we are "to encourage one another in love and good deeds."
- This also means that we do this to the community in which we live in.

**25) not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.**

- Often times, the Jewish Christians worshipped both in the Jewish synagogue and Christian assembly.
- And then, some of them quite worshipping in the Christian assembly.
- And the author of Hebrews is encouraging them to come back.
- Now, in this COVID pandemic, there have been articles written that tell us that people haven't been returning back to church, as they did before.
- Pastor Craig now shares with us an article he read in *Christianity Today*, "The public health crisis no one is talking about."
- It's by Tyler Vanderweele and Brendan Case (John L Loeb Professor of Epidemiology at the Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health and director of the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University).
- They did this study that included 70,000 people.
- They found out that there are physical health benefits to those who attend church and hear messages about hope and forgiveness.

Reduced health risks to regular attenders vs. never-attenders:

- 33% have a reduced risk of death.
- 84% have a reduced risk of suicide.
- 29% have a reduced risk of depression.
- 50% have a reduced risk of divorce.
- 68% have a reduced risk of "deaths of despair" for women.
- 33% have a reduced risk of "deaths of despair" for men.
- 33% have a reduced risk of adolescent illegal drug use.
- 12% have a reduced risk of adolescent depression.
- Now, in Pastor Craig's experience, he's interacted with those who were feeling down, discouraged and/or depressed and then wanted to back off from engaging going to church, because they didn't feel worthy.
- But, if you are feeling depression or feeling down or discouraged, that's the time to circle into our family so that we can "encourage one another in love and good deeds."
- We all need to come to church.

Closing prayer