

The Throne of Grace

Sunday, August 18th, 1991

Hebrews 4:14-16

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

I'm speaking to you today, from the Book of Hebrews. Hebrews Chapter 4: verse 16. The title of the message is: "THE THRONE OF GRACE." I'm going to be using three verses for a text. I will just read one verse right now. The verses that I will be using are Hebrews Chapter 4: verses 14, 15, and 16.

Here is verse 16, now listen to it, *"Let us therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* The scriptures have a lot to say about the throne of God. I took down a concordance a few weeks ago and read all the scriptures in the Word of God on the *"throne of God."* The Bible has a lot to say about the throne of God.

Let me briefly give you a few things that are written in the scriptures concerning God's throne. First of all, His throne is a throne of glory and great majesty. In Isaiah Chapter 6, Isaiah said; *"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up and His glory filled the temple."* The throne of God is a throne of glory. Can you imagine what Isaiah saw here? *"I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up and His glory filled the temple."*

The apostle Paul wrote in First Timothy 6:15; *"He shall show who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords who dwells in a light. He sits on a throne which no man can approach, who no man hath seen nor can see."* That is the glory of God. God even said to Moses, *"No man, (not even you, Moses) can look on God and live."* God's throne is a throne of glory and majesty.

I would just like to dwell there for a while. I would like to talk about the greatness of God. I get a little disappointed in this day that preachers don't talk about the glory and majesty and greatness of God. The scripture says; *"There's no fear of God before their eyes."* I think I know why. The God of glory and majesty is not preached, and the awesome presence of God is not preached.

Secondly: His throne is a throne of Holiness. His Holiness is immaculate and infinite Holiness. In Isaiah 6:1-3, he says; *“I saw the Lord high and lifted up, His glory filled the temple. The seraphims were about the throne. They covered their faces, they covered their feet, they did fly and they cried, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory.”* In Psalm 47:8, the scripture says; *“God sitteth on the throne of Holiness. Holy and reverend is His name.”* I’m talking about His Holiness. I’m not talking about a professed morality. I’m talking about that essence of God’s nature. His nature is Holiness, Truth and Righteousness.

His throne is a throne of Justice and Righteousness. *“Shall not the Judge of the earth do right?”* In Psalm 9:7, it says; *“God that prepared His throne for judgment. He will judge this world in righteousness.”* In Psalm 97:2 the scripture says; *“Righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne.”* God’s throne is a throne of justice. *“God will by no means clear the guilty.”* He cannot and be God. His throne is a throne of justice and righteousness. That is the reason that David cried; *“Lord, don’t bring me into judgment with Thee.”* There is no human being, no son of Adam that wants to stand before the throne of God’s justice and righteousness. Never, never, never!

Martin Luther said one time; *“I want nothing to do with an absolute God. I want nothing to do with that God of majesty, glory, holiness, righteousness and justice. I want nothing to do with it without a Mediator who can meet every demand of that throne.”* That is a wise man. There is too much familiarity in this day with God.

Fourthly: His throne is a throne of Sovereignty. *“Cannot I do with My own, what I will? Is anything too hard for God?”* The scripture says; *“The Lord rules over all. He declares the end from the beginning and from ancient time the things that are not yet done, saying; My council shall stand. I will do all My pleasure. Hath He not spoken? Shall He not bring it to pass?”*

Nebuchadnezzar, the wicked King found that out, he said in Daniel Four: *“God’s rule, God’s dominion is an everlasting dominion, and all the inhabitants of the earth put together are reputed as nothing. He doeth according to His will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth and none can stay His hand. None can say unto Him; what are you doing?”* What is a dominion? Dominion means to rule and to have power.

God is Sovereign. *“He worketh all things after the council of His own will.”* He worketh all things in creation, providence and salvation. That is the God of the Bible.

Isaiah said; *“Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.”*

All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; they are like a drop of water left at the bottom of a bucket. As a drop in the bucket, as the dust on the balance, that does not affect the weight.

He said to Moses; *“I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious.”* None can stay God’s hand. If God sets out to save, He will save. If He sets out to damn, He will damn. He has the keys of hell and death. The one who carries the keys is the one in charge.

His throne is not only a throne of Sovereignty, but His throne is an eternal throne. David wrote in Psalm 45: *“Thy throne O God is forever and forever.”* Psalm 93:2, He wrote; *“Thy throne O God is established of old, Thou art from everlasting. He’s the same yesterday, today and forever.”*

Change and decay
In all around I see,
Oh Thou that changest not
Abide with me.

His throne is also a throne of wisdom. In Psalm 104, he said; *“O Lord, how manifold are Thy works in wisdom Thou hast made them all.”* In Psalm 136:5; *“Give thanks unto the Lord to Him that by wisdom made the heavens.”* That’s the God of the Bible. That’s the God of creation. That is the living God. That is the God of the universe and that is my God.

They said; *“David, where is your God?”* The heathen and pagans talked about their little peanut god, the god that they had whittled out of their own imagination. Their gods were little idols and so forth. They said; *“David, where is your God?”* He said; *“My God is in the heavens.”* They said; *“What’s He like David?”* The scripture says; *“He hath done whatsoever He pleased. Whatsoever My God pleases, that is what He does in heaven, earth and the seas and all deep places.”*

There is a young man down in Mexico who was brought to the knowledge of the gospel by the grace of God. His parents were both killed. He had to move in with his grandfather. His grandfather was a devout, worshipper of idols and statues. He had a statue of Mary, a statue of Saint Jude, a statue of Saint Peter, and the popes. He had candles and statues all around his house. There were candles burning everywhere. The boy kept trying to tell him that Christ was the Lord. He said, “We worship Christ; we

don't worship idols." The old man loved his idols. His faith was in his idols. The boy kept trying to tell him; "These idols are nothing. Christ has power. These idols have no power."

While the grandfather was gone one day the boy took a hammer and broke every one of his idols. He broke every idol in the house except one. He left an idol of Saint Jude sitting on the table. He laid the hammer down beside the idol. The grandfather came back and when he walked into the door, he saw what had happened. His idols were a mess and broken. He screamed, "Who broke my idols?" The boy pointed there at the table at the idol of Saint Jude. The hammer was lying beside it. The boy said; "He did it grandpa, he's got the hammer, he did it!" The grandpa said; "Silly boy, silly boy, he can't do anything." The young boy said; "Grandpa, that is what I have been trying to tell you, these idols can't do anything!" Do you see what I am saying? Our God is God. He is glorious, magnificent, majestic, eternal, sovereign, just, holy, and wise.

Great God how infinite art Thou
What worthless worms are we,
Let the whole race of creatures bow
And worship only Thee.

Thy throne O God, eternal ages stood
Ere seas and stars were made,
Thou art the ever-living God
Were all the nations dead.

Eternity with all its years
Stands present in Thy view,
To Thee, nothing old appears
And Great God, there is nothing new.

The throne of God is a throne of majesty, a throne of glory, a throne of holiness and justice. The throne of God is a throne of righteousness, and sovereignty. It is an everlasting throne of wisdom. Is that all? If that is all, if that is the only character revealed of our God, then we will bow down and die and perish and be damned. That's right! If that is all you have, if that is all the character that is revealed in this Bible about God being majestic, glorious, sovereign, righteous, just and holy, then there is no hope for sinners like you and me.

We will remain, as Paul said, "Aliens, strangers, foreigners without help, and without God in this world." Wait a minute; here is good news! This is what the gospel is. The

gospel is good news! The apostle Paul in our text, Hebrews 4:16, calls the throne of God "*A throne of grace.*" I love these other attributes don't you? I will tell you this, if He is not Almighty, He can't be gracious. If He is not sovereign and glorious, then He can't be gracious. If He's not Holy, He cannot make us holy.

What is grace? Grace is not justice. Grace is free, unmerited, unearned, undeserved mercy. Grace is God giving us what we don't deserve and mercy is God not giving us what we do deserve. "*Let us come boldly before the throne of grace.*" You don't want to come to the throne of justice. You don't want to come to the throne of glory, "*It is a light to which no man can approach.*" You don't want to come to the throne of righteousness. You don't want to come to the throne of judgment. You want to come to the throne of grace!

How can a throne of righteousness and holiness be a throne of grace? How can a throne of justice and truth be a throne of mercy? It is spelled, (C-H-R-I-S-T)! It is spelled, Jesus Christ. That is the difference. "*In Him, mercy and truth are met together.*" God is going to deal truthfully with us and mercifully with us. How can He? If He deals truthfully with me, He will damn me. If He deals mercifully with me, He will save me. How can He deal both ways? The answer is, in Christ.

"Righteousness and peace have kissed each other." People don't kiss unless they are friends. Righteousness and peace can't be friendly toward me. If God deals with me in righteousness, I am a goner. If God deals with me in peace, I am saved. How is He going to deal with me both ways? The answer is (C-H-R-I-S-T)! "*In Christ, mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace kiss each other. God set forth His Son to be a propitiation, a covering, a sacrifice and an atonement that He might be just and justifier of all who believe.*"

You see; if you only perceive God on His throne of glory, or on His throne of holiness, or on His throne of justice and righteousness, you can entertain no hope at all. If you see God on a throne of grace, free unmerited, unearned, undeserved grace, then you can entertain some hope.

What is the throne of grace? Let me give it to you and tell you about this throne of grace. "*Let us come boldly before the throne of Grace.*" First of all: This throne of grace originated with God, not with men. In other words, it is a throne of God in His own covenant mercies. He said in Hebrews 10; "*This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord. I will put My law in their hearts. I will write My law on their minds. Their sins and iniquities I will remember no more.*"

It started with God. He loved us first. *“He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.”* Christ is the Surety of God’s covenant. Christ’s blood is the blood of the ever-lasting covenant. Christ’s death and resurrection is the assurance of God’s covenant. God said; *“I am going to save them. I’m going to show mercy to them.”* This all originated before the foundation of the world. *“Christ was the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.”* That covenant is called the everlasting covenant. He is the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant. It originated with God. This throne of grace is old, old, old. This throne of grace is as old as the throne of justice. It is from the beginning. *“God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation.”*

Secondly: This throne of grace is God reconciled. *“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.”* In other words, Jesus Christ obeyed the law. The law has been fully honored. When God saves a sinner, He doesn’t have to do it at the expense of His law. God can save a sinner and the law be perfectly honored if he saves that sinner in Christ.

Not only is the law honored. The Psalmist said; *“righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.”* Justice has been completely satisfied. How was justice satisfied? It was satisfied when our Saviour, our Substitute, our Redeemer died on the cross under the weight of our sin. *“He died the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God. He who knew no sin was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”* So, God is glorified in it all.

I can come to the throne of God now. The reason is because I am coming as one who has obeyed His law. You didn’t obey God’s law. Christ did it for you. I’m coming as one against whom justice has no charge. The scripture says; *“Who can lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect, it is God who justifieth. Who can condemn me? It is Christ that died.”* So, I can come boldly before the throne of grace, the throne of God because I have obeyed His law. Justice is satisfied. I died. I don’t owe justice anything:

Jesus paid it all
All the debt I owed,
Sin left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow.

Do you see what I am saying? God is reconciled. God doesn’t have anything to be angry about. There is no sin! There is no guilt and there is no charge. *“There is no judgment to them who are in Christ Jesus.”* There is therefore, now no judgment, no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus. He is reconciled. The war is over and the debt is paid. The law is honored and justice is satisfied. There is no quarrel. Christ Jesus paid it all!

Do you see what I am saying? That's the reason it is called the throne of grace. It is spelled (C-H-R-I-S-T).

The throne of grace is God receiving sinners. That's right, sinners like you and me. Sinners are guilty. There is no law that we haven't broken. There is no sin that we haven't committed in word, thought, deed, imagination or potential. The throne of grace is God receiving sinners. I'm talking about real, bonafide, genuine, sinners in Christ. That is the only way that He can receive them and that is the only way that He will receive them. That is the way that He must receive them. Jesus Christ said; *"I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life. No man cometh to the Father but by Me."*

You see; those are the three things that Adam lost in the garden. He lost the way to God and he was put out. He lost the truth of God and he believed a lie. He lost his spiritual life. In Christ, all three are restored. *"I am the way, the truth and the life."*

In Hebrews 7:25, it says; *"Wherefore, because He is a High Priest, because He gave His life, He is able to save to the uttermost, them that come to God by Him."* It is only by Him and not by the church, the priest, preacher or the altar, but by Christ. First Timothy 2:5 says; *"There is one God and one mediator between God and men and that is the man Christ Jesus."* First John 5:11 says; *"This is the record; God hath given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son of God hath life."* The message of the gospel is two-fold. The message is substitution and satisfaction. Christ bore our sins and paid our debt.

Let's look closely at our text and I want you to listen to it. In Hebrews 4:14, look at it carefully. This is God's Word and this is what it says, *"Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, (an Advocate, Mediator and one to represent us to God in all things). "We have a High Priest who is passed into the heavens."* He doesn't minister to us here on earth. He's not in a temple or a tabernacle, cathedral or a church, He is in heaven. He has passed into the heavens.

He is Jesus Christ the Son of God. He is Jesus, the Son of Man. He is Christ anointed, the Son of God, and equal in the Trinity. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. *"Therefore, seeing we have such a high priest let's hold fast our profession."* Let's hold fast to this good hope. Let's hold fast to this sure hope. *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life."*

Listen, *"He is not a High Priest who does not know us, who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities."* He was in flesh and blood and bones like you and me. *"He was a man, tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin."* He knows us. Our High

Priest (Jesus Christ the Son of God, who is in the heavens), was a man one time just like you and me. “He walked on this earth and was tempted in every point as we are, yet without sin.

So, in verse 16; “*Let us, (folks like you and me up the hollow, on the mountain, by the river, folks like you and me), come boldly to the throne of grace.*” Come just like you are, come boldly and confidently. Come with liberty, come with sincerity, come in faith and come at all times. Where do we come? We come to the throne.

Oh, no, no! I heard you talking about that throne of grace. Come to the throne of grace. Don’t come to an earthly altar, not to the front of a church, not to the hand of the preacher. “*Come to the throne of grace that you may obtain mercy.*” Obtain mercy just like the Publican in the temple. Obtain mercy like the thief on the cross, mercy like blind Bartimaeus, mercy like David prayed in Psalm 51: “*Let Thy loving kindness and tender mercy be upon me.*” That is what I want, mercy. “*God is plenteous in mercy.*” Come to obtain mercy and find grace to help.

You might say, “I need help preacher; well I do too.” I need help in time of need. I need sufficient grace, saving grace, sovereign grace, free grace, and redeeming grace in time of need. When is your time of need? My time of need is all the time. I need grace to forgive, I need grace to worship, I need grace to preach, I need grace to pray, I need grace to forgive and grace to give, grace to live and grace to die. I need grace in prosperity, poverty, and sickness and I need grace in health. I need grace in old age and grace in death. I know where it is found. It is found at the throne of grace before the God of all grace.