

***The Path To God***  
***“How Do I Get Close To God?”***  
***Hebrews 10:19-25 \* September 20, 2009***

*I. What religious practices did Philip Yancey see in his travels to Asia?*

*II. Why was the book of Hebrews written?*

*A. To show how Jesus Christ is the perfect \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jewish faith.*

*B. Because Jesus was the real deal, they could \_\_\_\_\_ to God through Him.*

“Therefore brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

**Truths This Passage Teaches About The Path To God**

**Truth #1 – God Himself want to \_\_\_\_\_ to you.**

*A. What was the “Most Holy Place”?*

*B. What idea is common is most every other path to God?*

**That God is \_\_\_\_\_ and we must \_\_\_\_\_ Him down.**

*1. What startling assertion does Hebrews begin with?*

*2. According to Hebrews 1, who is Jesus?*

*3. Who’s really doing the hiding in this relationship?*

**Truth #2 – God Himself has \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ for you to get close to him.**

*A. Clearly there is an obstacle between us and God. What is it, according to the Bible?*

*B. What great truth must everyone learn?*

*C. Do we have false ways of “covering up”?*

*D. So what did God do to provide true covering for us?*

**Truth #3 – God promises to \_\_\_\_\_ you on the path.**

*A. What’s a priest do?*

*B. Because Jesus is our priest, what is now true?*

**Truth #4 – God promises to walk beside you in your life if you \_\_\_\_\_ to him.**

*A. Is this complicated? A little experiment:*

*B. What does this mean for me?*

## ***The Path To God*** ***“How Do I Get Close To God?”***

***Hebrews 10:19-25 \* September 20, 2009***

*I. What religious practices did Philip Yancey see in his travels to Asia?*

**The use of “Prayer wheels”, “Prayer trees”, paying priests money to pray for them, buying “ghost money” for protection during travel. We have our own strange ways of getting God’s attention: taking out ads to saints to secure their favor, falling for TV preachers’ scams, snake handling...**

*II. Why was the book of Hebrews written?*

*A. To show how Jesus Christ is the perfect fulfillment of the Jewish faith.*

*B. Because Jesus was the real deal, they could draw near to God through Him.*

“Therefore brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

### **Truths This Passage Teaches About The Path To God**

**Truth #1 – God Himself want to get close to you.**

*A. What was the “Most Holy Place”?*

**In the Old Testament, the Most Holy Place was the innermost chamber of the Temple where only the High Priest could enter, and but once a year. It symbolized being in the very presence of God. Now, something has occurred which allows you and me to enter the Most Holy Place with confidence. God wants us near.**

*B. What idea is common is most every other path to God?*  
**That God is distant and we must chase Him down.**

*1. What startling assertion does Hebrews begin with?*  
**That God has revealed himself to us. He spoke first through the prophets, but now has spoken through his son Jesus.**

*2. According to Hebrews 1, who is Jesus?*  
**God in human flesh.**

*3. Who’s really doing the hiding in this relationship?*  
**We are.**

**Truth #2 – God Himself has cleared the path for you to get close to him.**

*A. Clearly there is an obstacle between us and God. What is it, according to the Bible?*

**Sin.**

*B. What great truth must everyone learn?*

**That a sinful human being cannot come into the direct presence of a holy God.**

*C. Do we have false ways of “covering up”?*

**Adam and Eve were right about one thing – their sin needed to be covered over. It’s why they instinctively started sewing fig leaves together. That’s what shame and guilt does to you. We do the same thing. We know we’re a mess inside. But we find false ways to cover it up. We lie. We make excuses. We minimize how bad off we really are. We tell ourselves we’re not as bad as so and so. We keep busy so we don’t have to think about it. We sprinkle in a few good deeds thinking that’ll keep the morality ledger balanced. We pop into church now and then. Keep the Deity happy.**

*D. So what did God do to provide true covering for us?*

**Hebrews 1:3. After telling us that the Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, and that he sustains all things by his word, what’s he say next: “After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the**

Majesty in heaven.” How did Jesus provide for the purification of our sins? When he died for us on the Cross.

**Truth #3 – God promises to walk beside you on the path.**

*A. What’s a priest do?*

**A priest is someone who walks alongside of you as you come before God. A priest sort of prepares the way for you to come. Makes sure everything’s in order for you to come. If you were to have an audience with the President, there would be an aide who would come alongside of you who would prep you, tell you what to say, what to do, how to dress, here’s the procedure. Don’t pick your nose. That’s a priest. In the Old Testament, you needed a priest to come to God. He had to pray for you. He had to offer sacrifices for you. Tell you how to behave. It was God’s way of telling us our sins were not yet covered because Jesus hadn’t come yet. But it was a pointer to the fact that he was coming.**

*B. Because Jesus is our priest, what is now true?*

**Jesus is now our great high priest. Therefore to come before God all we need is Him beside us. Our sins are paid for. The curtain is down. Jesus is beside you. Come and run into the arms of God. They’re open wide. And the book of Hebrews says this numerous times. Hebrews 4:15-16. “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” And 7:24-25. “Because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”**

**Truth #4 – God promises to walk beside you in your life if you draw near to him.**

*A. Is this complicated? A little experiment:*

*B. What does this mean for me?*

**Drawing near to God, having a real relationship with God, is not mystical. It’s not magical. It’s not just for pastors and missionaries and really special people. It’s for you. It’s your privilege. And it’s also your responsibility. God will not force himself on you. He’s done everything and more that he could do to make this relationship with him possible. Drawing near is what he asks you to do to say “Yes” to him.**

**How do we do it? Not by spinning prayer wheels, or taking out funny ads or handling snakes, or buying ghost money. We draw near by drawing near. By talking. By listening. By spending time together. By sharing life together. By not covering up. Not hiding. Being honest. God’s arms are open wide to you now.**