

# Drawing Near with Confidence to a Consuming Fire

Our Priorities:

1. Know, love and honor God
2. Know, love and honor God's family
3. Know, love and honor others (live the great commission)

**Matthew 22:37** "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."  
<sup>38</sup> "This is the great and foremost commandment.

**HOW TO know, love and honor God:**

1. Know, love and honor Jesus.
2. Enter a covenant relationship with God.

**Hebrews 10:1** For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near.

<sup>2</sup> Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?

<sup>3</sup> But in those *sacrifices* there is a reminder of sins year by year.

<sup>4</sup> For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, But a body Thou hast prepared for Me;

<sup>6</sup> In whole burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin Thou hast taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (In the roll of the book it is written of Me) To do Thy will, O God.'"

<sup>8</sup> After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin Thou hast not desired, nor hast Thou taken pleasure *in them*" (which are offered according to the Law),

<sup>9</sup> then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Thy will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second.

**In this covenant relationship...**

**a. Jesus has made us permanently holy**

<sup>10</sup> By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**b. Jesus has made us permanently perfect**

<sup>11</sup> And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;

<sup>12</sup> but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,

<sup>13</sup> waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.

<sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

**c. Jesus has made us permanently forgiven**

<sup>15</sup> And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

<sup>16</sup> "This is the covenant that I will make with them After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, And upon their mind I will write them," *He then says,*

<sup>17</sup> "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

<sup>18</sup> Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer *any* offering for sin.

**d. we can enjoy with confidence a close, loving relationship with God**

<sup>19</sup> Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,  
<sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,  
<sup>21</sup> and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God,  
<sup>22</sup> 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.

**e. we will enjoy a close, loving relationship for all eternity**

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

**f. we experience God's love through His family's encouragement**

<sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,  
<sup>25</sup> 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.

**g. we have no fear of God's wrath**

<sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,  
<sup>27</sup> but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.  
<sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on *the testimony of* two or three witnesses.  
<sup>29</sup> How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?  
<sup>30</sup> For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people."  
<sup>31</sup> It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

**h. we are joyfully confident of God's love even in adversity**

<sup>32</sup> But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,  
<sup>33</sup> partly, by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.  
<sup>34</sup> For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one.