

Introduction.....This is the section where theology is put into practice, where the rubber touches the road, where our confidence in Christ is tested....

v20 Jesus is the living/dying way into the presence of God.

The veil, temple cloth/Jesus' broken body, now reveals the love of God.

v21 Jesus, as our Great High Priest, is the bridge between man and God. He both shows us the way and he is the way 'up to heaven's door and then in to heaven itself' - **to know** Jesus – and **then believe** Jesus.

v22 Jesus has washed us by His blood. Not the external sprinkling as in the temple, but now the deep cleansing from within. The uniqueness of the Christian faith is that its foundation is **internal**.

So then - **v22: "Let us draw near to God"...the duty** of worship. We are here this morning in response to God's call to worship.

God has called us to live in two worlds: the world of space and time and the world of spirit and eternity. But we are not schizophrenic! It is God's calling and enabling.

Illus. "So heavenly minded – no earthly use". Danger of being too involved in the near-tangible world of things.

**v23 "Hold to the hope we profess"** - our belief in word (Bible and creed) and deed. When surrounded by the cynical, mocking voices of the modern world, are we able to give an answer for the hope within us?

**v24 "Spur one another on in good deeds."** Note we are to apply our minds – be **proactive** and not just **reactive**. We are born to reproduce. Christianity that is selfish is a contradiction in terms.

**v25 "Don't give up meeting together"**

a) Believers do meet together. There is no such thing as a lone-ranger Christian. We are here for each other. Beware of those who **reject church** for small, isolated and introspective cell groups that are **apart** from church. Interest groups that **acknowledge the church and build the Kingdom** are fine.

b) We keep on meeting – through the difficult times, upsets, frailty, being discouraged, even bored! **Keep coming**.

c) We support each other in this. This is one key reason for 'Life Groups' here at Calvin, and all the other groups that meet weekly and monthly.

**v25 "The Day is coming"** - living in the expectation of the Lord's return, the second coming, in our lifetime. William Barclay, in his commentary, says, "The early church certainly lived in that expectation. Whether or not we still do so, we must still realize that no man knows when the summons to rise and go will come to us also. In the time we have it is surely our duty to do all the good we can do, to all the people we can, in all the ways we can."

But to have this confidence and motivation we must first and foremost know Jesus Christ as our Saviour, to have a faith that can be tried and tested along the lines we have heard this morning. Unless you know Jesus as the way into God's presence and love, that He is the only bridge between man and God, and you have

experienced the forgiveness of sin by Jesus' sacrificed blood on the Cross, no amount of that doing good to all those people counts for anything.

Why are we here this morning? Why did John and Merle spend their money and add Sri Lanka to their trip away? Why did Mark go to Samoa and not Surfers' Paradise? Why did the McMath family use their valuable family holiday time cooking at a camp? I'll tell you why. Jesus has so gripped their lives that now the things of Jesus and the Christian faith are **not a tack-on option**, but a vital priority for them, a priority that gives reason for living.

Now, how about you?