



Jesus Is My Confidence!

Bible Study

[Please provide: musical accompaniment; Bibles and copies of the first three pages of the Bible study for attendees. The last three pages are a Leader's Guide.]

Confidence! It's great stuff! It makes us feel good. We all want it in every aspect of our lives. But the truth is we often do not feel confident. Sometimes we do okay, but if we are honest with ourselves, many times we are pretending and yearning for confidence that we just do not feel. Where to go? Where to look? What to do? Who will help? How can we get this precious confidence that we so much desire? We look to Jesus who became our Brother taking on our flesh, blood, and bone as a tiny Child so He could take our guilt and sin to the cross and bury it in the grave forever. This confidence is referenced in the Christmas hymn, "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light." Although it may not be Christmas, it is still appropriate as we are often like the shepherds shrinking with fright in the various aspects and challenges of our lives.

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light,
And usher in the morning.
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright,
The day of grace is dawning.
This Child, though weak in infancy,
Our confidence and joy shall be,
The pow'r of Satan breaking,
Our peace with God now making. LSB 378

1. What does the world offer to bolster confidence?
2. What is the ultimate destroyer of confidence?
3. What is the answer?

Hebrews 10:19-25 presents a summary of the Christian's life of confidence. This confidence begins with the forgiveness of sins in the blood of Christ. It is given to us in our Baptism. Nourished through Word and Sacrament in the Divine Service, it then flows out in love to others until our Savior comes to take us home.

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:19-25).

4. In verse 19, from where does our confidence come? What is the source of the Christian's confidence?
5. See 1 John 1:7b. What does the blood of Christ do for us?
6. What are the "*holy places*" that now we can enter?
7. What is the "*curtain*" in verse 20? See Matthew 27:50-51.
8. According to verse 21, who is the great high priest? See Hebrews 4:14-16.
9. What is meant by "*house of God*"?
10. In verse 22, what is meant by a "*true heart*"? See Psalm 51:1.
11. In one word, what is meant by "*hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water*"?

Read together from *Luther's Small Catechism*.

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned*" (Mark 16:16).

12. According to verse 23, what is the "*confession of our hope*"?
13. "... *for He who promised is faithful.*" How does this give us confidence? See Malachi 3:6a and 1 John 4:8b-9.
14. What is verse 24 encouraging?
15. What does it mean "*to meet together*" in verse 25? See Acts 2:42.

16. Why is it important to connect verse 24, “*love and good works,*” with verse 25, “*not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some*”?

17. According to verse 25, what is “*the Day drawing near*”?

As Christians how can we confidently look forward not only to Christ’s Second Coming, but also to each day with all of its changes and challenges? Our confidence begins with the forgiveness of sins in the blood of Christ. It is given to us in our Baptism. Nourished through Word and Sacrament in the Divine Service, it then flows out in love to others until our Savior comes to take us home.

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen (Jude 24-25).

We sing of this confidence in the following Easter hymn.

Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won

Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings hence!
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow’rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!

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