

STUDY NOTES

HEBREWS: A PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FAITH

A Series At New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Confronted and Covered by the Cross of Christ” on 2/23/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this study guide effectively, you must listen to the message found at <http://www.newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these notes for group study and reflection should read the biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 4:12-5:10 (READ THROUGHOUT)

CONFRONTED BY CHRIST

Read Hebrews 4:12-13. The word of God is far sharper than a two-edged sword. It cuts us to the depths of our souls. The writer of Hebrews is referring to both the written word of God and the physical word of God—Jesus. The language that the writer uses here is the same language that John uses in his Gospel when he introduces Jesus. Jesus is living and active, and the truth about Him actually exposes our sin.

The word reminds us that we are spiritually naked without the covering of God.

- *In your experience, how has the Scripture spoken to you in such a way that you felt convicted to the core?*
- *Why would it be important to link Jesus, not just the Bible, to this “word” that exposes us for who we are?*

COVERING UP

When Jesus exposes the sin in our lives, we naturally want to try to cover ourselves up. We’ve been doing this from the beginning of time. Adam and Eve tried to cover

themselves up when they realized that they had sinned. Today, we use many different things to try to cover ourselves up — everything from work, sex, money, power, and technology. Yet none of those will truly make us feel comfortable and safe.

- *What are the things that you run to when you feel exposed?*
- *How does trying to cover up with those things just make you feel worse in the long run?*

ONLY JESUS TRULY COVERS

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Anything that we try to use to cover ourselves up will actually just make us feel more exposed. Only Jesus can truly cover us. The writer of Hebrews calls Jesus our “ultimate High Priest.” Because Jesus’ grace has covered our sin, we are able to come to the “throne of grace” with confidence.

Read Hebrews 5:7-9. When we turn to Jesus as our true covering, we know that we can trust Him because He walked on this earth perfectly. He covers us with His perfect life. When Jesus confronts us in our sin, we feel exposed. That might not feel good at first, but the truth is that Jesus had to expose us before covering us with grace and love. If we felt like He didn’t see our true self, then we wouldn’t believe that He truly loves us.

Christ must confront us before he can cover us.

- *Use an example from your relationships with people. If someone accepts you, how does their love feel if you are withholding something from them?*
- *Why is it difficult to believe that Jesus’ love for us is truly unconditional?*
- *What are some ways that you can remind yourself of Jesus’ unconditional love?*
- *Pray with each other to believe that Jesus loves you even though you’ve been exposed.*