

“Don’t be Afraid to Draw Near”

Revelation 1:17,18

September 15, 2019

“Drawing near is not a physical act. It’s not building a tower of Babel by our own achievement to get to heaven. It’s not necessarily going to a church building or walking to an altar at the front. It is an invisible act of the heart. You can do it while standing absolutely still, or lying on a hospital bed, or while sitting in a pew listening to a sermon.

Drawing near is not moving from one place to another. It is the directing of the heart into the presence of God who is as distant as the Holy of Holies in heaven, and yet as near as the door of faith. He is commanding us to come. To approach Him, to draw near to Him.”
John Piper

I. TO HEAR HIS VOICE:

- A. Why is it when we speak to God, we call it praying, but when God speaks to us we are said to be schizophrenic?
- B. God shouts in our pleasures, but He whispers in our pain.” C.S. Lewis

II. TO SEE HIS HOLINESS:

- A. Clothed with a garment down to His feet. The garment (podera) is only found here in the N.T. but frequently used in the O.T. to describe garments of a priestly king.
- B. “The Hope of Christ’s return is the hinge of our sanctification!” John MacArthur

III. TO FACE HIS JUDGMENTS:

- A. The hair white like wool and His eyes as flaming fire is the picture of the judgment of sin in the world.
- B. “The fire of God is the opposite of its earthly counterpart. The closer you get to physical fire the hotter it is. But the further we get from the fire of God’s righteousness, the more it burns in your conscience.”
George MacDonald

IV. TO SHARE HIS VICTORY:

- A. His victory over Death.
- B. His victory over Life.