

June 19, 2025

DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF GRACE

Imaging getting tickets to go see a theater production. You get to your seat, and you see a huge velvet curtain that separates the stage from the audience. Everyone is waiting, wondering what is behind it. As the lights dim and the music swells, you can see the anticipation in the crowd. And then...the curtain never rises. Year after year, generation after generation, people sit in the audience, always wondering and waiting. Why would anyone wait so long for a curtain call? Well behind that curtain wasn't just a set, stage, or production, it was the very presence of God.

There are some parts of scripture that seem easy to understand on the surface, but when you read them more carefully, deeper truths begin to unfold. Hebrews 9 is one of those chapters. In this passage, the inspired Hebrew author describes the two inner rooms of the tabernacle and temple. The first room is called Holy Place. But the second room, the "Most Holy Place", was separated by a thick curtain that hid it from almost every human eye. Only one high priest was allowed to enter that room once a year, on the Day of Atonement.

It is with this image that the Hebrew writer tells us something amazing. That two-room with the curtain separating it was actually a symbolic lesson of what was happening spiritually in the day of the reader. Certainly, Jesus had already come. He had offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice, was buried and resurrected on the third day, according to the scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) The sacrifice that Jesus made was not with the blood of bulls and goats, but with His own blood, for the forgiveness of sins.

But here is the catch, no one could really see it. Outwardly, nothing had changed at the Jewish temple. That same year Jesus died, the earthly high priest still entered the temple with animal blood. The veil still hung. The rituals continued. Hebrews 9:8-9 says, "By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing (which is symbolic for the present age)." The truth of Jesus 'atoning work had been accomplished—but it was not yet made visible. As long as the earthly temple stood, the people continued clinging to the old way.

So when would things become clear? When would God's true plan for forgiveness and access to His presence be made visible? The answer comes in Hebrews 9:10. The old ways would continue "until the time of reformation." That word "reformation" refers to a major

shift, when God would visibly change how people approached Him. That change happened in 70 A.D. when the Roman Empire destroyed Jerusalem and completely demolished the temple. There was no more alter, priests, or sacrifices. Judaism as it was known, centered around the temple, could no longer function.

That is why Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24:2, "Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." God established the Old Covenant with its priests, sacrifices, and temple, but He also brought it to an end through Christ. The temple's destruction in AD 70 was not just history; it was the visible sign that the old was gone and the new had come. Hebrews 9:11-12 says, "But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption."

When Jesus died, Matthew 27:51 says, "And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split." That was a divine declaration: access to God was no longer hidden. No more parables. No more shadows. The way into the Most Holy Place had been opened for all people through Jesus.

Then, when the physical temple came crashing down in AD 70, the world saw the undeniable truth: God had moved. His true temple was now in heaven. His true priest was Jesus. And His true people, you and I, are invited to come boldly into His presence. It is only through Christ that generations after generations, under the law of Moses, could never do. Actually, see the curtain lifted and see the presence of God. Jesus says in John 14:9, that "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." And that grants us with an even more powerful blessing that could never be imagined before. Hebrews 4:16 tells us, "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Let us never overlook the blessing of being able to access the throne of grace, not in some temple on earth, but in the eternal kingdom. What a great blessing we have in the study of God's Word and prayer.

Andrew Spivey

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES
Sunday Read – Matthew 1-4 & Luke 1-5
Wednesday Read – John 11:55-57&12:1-11

Questions for last week's reading of; Joshua 23-24.

Questions:

- 1.What would happen if the Israelites married and made friends with the other nations of Canaan?
- 2. Quote Joshua 24:15
- 3. What did Joshua set up as a witness?
- 4. How long did the Israelites serve God?
- 5. Whose bones did the Israelites bury in Shechem?

UPCOMING EVENTS

* 4:15 Singing class first Sunday only*

Truth Seekers every Sunday @ 5pm

June 24 – TNT - 6pm

Ladies Bible Class - 6:30pm

June 27 – Family & Youth Movie Night -7:30pm

June 29 – Fifth Sunday Singing-evening service

July 6 – 1st Sunday Singing – Nashville Road @ 2:30pm

July 16-19 VBS

VBS 2025

July 16-19:Wed – Fri 6-8 pm & Sat 4pm

The theme for this year's VBS is "Dream." We will be focusing on the story of Joseph, from his time of receiving the coat of many colors, to what he revealed to his brothers in Egypt. There will be an adult class following the same theme. Every evening the children will go downstairs and experience an Egyptian marketplace. Saturday, July 19th VBS will meet at 4pm and after class at 5:30 pm there will be a potluck cookout and games. Please make plans to come and bring your friends and family.

SYMPATHY

Our love and sympathy to Darryl & Shauna Lockett on the passing of Darryl's father, Murray Lockett on June 10th. His funeral was held on June 17th at Hermitage Funeral Home.

ORDER OF SERVICES
SUNDAY

June 22, 2025

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song Leader.....Matt Ellis
Opening Prayer.....Charlie Seals
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Johnson
Scripture Reading.....Ben Hutson
Song Leader.....Matt Ellis
Opening Prayer.....Allyn Hosman
Lord's Supper.....Rick Gallagher
Servers.....T. Butler, R. Buck, J. Cherry
C. Newby, J.D. Senn, C. Nelsen
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Fate Evans

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Johnson
Song Leader.....Matt Ellis
Opening Prayer.....Tim Strickland
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Brent Smith
Closing Prayer.....Jonathan Senn

WEDNESDAY

June 25, 2025

7:00 PM

Welcome.....David Johnson
Song Leader.....Matt Ellis
Opening Prayer.....Garrett Rowlett
Lesson.....Tim Strickland
Closing Prayer.....Bob Brown
Ushers for June.....A. Williamson/Z. Tooley
Communion Care for June.....A/S Hosman
Door Greeters – West Door.....B/S Sever
East Door.....B/T Brown
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Diana Stephenson

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL
Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935
Church Office.....615-452-3431

Nashville Road Church of Christ
1883 Nashville Pike
Gallatin, TN 37066
Web Site: nashvilleroadcoc.org
E-mail: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

SICK LIST

Larry Hammock, uncle of Andrew Spivey will be undergoing chemo & radiation treatments. Wayne Hunt, cousin of Tim Cummins, had a bone marrow transplant. Chuck Tooley, father of Zach Tooley, home with health issues. Roscoe Smith, father of Brent Smith has started his treatments for cancer. Larry Bailey, son of Tina Bailey had his last radiation treatment.

PRAYER LIST

Jack & Anita Cato; Bobbie Stephens; Wanda Seals; Lena Baggett; Stella Messer; Hugh Fulford; Maddie Andrews; Mary Spivey; Ottis & Maxine Cothron; Shauna Lockett; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Sandi Jones; Pat Watson; Frances Catron; Jackie Williams; Pat Crump; Nancy Maxey; Max & Pat Lemley, parents of Michael Lemley; Heather Lemley daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley; Jean McCurdy mother of Olivia Nelsen; Ariel Clift, niece of Tarina Brown; Elaine Reynolds, friend of Christie Coleman; Alan Greene, nephew of Carl & Pam Newby; Vycki Puckett, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato; Ty Tyler son of Ann Tyler; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; Taylor Lackford, niece of Brenda Veale; Dustin Lackford, nephew of Brenda Veale; Larry Conley, friend of Wanda Proctor; Harold Cole, friend of Lena Baggett; Bobbie Carter, sister of Janice Johnson; Walter Wooten, brother of Wanda Sherrill; Aza Topik, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals.

SHUT-INS

Jean Deaton, Mary Spivey

We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	97
Morning Worship.....	146
Sunday Evening.....	66
Wednesday Evening.....	
Contribution.....	\$6,125.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$7,743.00

Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621

Deacons

Carl Newby	Jonathan Senn	Brent Smith
Eric Stephenson	Adam Williamson	



Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister
GARRETT ROWLETT, Youth Minister