

February 26 & 27, 2022

Listen to this prayer, found on a Middle Eastern tablet from the 7th century BC.

*May the wrath of the heart of my god be pacified!
May the god who is unknown to me be pacified! ...
The sin which I have committed I know not.
The misdeed which I have committed I know not...
O Lord, my sins are many, great are my sins!
My god, my sins are many, great are my sins! ...
The lord, in the anger of his heart, has looked upon me.
The god, in the wrath of his heart, has visited me...
I sought for help, but no one took my hand.
I wept, but no one came to my side.*

This prayer is desperately sad. The person calls to all the gods of the world for forgiveness, but finds himself completely abandoned. He faces the guilt storms of his heart alone! Now, listen to today's passage. **Vs. 19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus.** Immediately we ask, why such confidence to enter holy places? What are the "holy places"?

- Affirmation 1: We have confidence in our access to God.
- Affirmation 2: We have confidence in our advocate before God.
- Exhortation 1: Let us draw near to God together.
- Exhortation 2: Let us hold tenaciously to our hope.
- Exhortation 3: Let us spur one another on.

Questions for Reflection:

- Who is exhorting you to draw near to God and hold tenaciously to your hope? Who are you exhorting?
- Who is spurring you on to love and good deeds by their presence, actions, and words? Who are you spurring on by your presence, actions, and words?

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Please continue to pray for the elders.

If you wish to contact an elder, please email elders@willingdon.org.