

### A New and Living Way (Heb. 10:20)



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Recently I was driving north of the city of Toronto along Highway 48 and came to an intersection that was totally revamped. Instead of driving through the green lights or stopping at the red lights, I had to navigate the Roundabout before continuing up the highway. Due to the high incidence of vehicular accidents at that intersection, the city decided to convert it into a Roundabout to reduce the severity of collision by reducing the traffic speeds. Thus, a “new way” has been established to drive through Highway 48 and Bloomington Road.

In Hebrews 10:20, we read that Jesus has inaugurated a “new and living way” for us to enter into the holy place. In Exodus 25-27, God gave Moses the blue print for the construction of the Tabernacle and its utensils. This structure is often called the “The Tabernacle in the wilderness” or “The Tent of Meeting.” The primary purpose for the construction of the Tabernacle was that God may dwell among His people (Exod. 25:8). It is the first habitation that the living God ever caused to be built for Him. As they journeyed through the wilderness, the children of Israel carried the portable structure. They were led by the “cloud of God’s shekinah glory, the visible presence of God.

The Tabernacle itself consisted of two main sections or rooms, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (also called the Holy of Holies). A curtain or veil supported by four pillars separated the two rooms of the Tabernacle. The High Priest was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place only once a year. In this room was found the Ark of the Covenant covered by the Mercy Seat overshadowed by the two cherubim. The Ark contained three articles: the pot of manna, the rod of Aaron and the tables of the law. On the great Day of Atonement, he passed beyond the curtain into the Holy of Holies, the dwelling place of God, completely clothed in white linen. Except for him, no priest was allowed to enter that most Holy place, lest he die. Also, Aaron, the first High Priest, was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies only with the blood of the atonement in the offering bowl and surrounded by a cloud of incense that arose from the censer. Now, the “holy place” in Hebrews 10:19, is different from the room in the earthly tabernacle. It is heaven itself. This should not, however, be limited to the Christian’s going to heaven at death or at the return of the Savior. Rather, it refers to our present access to God through the blood of Jesus Christ. Through His death on the Cross, Jesus has given us access into God’s presence, a privilege reserved in the Old Testament Order, only for the high priest. As we said earlier, only the high priests were allowed beyond the veil of the Tabernacle. In the hour of our Lord’s death, “the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom” (Matt. 27:51), “in the midst” (Lk. 23:45). Torn from top to bottom, which could have been accomplished by no other than the hand of God. God wanted to show in this unparalleled and decisive hour that the veil had ceased to exist because of the sacrifice of Jesus. The believing sinner now has free access to God. Heaven is open! We enter God’s holy presence because He has called us, sanctified us, and made us worthy to do so, and because our great High Priest presents our offerings on our behalf. There are no Roundabout ways to God! There is only one way; the New and Living Way, because it is the way that leads to life. As Jesus says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me” (John 14:6).

By God’s Grace and for His glory,

Pr. Francis