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ALL ACCESS PASS

It was something I could never have afforded on my own, but yet, here I was sitting down to breakfast with storied football coach Lou Holtz. Then it was front row center as former President Gerald Ford began his speech, following which I was escorted to a “coffee gathering” with motivational author and speaker Zig Ziglar and a handful of select “friends”. A full access pass had been provided to me and afforded me the opportunity to interact with people of renown. There were sports figures, astronauts, entertainers from every form and fashion as well as political pundits. This took place back in the 1990’s, but looking back it was still amazing. But when evening rolled around it got especially interesting; and who did I meet but former heavy-weight boxing champ, George Foreman. In fact it was an additional honor to be seated at his table for the meal that was served that evening.

The key to this remarkable event that has etched its way into my memory, was by the largesse of a friend. A price was paid for me that I couldn’t even in my wildest dreams have afforded. But there I was “rubbing shoulders” with a former president (following his speech, he came down and spoke to those seated in the front two rows). The food that was served was delicious and plentiful and “free”. All because of the price a friend had paid for me.

In all honesty I don’t know what triggered my memory about that day, but as I thought, something dawned on me. Access granted because of the price paid by a friend. Notice what Paul penned to the church in Ephesus, “so that the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities

in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.” (3:10-12) Now tie that back to what Jesus stated just prior to His going to the cross.

“Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you.” (John 15:13-14) Christ paid the price to provide full access.



The author of Hebrews is trying to have Jewish Christians in the first century appreciate fully what Jesus did for not just them but for all mankind. Notice the wording seen in Hebrews 9:11-12 then verse 24. “But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things having come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made by hands, that is, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all time, having obtained eternal redemption.” “For Christ did not enter a holy place made by hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” Indeed how truly blessed we are, by and through Christ, who paid the price, we have full access (see John 14:6)

Consider the beauty of what is found in Hebrews 12:2-3, “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.” Never, ever forget that a tremendous price was paid that you might have all access.

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THE BULWARK