

Session 11: **The Only True Sacrifice....Jesus**

Hebrews 10:1-10, “The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’” ⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

The whole business of sacrifice was a pale copy of what the real worship ought to be.

The purpose of worship was to bring people into a close relationship with God....and that is what these sacrifices could not do.

At best....a distant and occasional contact with God. Nothing permanent...nothing lasting....nothing satisfying.

Two words to relate to us what the writer means...

1. *Pale shadow ... in Greek skia meaning vague reflection, silhouette; a form without reality.*
1. Not a real image...Greek eikon...complete representation or detailed reproduction.

All the repetitious sacrifices day after day are a reminder of sin...and does not clear the conscious.

How can one have peace like this?

Example:

A prescription for your illness is given. The medicine heals you of your illness.

You see the bottle that held the prescription in your medicine cabinet, it would bring joy and celebration of knowing that this medicine helped cure you.

However, if it did not heal you and you had to keep taking the medicine (never curing and certainly not helping to cure), the bottle would remind you that this “so called” cure was useless.

All such sacrifices of animals is powerless to bring about purification and give access to God. All such sacrifices can do is to remind people that they are uncured sinners and that there is still a barrier of their sin between them and God.

Instead of erasing the sin, it has been underlined.

THE ONLY EFFECTIVE SACRIFICE IS THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS CHRIST.

The writer of Hebrews quotes from Psalm 40:6-9... “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—but my ears you have opened… burnt offerings and sin offerings^[b] you did not require. Then I said, “Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.” I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, LORD, as you know.”

It means...The only sure way of access to God is a clean heart.

Jesus was willing to be the ultimate sacrifice. A body prepared as a sacrifice for sin....Once and for all.

Obedience is the only sacrifice that is pleasing to God.

Not something new....God has longed to have a heart that obeyed and was willing to do His will...

He found that only in His Son...Jesus.

1 Samuel 15:22, “And Samuel said, ‘Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obedience to the voice of the Lord? Surely, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.’ ”

IF WE ARE EVER TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD, OBEDIENCE IS THE ONLY WAY.

Hebrews 10:11-18, “Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:¹⁶ “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”¹⁷ Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

The Finality of Christ Jesus Atonement

The writer is drawing a series of implicit contrasts between the sacrifice that Jesus offered and the animal sacrifices that the priests offer.

- **He stresses the achievement of Jesus.**

The sacrifice of Jesus was made once and is effective forever...

The sacrifice of animals by the priests must be made over and over again...and even then they are not effective in any real way.

No end to the process of sacrificing animals...a kind of priestly treadmill of sacrifices.

Note: Jesus had made a sacrifice that neither could nor needed to be repeated

❑ **It could not be repeated.** *The sacrifice of Jesus was unique; it is one masterpiece of love that can never be done again.*

The perfect pitched game...can be repeated.

The perfect game of bowling....can be repeated.

But....the sacrifice of Jesus...God's Only Begotten Son...can never be repeated.

❑ **It need not be repeated.** *In that life of service and in that death of love, there stands fully displayed the heart of God.*

God gave...Jesus obeyed...God loved...Jesus fulfilled the ultimate love (agape)...life for life...and it does not need to be repeated.

- **He stressed the exaltation of Jesus.**

The priests stand offering sacrifices...day after day.

Christ sits at the right hand of God.

The priests' position is one of a servant.

Christ is a position of a King...a King who has come home...

His task accomplished and His victory won.

Jesus...the one who lived and died and rose again and is at the right hand of God.

He is THE Lord of Glory.

- **He stressed the final triumph of Jesus.**

Jesus awaits the final overcoming of his enemies...In the end, there will be a Kingdom that is supreme...His enemies will be made a footstool.

We need to be overcomers with Jesus....we can be victorious also.

In the end, there will be a Kingdom that is supreme...His enemies will be made a footstool.

Satan is defeated and sent to his final destination along with the Antichrist, the False Prophet and all who have rebelled against Jesus and never yielded nor given allegiance to Jesus, the Christ...the Messiah...our hero!

THAT IS THE THEOLOGY OF THE WRITER OF HEBREWS: JESUS TRIUMPHED OVER DEATH.

FROM THEOLOGY TO PRACTICAL IMPLICATION: Up until now, the writer of Hebrews has been speaking on the theological aspects of Jesus' covenant with his creation (the blood of Jesus vs. the blood of bulls and goats).

Hebrews 10:19-25, “*Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*”

The writer begins by saying three (3) things about Jesus:

1. Jesus, the Son of God, is the living way into the presence of God.

The veil was rent (torn); the flesh of Jesus was torn apart to open the way into the Holy of Holies. To see Jesus' flesh torn apart (veil rent), we can see God. We have access to the Kingdom of God.

2. Jesus, the Messiah, our only Salvation, is the high priest (pontifex) over God's House (Heaven)

The function of the priest was to build a bridge between the people and God. Jesus, our High Priest, not only shows us the way, but introduces us into the presence of God (The Bridge Builder)...from darkness to light, from the mess down here to the perfect peace with God (in His house, heaven).

3. Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the One Person who can really cleanse.

The priest performs a ritual by sprinkling the blood of the sacrifices (bulls and goats) over the holy things of the Tabernacle. All of the rituals were ineffective when it came to removing the real pollution of sin. Only Jesus can cleanse people of their sin. His cleansing is not external, but internal...our innermost thoughts and desires.

Three (3) areas we don't want to forget from this passage:

1. Let us approach the presence of God (Draw near to God).

We are to never forget the duty and responsibility of worship; not just on Sunday, but throughout the day. Speaking to God and listening to His response in the Spirit. Remember, He lives within you.

2. Let us hold fast to our faith...never losing our grip to what we believe (the Living Hope).

When things around us fall and shatter, we must understand that God is faithful and He will be there when we need Him. Jesus is our perfect mediator.

3. Let us think of others needs as we see the Day of the Lord approaching.

We are to encourage...we are to have fellowship...we are to pray and "spur" one another to realize that God wants us to help promote faithfulness in the most trying circumstance.

The early church lived in the expectation that Jesus is coming soon. We are to do likewise; but, remembering we must maintain until that day comes...leaving our loved ones with the same expectations...because He (Jesus is coming back! Maranatha!)

Hebrews 10:26-31, “If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.²⁸ Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.²⁹ How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?³⁰ For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.”³¹ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

The Horror of Sin

The writer of Hebrews has a sternness about him when he sees those who calls themselves Christians and still live like the devil.

He has this horror of sin for two (2) reasons:

1. **The church was under attack. He felt that there were members in the church body who were bad advertisements of the Christian faith.** God's members of the faith must be loyal or nothing.
Note: the greatest handicap of the Church is the unsatisfactory lives of professing Christians. John, in the Book of Revelation, states that the Lord wants to “spew them out of His mouth.”
2. **The new knowledge of God through Jesus has brought double penalty for rejecting the blood of Jesus.** Knowing that there was a Savior and He died for the sins of all people, one must understand that he is in “double-trouble.” The greater the knowledge, the greater the sin. The writer knew what the penalty of rejecting the faith under the Old Covenant (the Law); stoning to death. Now, we know even more and we are under the penalty for our own sin and we not only die once, but twice. The final nail in the coffin...hell is real...the soul will perish along with the body.

Three (3) Definitions of Sin in this passage:

1. **Sin is to trample Christ underfoot.** The one who rejects the Savior is the one who rejects his love and ultimate sacrifice. The hardest thing for a parent...their child who rejects their love and prayers. Jesus prays for us...that we might accept His love.

2. **Sin is “failing to see the sacredness of sacred things.”** Sin is the failure to realize (rejection) the sacredness of Jesus sacrifice on the cross (the shed blood, the broken and bruised body of Jesus)...for mankind.
3. **Sin is the insult to the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit prods us and pleads with us to not do wrong...placing within us a sense of what is right and wrong. To disregard the prompting of the Holy Spirit is an insult to the Spirit and grieves the heart of God.

Hebrews 10:32-39, “Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering.³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated.³⁴ You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.³⁷ For “In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.”³⁸ And, “But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.”³⁹ But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.”

“Be what you were at your best” is what the writer of Hebrews is saying to the church.

Christianity does not demand the impossible; but, if we be as honest, considerate, and as courageous as we can be as a Christian, life would be transformed and we would have a better chance of living in the world but “not being of the world.”

According to this Scripture, we Christians need certain things:

1. **We need to keep our hope and goal in sight.** Heaven is real, our salvation is real, and our Jesus is waiting on the other side to live with us for eternity. Our loved ones, our friends...all who know Jesus are waiting for us.
2. **We need perseverance.** Most people can start well...and almost everyone can keep going intermittently. We need to understand what it means to walk and not be weary...and not to faint.
3. **We need to look for the end...not the means.** Victory comes only to those who hold on. Life is a journey that makes its way into the presence of God.

This is a summons to “never be less than the best.”

If life is the road to Christ, no one can afford to miss it...or to stop half-way before you get there!

HE WHO HAS OVERCOME HAS MADE IT CLEAR...

He who overcomes:

- 1) *Jesus “will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God”,*
- 2) *Will not be hurt at all by the second death,*
- 3) *Will give him some of the hidden manna...and a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it,*
- 4) *Jesus “will give them authority over the nations just as I (Jesus) have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star,*
- 5) *Will be dressed in white and his name will never be blotted out from the book of life...but will acknowledge his name before my Father and His angels,*
- 6) *Jesus “will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it....he will have my name written on him,”*
- 7) *Jesus “will give him the right to sit with Jesus on His throne, just as Jesus overcame and sat down with His Father on His throne.*

Are you a member of the Church of Jesus Christ...? Bought and paid for...JESUS:
Waiting for you on the other side?