

"The Better Sacrifice"

Part 6

Hebrews 9:12-10:39

Introduction: Tonight as we come back to our study of Hebrews, we have again come to chapter 10. In the chapter the writer is leading these Hebrew believers up a spiritual mountain, and each step of the way they are getting a better view of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. It is the writer's desire to get them to rest completely in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Tonight we reach the summit, and as we do, we shall see privilege entrusted to all believers through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

I. The Exhortation

Notice Hebrews 10:19

Before we get too deep into this verse, we need to focus first of all upon one word in this verse, and it is the word "**therefore**". This word is here to sweep the reader's mind back over all that the writer has walked us through so far and mainly what he has recorded in this chapter up to this point.

The writer has informed us that Jesus is better. He is better than angels, He is better than the prophets, He is better than Moses, and He is better than Aaron. The writer has informed us that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is better than all the Levitical priests and the sacrifices of the Old Covenant. The Old Covenant sacrifices could not take away sin; they could only cover sin. The Old Covenant, its priests and its sacrifices could not bring the common man into the presence of God. The sacrifices of the Old Covenant could not clear the conscience of man because man was reminded year after year that his sins were still on his account.

In contrast to the economy of the Old Covenant and the sacrifices of that economy; Jesus is better. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ upon the cross did what no one else could ever do:

1. He paid the entire penalty for our sins with His one offering.

Hebrews 10:12

¹² *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

2. He has perfected us FOREVER by His sacrifice on the cross.

Hebrews 10:14

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

3. He has promised that our sins will never again be remembered.

Hebrews 10:17

¹⁷ *And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*

All of this is what the word "therefore" is there for. The writer wants his readers to be mindful of what he has just walked them through.

Notice Hebrews 10:19 again.

The word "boldness" in this verse means "freedom" or "liberty". So the writer is telling his readers that because of the finished work of Jesus Christ, all believers now have the liberty to enter into the presence of God. This is only possible because of the BLOOD of Jesus Christ, which was shed for us on the cross. Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the believer now has the liberty to enter into the holiest/the presence of God at any time. This means that because our sin has been completely paid for by the blood of Christ and it has been taken away from our account, that we now have the liberty to come to God at any time we desire or need.

Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly [freely] unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Under the Old Covenant it was only the high priest who could enter into the Holy of Holies once a year. But we can come into the presence of God every day because of the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Notice Hebrews 10:20a

Our entrance into the presence of the Father is by a new and living way. This is a very interesting statement made by the writer. The word "new" means "freshly slaughtered". Vines defines it as "newly slain". So the writer is saying that the way to the Father is through a sacrifice that is newly slain and living. This is an amazing statement. This was written some 60 years after the death of Jesus Christ, and the writer is saying that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was as fresh then as it was the day that Jesus died. We need to also understand that the sacrifice and the blood of Jesus Christ is as fresh and as

powerful today as it was the day that Jesus died. Let me show you the words of Newell on this thought.

"Mark it, He is NOT slain anew. He is freshly slain! There before God Who inhabiteth eternity, as His Lamb, provided in His infinite love, and just NOW slain! How shall a sinner then dare be filled any longer with terror of God? God's eyes are on His Son perpetually as upon a Lamb just slain, WHO HAS JUST NOW PUT AWAY OUR SIN!!!"

1 John 1:5-7

⁵ *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

⁶ *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

⁷ *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

In these 3 verses John is stating that a TRUE believer will NOT live in the darkness of sin, but he or she will walk in the light, which means their life will be different and the pattern of sin will be broken in their life. This is the mark of a TRUE believer. This person then is under the constant cleansing of the blood of Jesus Christ on a daily basis. The word "cleanseth" here is in the present tense, which means it is something that is happening all the time.

This is essential! We need this because we are far from perfect in our practice. So every day we are being cleansed by the FRESH blood of Jesus Christ.

Let me refresh your memory with something we looked at before.

Hebrews 9:13

¹³ *For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:*

The ashes of the RED heifer are spoken of in Numbers 19:2-10 and when we looked at these earlier, we learned that these ashes were kept and then mixed with water for the cleansing of the person who came in contact with the dead. The ashes never ran out for there was an endless supply. These RED ashes are a picture of the RED blood of Jesus

Christ, which is also in an endless supply and is used to cleanse you and me who are in this world and in contact with the "spiritually dead" all the time.

Now let us get back to Hebrews again. The writer also tells us that the way is not only "freshly slain" but it is also a "living way". This "living way" speaks of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The sacrifices of the Old Covenant were killed and remained dead, but Jesus Christ died and rose on the third day and is alive forever more. So as our Great high Priest, He intercedes for us when we sin. Because He is alive, He can continually cleanse us with the blood of His FRESHLY SLAIN sacrifice.

Romans 5:10

¹⁰ *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

We are reconciled to God by the death of Jesus Christ, and we are kept saved by His present life as our Great High Priest as He continually cleanses us with His freshly shed blood.

The living way not only speaks of the resurrected life of Christ, but it also speaks of the spiritual life given to us as believers. This "new and living way" is therefore manifest in the TRUE believer by the fruit that is produced through our lives.

Notice Hebrews 10:20 again.

Now we see that the new and living way has been consecrated for us through the veil, which is His flesh. The word "consecrated" here means that Jesus was the FIRST and ONLY to open this Way for believers.

Hebrews 2:10

¹⁰ *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

Hebrews 10:20 tells us He did this through the veil that is His flesh. This is an interesting statement. There was a veil in the Tabernacle that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. This veil represented sin, for it is sin that separates man from God.

Isaiah 59:2

² *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

But if the veil represented sin, then how can the writer of Hebrews speak of the "flesh" of our Lord as the representative of our sin?

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

When Jesus died upon the cross, the veil in the Temple was torn from the TOP to the bottom.

Matthew 27:50-51

⁵⁰ Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

⁵¹ And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

When Jesus died on the cross, His flesh was "torn" so to speak, and it was then that the veil in the Temple was torn from TOP to bottom showing that God was the One who ripped the veil; thus it was God Who made the way for man to come into His presence through the death of His only begotten Son.

Notice Hebrews 10:21

The word "and" in this verse helps us to know that this is continuing the writer's same thoughts. The word "high" really means "Great". The "house" that Jesus is the Great Priest over is the church, but to be more specific, it is each of us personally who are saved. The thought in this verse is wonderful, but we do not see it on the surface.

The "secret" to the Christian life is surrender to the Holy Spirit Who indwells us and allow Him to live the very life of Jesus Christ through us. He desires to control us so that others will see Christ in us. He desires to cloth Himself with our personality and then in the circumstances which we face every single day He wants to live out the life of Christ in us. Let me show you what Ray Stedman says about this very thought.

"This is the greatest truth of Christian faith. Christianity is not some feeble effort on our part to live a shabby imitation of Jesus Christ. Christianity is Jesus Christ living his life again through us right where we are, in our circumstances. We have a completely available and thoroughly able priest in control over the house of God, whose house we are."

The Christian life is not you and me imitating the life of Christ, and it is not doing what Jesus would do in our place. It is actually allowing the Holy Spirit to live the very life of Christ through us.

This is what the writer is saying to the Hebrew believers here; he is letting them know that Jesus as their Great Priest was fully capable of saving them, keeping them saved, living His life in them and bringing them into God's rest, which they were missing. They were trusting in Him with saving faith, but they were not fully surrendered over to Him and thus were not living by faith. They still had faith in their flesh they could somehow please God.

Now based upon the ability of their Great Priest the writer will give them 3 exhortations:

1. Let us draw near.
2. Let us hold fast.
3. Let us consider.

We need to look at each one of these closely.

1. **Let us draw near.**

Notice Hebrews 10:22

We will not get to all of this verse tonight, but we can look at the first part. The writer encourages them to draw near. Now we have talked about this as we have come through this letter. This is drawing near in fellowship with the Father, and this is God's desire for each of us.

Notice Hebrews 10:19-22a

When we read these verses together, we can see that God has done all of this for His children so that we can draw near to Him. He did not just sacrifice His Son so that we could escape the fires of hell, but it was so that we could have fellowship with Him.

John 17:3

³ *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

To draw near to God is to walk in His presence every day. Let us see how we are to draw near.

Notice Hebrews 10:22 again.

We are to draw near with a TRUE HEART in FULL assurance of faith. This means that we are to live our lives fully relying upon the finished work of Jesus Christ to do what we cannot do and that is to bring us with Him into the presence of the Father. To draw near with a TRUE HEART is to come with a heart full of faith and dependence completely upon Jesus Christ that He is fully capable of living His life through us. To come with doubt is NOT coming with a TRUE HEART.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Conclusion:

We are going to stop here tonight. We will pick this up here next week in the same place. Let me leave you with something Paul recorded in Philippians.

Philippians 3:3

³ For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Paul states here that we who are true believers are the TRUE circumcision. We worship God in spirit, and we rejoice in Christ Jesus, which means he trusted completely in the finished work of Christ to make him accepted and complete. He then states he had no confidence in the flesh which means he knew there was no way he could please God in the flesh. He was living by faith in the finished work of Christ and by faith in Christ's ability to live his life through Him.