

"The Better Sacrifice"

Part 7

Hebrews 9:12-10:39

Introduction: In our study of Hebrews we are working our way through Hebrews 10, and we have now come to 3 exhortations given by the writer.

Notice Hebrews 10:22-25

Three times in these verses the writer says "LET US". Last week in our study we started to look at these 3 exhortations. Tonight I want to gather all 3 of these together for our study.

1. Let us draw near.

Notice Hebrews 10:22

Last week we looked at how it is God's desire for each of His children to draw near to Him in fellowship. This is why Jesus Christ died upon the cross.

Hebrews 10:19-20

¹⁹ *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,*

²⁰ *By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;*

Here we see that Jesus has provided a way into the presence of God though the veil by pouring out His blood FOR US. This was all done so that we could come into the presence of the Father and have fellowship with Him and the Son. So when the writer of Hebrews exhorts his readers to DRAW NEAR, we must understand that this is our responsibility. God the Father sacrificed His Son so that He could have fellowship with Him, so to not take this seriously is an insult to our Lord.

Notice Hebrews 10:22 again.

There are 2 requirements which the believer must meet before he or she is able to step into that sweet fellowship with God.

a. We are to come with a TRUE heart.

The word "true" here has a very interesting meaning. Let me show you the Blue Letter Bible definition.

"That which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, in every respect corresponding to the idea signified by the name, real, true genuine..."

The idea in this definition is that to have a "TRUE" heart means that our heart will match our name. In the New Testament we are known as "SAINTS", and this new name describes our position in Christ. So when the writer tells his readers that they are to draw near with a "TRUE" heart, he is stating that as we come into the presence of the Father, we must come with PURE/SINCERE hearts. Let me take this a little further. We are to come with hearts that TRULY desire to have fellowship with God. We are to have hearts dedicated to Him and hearts that are fully given over to our Lord. Let us consider some verses to see how God longs to have our entire heart.

Let me start by showing you what we must fight against.

Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹ *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:*

²⁰ *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*

²¹ *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

Matthew 15:8

⁸ *This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*

This is exactly what we must guard against. Our hearts are desperately wicked, and, therefore, our own hearts can deceive us.

Jeremiah 17:9

⁹ *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

Now let us see what it is that God desires.

Proverbs 23:26

²⁶ My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

Jeremiah 3:10

¹⁰ And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly[deceived with falsehood], saith the LORD.

Let me show you 2 promises which God made.

Deuteronomy 4:29

²⁹ But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Matthew 5:8

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

From all of these verses we can clearly see that God desires our entire heart and when we come to Him, we must come with a heart longing for Him and a heart that is laid bare before Him.

Let me take a moment and help us to understand what all of this means to you and me. When we come into the presence of the Father and we desire sweet fellowship then we must not have a divided allegiance. We must come desiring His will and not come with selfish motives. I believe this is exactly what Jesus had in mind when He taught His disciples to pray.

Matthew 6:9-10

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Unless our heart is PURE, we cannot pray this and be sincere. To pray these words for our own personal life takes a heart that is completely sold out to God, and that is what God desires in us. We can have no hypocrisy.

Now maybe you struggle with a divided heart, and you really desire to have singleness of heart. You truly desire to have heart that is committed to God. Let me show you something which is very encouraging.

Jeremiah 24:5-7

⁵ *Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good.*

⁶ *For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up.*

⁷ *And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.*

Let us now get back to Hebrews again.

Notice Hebrews 10:22 again.

This now brings us to the second requirement which the believer must meet to enjoy sweet fellowship with the Lord.

b. Full assurance of faith.

We touched on this briefly last week. In order to have fellowship with God, we must come to Him by faith.

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.*

Now we must understand that the writer is NOT talking about SAVING FAITH here, but he is talking about LIVING BY FAITH after salvation. But we need to know what the writer is specifically talking about here. This is so important to grasp!

The writer is telling all his readers that for the believer to come into fellowship with the Father, we must walk by faith in what he has just presented to us. **In other words we must come to God RESTING COMPLETELY in the finished work of Jesus Christ.** We must understand that we can do nothing to make ourselves accepted by God. We must come to understand what Paul said in Romans 7.

Romans 7:18a

¹⁸ *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:*

So when we come to the Father, we must come RESTING COMPLETELY in what Jesus did for us and NOT come trusting in our flesh thinking that we can somehow do something to make God accept us or love us more. To trust in the flesh is self-righteousness, and that is sin which will keep you from fellowship with the Father. Remember it is only by faith that we can come to God.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him:"

Let me just take a moment here and point out that something which all of us need to understand. This is exactly why legalism is so dangerous within a church. Legalism is self-righteousness, and it keeps the believer from fellowship with the Father. If legalism makes its way within the church, then you have a group of people who have no fellowship with the Father. We CANNOT come to God for fellowship if we are self-righteous! We must come in full assurance of faith RESTING COMPLETELY in what Jesus Christ has done for us and what He is doing in us.

Galatians 2:20-21

²⁰ *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

²¹ *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

For a believer to come to God in self-righteousness is to FRUSTRATE THE GRACE OF GOD.

Now let us notice the results of coming to God with a pure heart and with the full assurance of faith.

Notice Hebrews 10:22 again.

The heart is sprinkled from an evil conscience and our body is washed with pure water.

There are 2 passages in the New Testament that I believe picture this verse perfectly.

1 John 1:6-7

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.*

The word "CLEANSETH" is in the present tense, which means it is a continual action as we pass through this old world. This is exactly what the writer is speaking of in Hebrews 10:22. Knowing this TRUTH (that the blood of Jesus Christ is continually cleansing us) clears our conscience as we walk in fellowship with the Father. Now let me show you what the writer has in mind when he states that "our bodies are washed with pure water".

John 13:4-8

⁴ *He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.*

⁵ *After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.*

⁶ *Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?*

⁷ *Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.*

⁸ *Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.*

Jesus did NOT say, "Thou hast no part **IN** me." He said, "Thou hast no part **WITH** me." He is talking here about fellowship. The idea is that as we pass through this old sin-filled world, the dirt/sin of this world gets into our lives also. We then confess our sin, and Jesus cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:3, 8-9

³ *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

I show you this verse so that we can see the theme of 1 John. It is fellowship NOT salvation. Then we read these words:

⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

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⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Conclusion:

Notice Hebrews 10:22 again.

When we come to the Father with a PURE heart and in full assurance of faith, then we can be sure He will cleanse our hearts, clear our conscience, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, thus permitting us to come into His presence for that sweet fellowship.

On Sunday mornings we have been looking at living for God in the midst of difficult times and what we need to do in these dark days. Let me just state that the Truth we find in Hebrews 10:22 is the very best advice for difficult times. The closer we are to God in the storms of life, the better we will be able to stand.