

"The Better Sacrifice"

Part 4

Hebrews 9:12-10:39

Introduction: Tonight as we come back to our study in Hebrews we have now arrived at chapter 10 of this amazing letter. The chapter we are stepping into takes us far above all the other chapters in this letter and possibly above all others in the entire Bible. In Hebrews 9:12 the writer has taken us into a journey where he focuses upon the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and how His sacrifice is superior to all the sacrifices of the Old Testament. In Hebrews 10 the writer will reach the pinnacle of his argument. In the midst of this chapter the writer will present the strongest warning of this letter which will be the 4th warning he has given to the Hebrew believers.

Now let us remember that this letter is written to Hebrew believers who are under persecution for their faith. That pressure combined with the "hollow" which God has placed in them is causing them to entertain the thought of going back to Judaism. The Temple is still standing and the unbelieving Jews are still sacrificing animals. So these believers are entertaining the thought of going back because they are looking to escape the pressure of the persecution and they are attempting to fill the "hollow" within them by "busy" themselves for God.

They do not understand that God desires them to surrender over completely to Christ. They do not understand that in Christ they are ACCEPTED and COMPLETE.

Colossians 2:10

¹⁰ *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*

Ephesians 1:6-7

⁶ *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

⁷ *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

These were 2 very important spiritual Truths which these Hebrew believers did not understand. There are many today who do not grasp this Truth either. The result is they have not entered into the REST which God has for them in Christ. They believe they must live a certain way to be accepted by God and they believe they must live a certain way to

please God. The problem is that the harder they try to live a "perfect" life the more they fail. They have no peace and they live a frustrated defeated life.

If that describes your life then you need to grasp on to what we are about to look at in Hebrews 10. This is the answer to the frustrated Christian life. If you grasp on to the Truth of this chapter the end result will be that you will have entered the rest which God has prepared for the believer IN CHRIST.

Let me remind you of what the writer recorded back in Hebrews 4.

Hebrews 4:10-11

¹⁰ *For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*

¹¹ *Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

Let us now get into this marvelous chapter of God's Word.

I. The Shadows

Notice Hebrews 10:1

Here the writer reminds his readers that the Law contained only a "shadow" of good things to come. In other words all the ceremonies and the rituals as well as all of the sacrifices were only shadows of something far better that was to come. The SOMETHING FAR BETTER was Jesus Christ. The ceremonies and the rituals could not make one person perfect. They offered the sacrifices year after year but they could never make a way for the common man to come into the presence of God.

Notice Hebrews 10:2

Here the writer asks a question to make his point. If the sacrifices of the Old Covenant were able to make men perfect then would they not have ceased to be offered? They would have no longer been needed once man was made perfect but they could not do that. Neither could they clear the conscience of the sinner.

Notice Hebrews 10:3

Here we see that with all of those sacrifices there was a constant remembrance of sin.

Notice Hebrews 10:4

Here is the reason. The blood of bulls and goats could not possibly take away the sins of the people. This means the sin was never removed from the account of the sinner.

I want to give you an illustration in order to help you grasp how the sacrifices of the Old Covenant worked. I will borrow this illustration from Phillips.

Let's imagine that you decide to open up your own business. You need a substantial loan in order to get everything started so you go to the bank and you apply. The president of the bank agrees to give you a loan if there is someone who will sign for you who has the collateral to cover the amount you have borrowed. You happen to have a friend who is very wealthy and he agrees to sign on your behalf. The agreement is that at the end of the year you will pay back to the bank the amount they have determined against the loan. The year goes by and your earnings are not even close to what you had expected and when it comes time to pay the bank you do not have the money. Therefore you go back to the president of the bank and you request further credit and an extension of time on the former loan. The banker agrees and he writes up a promissory note adding your new indebtedness to the old. Your friend signs again and the banker staples the old note to the back of the new one and carries forward the accumulated debt from the previous year.

This goes on year after year. Your friend continues to sign and your debt continues to grow. Every time you go to the bank it is a reminder of the former debt from the previous years. You cannot get ahead and the debt continues to build to an astronomical amount. Every year you are reminded of all your debt. The only thing which keeps you afloat is the promise and endorsement of your wealthy friend.

This is exactly how the Old Covenant worked. The animal sacrifices were promissory notes in which the sinner acknowledged his or her growing sin debt every year. The debt was never paid but it was extended and added to. The sinners were fully aware of this and so the conscience was never cleared. There was a constant reminder of the past and present sins. But every animal that was sacrificed had with it the endorsement of the Son of God that he would cover the sin debt. When Jesus died on the cross God the Father gathered the entire sin debt together and He smashed it down upon His Son and Jesus died to pay the ENTIRE SIN DEBT of the Old Testament Saints and of you and me.

Notice Hebrews 10:1 again.

This is why the writer tells his readers that the rituals, ceremonies, and the sacrifices were SHADOWS of good things to come. The blood of the animals could not pay the sin debt but Jesus did.

Colossians 2:13-14

¹³ *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

¹⁴ **Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us**, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Here is an interesting verse. Paul tells us here that Jesus blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us. He took it and nailed it to His cross and thus took it out of the way. In Paul's day when a man was locked in prison there was nailed outside his cell a list of offences against him. He was a prisoner because of his offences. The same was true of us. We were prisoners of our sin and the offences against us were constantly building. But when Jesus died He took our list of offences and nailed them to His cross thus proclaiming that He was paying our sin debt with His death.

II. **The Will of God**

In verses 5-7 we have the great privilege of listening to a conversation between the Father and His Son before Jesus came into the world. The writer will now reach back to Psalm 40.

Notice Hebrews 10:5a

Before the virgin birth of Jesus Christ God the Father revealed His will to the Son. He was not interested in the sacrifices and the offerings of the Old Covenant.

Notice Hebrews 10:6

God had no pleasure in the ceremonies and the sacrifices of the Old Testament. I need to just say that this is true today also. God is not interested in ceremonies and rituals within the church. They mean absolutely nothing to God. It is God's desire for you and me to learn His Word and grow in our relationship with both the Father and the Son.

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.*

Notice Hebrews 10:5 again.

God had prepared a body for His Son to enter into this world. Now let us see the response of Jesus Christ to the Father's will.

Notice Hebrews 10:7

There are 2 points here which we need to look closely at:

1. **Jesus willing surrendered to the will of the Father.**

It was the will of the father that His Son would take upon Him a human body and He would live for 33 years and then He would offer Himself as the payment for the sins of the world upon the cross of Calvary. Let me show you the commitment of our Lord in the garden.

Luke 22:41-42

⁴¹ *And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,*

⁴² *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

Over and over in the Gospels we find that Jesus had come to do the will of Him who had sent Him.

2. **This was all foretold in the "BOOK".**

Jesus said, "In the volume of the book it is written of me."

The entire Bible is focused upon Jesus Christ. He is the THEME of the entire Scriptures. The sacrifices all pointed to Him, the prophets all spoke of Him, the ceremonies and the rituals all were shadows of Him and for that reason these Hebrews should have understood that Jesus was the fulfillment of all the Old Testament. There are 2 verses in Luke 24 in which Jesus points to the Old Testament and explains that it was all about Him.

Luke 24:27

²⁷ *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

Luke 24:44

⁴⁴ *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

Notice Hebrews 10:8-9

After saying the Words which were recorded in Psalm 40 and here in Hebrews 10:5-7, that God did not desire nor did He take any pleasure in the sacrifices, the offerings, and the burnt offerings, then Jesus spoke up and said, "I am come to do thy WILL O God."

Then the writer adds that Jesus came to take away the first so that He may establish the second. In other words Jesus was given a human body so that He could come to this earth and take away the sacrifices, the offerings, the ceremonies and the rituals of the Old Covenant and He replaced it with something far better which was the NEW TESTAMENT.

Now as the writer steps us into the next verses we shall see the results of Jesus Christ's surrender to the will of God.

Notice Hebrews 10:10

The "which will" here is the will of the Father as referred to in verse 9. When Jesus surrendered to the WILL of the Father He has sanctified everyone who is a believer by His one offering once for all.

The writer is speaking here of "POSITIONAL SANCTIFICATION". This refers to our POSITION in Christ. When we accepted Jesus Christ as Savior God lifted us from the depths of sin and He placed us into the body of Jesus Christ. This means that IN CHRIST we are set apart by God and for God.

1 Corinthians 12:13

¹³ ***For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body,** whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

Now what we need to grasp here is that this was done by the offering of Jesus Christ **once for all**. By the sacrifice of Jesus Christ our sin debt has been paid and we are now placed into the body of Jesus Christ. This can never be undone! It was done once for all! If our POSITION IN CHRIST could ever change then that would mean that Jesus would need to repeat the sacrificial offering of His life over and over again. But it is not possible to change our POSITION IN CHRIST because Jesus died once for all.

Notice Hebrews 10:11

Here is a reminder that the Levitical priests could never sit down because they never stopped offering sacrifices. They were offered over and over again, year after year.

Notice Hebrews 10:12

In contrast to the Levitical priest Jesus after He had offered ONE sacrifice for sins FOREVER He then sat down. He was able to sit down because He accomplished with His sacrifice what the Old Testament priests could never accomplish. He paid the entire sin debt for us and He has taken all of our sins away.

Notice Hebrews 10:13

Jesus is now waiting for the Father to bring about the day when Jesus will return to gather His bride and in the Great Tribulation the earth will be purged and then Jesus and His church will return to earth and our Lord will set up His Kingdom and He will reign for 1000 years here on this earth.

How can our Lord patiently wait in heaven while we are down here in this sin filled world battling with our flesh and with the satanic forces? The answer is in the following verses.

Notice Hebrews 10:14

The word "for" here is a connective. It is taking us into the explanation as to how Jesus can patiently wait until the plan for the ages unfolds. It is because He has perfected us FOREVER with the OFFERING of His body on the cross. Jesus can patiently wait because with His sacrifice He has FOREVER secured our eternal life and as the Holy Spirit indwells us we are given all we need to live Godly while we are here on this earth.

2 Peter 1:2-3

² *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,*

³ *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness,* *through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

Conclusion:

We are forever secure in Jesus Christ. We are accepted and perfect in Him. When we grasp this Truth it will allow us to enter into God's rest which He has for us. Next week we shall continue this very thought.