

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

Hebrews 10:1-18

In the previous chapter (Ch. 9:11-14), we learned that the blood of Christ was the superior sacrifice offered to God which cleanses us from all sin and gives us access through Christ into the very throne room of God—the Holy of Holies in the heavenly realm. It is through the blood of Christ that we have obtained eternal redemption. We are no longer cut-off or separated from God, but now have full access into his presence through his son the Eternal High Priest and King. We have been set free to worship and to serve the Living God!



In Ch. 9:15 we learned that Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant between man and God so that man may receive the eternal promise. We learned that Jesus died as a ransom to set the believer free from the acts committed under the law of the first covenant.

Now let us look at Hebrews 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” (v.1, NIV).

Law \longrightarrow Reality

The word “law” as it is used here is specifically referring to the law as it pertains to the governing of the priests and sacrifices offered in the temple. The ritual it describes is said to only be a shadow of the real thing. It only points to the reality in form, but not in substance. The law of the old covenant lacked the power to do what the reality could do. The law had its priests and sacrifices and certain benefits to those who participated in it. However, it was limited, since it was only a shadow.

As a way of illustration, you may stand with your back to a light and cast a shadow. The shadow may imitate your form but has no substance or power. It is the same with the law; in form it was like the reality, but lacked substance or power.



The reality also has a priest and a sacrifice which results in benefits for those who would participate in it—and these benefits are not temporary. This reality has as its priest Jesus the Christ. And the sacrifice that he offered was a perfect sacrifice—he offered up his own body and blood unto God as the payment for our sin.

The earlier ordinances of priest and sacrifice only pointed the reality of Jesus --who was both priest and sacrifice. In Christ were the “good things” to come! He is a perfect



priesthood and sacrifice. He brought with him eternal redemption and access into the presence of God for those who place their faith in him. He brought perfection, wholeness, completeness, eternal cleansing from sin, and eternal entrance into the presence of God, which the old order could not do.

Under the old order, the sacrifices offered over and over could never cleanse the heart of guilt, and therefore the worshipper could not come into the presence of God with full assurance. Those of that day were condemned by their sin which hindered their way to God. They continually, year after year, brought their sacrifices remembering their sins. Their pardon was bestowed repeatedly, without cleansing, perfection, or freedom from guilt. Their sacrifices were only annual reminders of sin (c.f. v.2-3). It could not give the peace of a pardon that was granted one time and for all time.

When Christ came (v.4) the reality (light/truth of God), he came to do the will of God, by setting aside the old covenant and by establishing the new (v.9).

“By that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.... But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God...because by one sacrifice he has made perfect (whole, complete) forever those who are being made holy”
[sanctified, KJV] (v.9,14, NIV).

Now for the promise of promises: God said, **“Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more”** (v.17). He goes on to say, **“And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin”** (v. 18). For those who are in Christ, God will remember their sin no more. What a gift!! No longer do you have to carry the condemnation and guilt over your sin-- God does not remember, and nor should we. We have been set free. We are now free to do what God intended for us to do all along—come into his presence in full assurance of faith and dwell with him there.

There is no other sacrifice to come. It has been offered up to God and judged to be worthy and acceptable. There is nothing else to be done. We can lay down our self-righteousness and vain attempts to work our way into God’s presence.



The Way has been opened up—let us enter into the presence of God and rest. Jesus said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes unto the Father except through me”** (John 14:6 NIV).

What's Your Next Step?
