

Heb. 10:11-18 The Offering of Christ Summarized

Verses 11-18 bring to a conclusion the author's teaching on the priesthood of Jesus. And I believe the key verse is found in v. 14 which says, "**For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**" And to summarize this point, I want to highlight 4 truths in this passage. (1: One-time sacrifice, 2: Sin-bearing sacrifice, 3: Victorious sacrifice, and 4: Prophesied sacrifice)

1. One-time sacrifice. Look at vv. 11-12: "**And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ (this one) had offered for all time a single sacrifice, he sat down at the right hand of God.**" In our context, we find particularly Jewish Christians who are considering going back to the old system, after they have embraced the sacrifice of Christ. And if they do, they are going backwards. Instead of the one-time sacrifice of Christ, they were going back to the continual sacrifices of the Levitical priesthood. And if they were to do so, they would go back to trusting those priests and their offerings. But our author is saying, "*Don't do it. Those priests and those offerings in and of themselves are continual, they will never end.*" Why? They will never end because they cannot take away sins. As we've seen, they cannot accomplish the will of God. As v. 14 says, they cannot "perfect" those who are being sanctified.

There is no illustration that completely fits this comparison because the sacrifice of Christ was of infinite value. Theirs was not. It would be like attempting to sail around the world on a pool raft from Wal-Mart. It would be like trying to dig a hole to China with a shovel. You might give it a try, but you will never accomplish your goal. And, if you survive, you don't have enough years in your life to complete the task. This is why the Son, before the foundations of the world, says to the Father, "***I have come to do your will,***" and "***Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me***" (Heb. 10:5-7). *What those priests repeatedly did under the Old Covenant, I will fulfill. I will complete what they cannot do. I will "perfect" that system and do what ONLY I can do. I will make those who "draw near" acceptable in your sight.*

Heb. 7:27-28: "**He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.**" And 6:23: "**For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.**"

Today, the sacrifice of Christ is the sacrifice of all sacrifices. It is the fulfillment of all the OT sacrifices. The sacrifice of Christ completes what they picture. *They are the shadows; Christ is the substance.* From one perspective, if Christ did not come, we could continue forever with the old system. But, do you hear the problem with the sentence I just spoke. It is the word "forever." This is exactly what would happen. Without the sacrifice of Christ, we would continue in this state forever, forever, forever. I cannot imagine. And the effects of sin in this world would remain forever. There would never be an entrance for God's people into heaven. This is why we "groan" now for the redemption to come. When? At his 2nd coming. For this we wait! And if Christ were to only come to this earth without taking care of sin, he would still victorious. But,

he would only judge all of us as his enemies, as sinners. Do you see the infinite, beautiful, wise, magnificent, glorious, (on and on) one-time sacrifice, for all-time sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Application: Do not trust any other sacrifice! Do not try and save yourself. Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with leaves. But instead, God Himself gave them a covering, even as He picture for them the death they deserved with slain animals. Even as Noah built the ark and entered before the flood, only God could bring the animals and then shut the door himself (Gen. 7:16). God in his grace has been doing this since the fall; teaching sinners that we cannot be saved apart from his clear provision. Hence, the cross!

Application: Consider the alternative for leaving Christ (See vv. 26-29).

Application: It is alarming, but true, that those who are in the most danger of apostasy are those who are most familiar with the truth, and those who hear the truth on a regular basis. It was the Jewish nation that had the most revelation and instruction. And yet, we find great judgment. All of their Scriptures point to Christ, yet they rejected Him. And in 70 AD judgment came to their city, their temple, and their nation.

2. Sin-bearing sacrifice. Another truth of the author is that this one-time, for all time, sacrifice really and truly takes away sin. Look again at vv. 11-12: “**And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God . . .**” And now look at v. 14: “**For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**” Brothers and sisters, the ONLY WAY we can be sanctified, or “set apart” for God as holy is if our sins are taken away. And, they must not only be taken away, we must be cleansed from within. Our author is reminding his readers again in his conclusion on Christ’s priesthood that the one-time offering of Christ both takes away their sins and makes them clean. I won’t spend much time in explanation here as we’ve already covered this from in 9:11-14.

In those verses, the author mentions both the blood of bulls and goats AND the ashes of a red heifer. In the first case, those bulls and goats were offered as a sin offering. In the case of the high priest, he would take the blood of both and enter the holy of holies and sprinkle upon the mercy seat, as a “sin offering.” Among other things, the people knew that THEY deserved death for their sins. And for that time, God commanded through Moses the sacrifice of these animals. “*For the wages of sin is death.*” The Law of Moses, particularly the sacrificial system, was a perpetual reminder of the result of their sins against a holy God. They knew if they were to be right with God, their sins must be expiated, or taken away.

Also, with the mentioning of the red heifer, we see the idea of cleansing. After the heifer was killed, the priests would burn all of it together and take its ashes and mix with water. And when the people touched something or someone unclean, they could go and wash themselves in this water. They knew, if they were to be right with God, they must be clean as well. But, at the end of the day, the these sacrifices were only a reminder of sins. They could not purify the

conscience or clean the soul from sin. As our v. 14 says, they could not *“perfect for all time those who are being sanctified.”*

But, it is not so with the sacrifice of Christ! Look back at 5:9: **“And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him . . .”** Look at 6:19: **“We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever . . . after the order of Melchizedek.”** And because of this one-time sacrifice, those who trust in this sacrifice, their sins are forgiven, and they are made clean, and this by the great power of the Holy Spirit. This is what Christ has done for his people in the New Covenant. In Heb. 8:10-12 we read: **“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”**

Application: ONLY the sacrifice of Christ will take care of your insurmountable sin problem! This means your conscience is not guilty any longer. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, you are a new creation. Think of all your sins this week. When you sin, and it comes to your mind, what do you do. 1 John 1:9. With all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, we know and we say, “Christ died for my sins!” “I am clean.”

Application: The context is sanctification (v. 14). As New Covenant Christians, we are “set apart” as those who trust in the sacrifice of Christ. But, the application is our godliness as those who are set apart. The will of God is your sanctification. Look down at vv. 23-25: **“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”** Today, I urge you to pray for your own godliness. And, for your heart that God would give you grace to love him more. At the end of the day, it is Love for God and love for man that makes up our sanctification.

3. Victorious sacrifice. Look again at vv. 12-13: **“But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.”** With the priest of the Old Covenant, they continued daily, weekly, monthly, and then yearly with the high priest. With that system, we might say, the battle and war against sin and death remains. There is no finality. There is no completion of the war. There is no victory. Even with the high priest, we see a yearly offering. And as long as they are still offering bulls and goats, there is no winning the war against judgment and sin. The enmity with God remains . . . forever! Can you imagine (supposing you had the strength) a wrestling match that never ends, much less in victory. (This is what will happen for those outside of Christ.)

Here, we see the words, he “sat down.” It is nice to sit down after a hard days’ work, especially if you work in hard labor. Or, if you’ve run a long race, it is nice to sit down and rest. Some people

who have worked hard for many years can retire from their work and finally “sit down” in a manner of speaking. Well, concerning the priests and particularly the high priests under the old covenant, they were not given a seat inside the holy of holies to sit and take a rest. Instead, they finished, came out, and waited to do it again the next year. But, concerning the work of Jesus as high priest, after offering himself, as the spotless, sinless ONE on the cross, what did he do. He “sat down.” Where? At the right hand of God. When we sit down after a hard day at work, what happens the next day, we go back to work. But, concerning Jesus’ work as a priest, he will not go back to work. He will not offer himself again. His offering was an offering of victory. He completed what those animals could not!

The context of this victory is his sacrifice, which is the author’s point from the beginning (See 1:3). In this regard, he has no more work to do. Let me try and clarify. You might say, “*I’m a Christian and I sin.*” This is called by Paul “indwelling sin.” This is ongoing. The consequences are great! And what about the consequences of sin in this world? These are endless as we see wars and rumors of wars and lies and cheatings and murders and deceit and heartbreak, etc. And what about the groanings of this physical world as we have earthquakes and hurricanes and famines and viruses, etc. These are still ongoing.

And Christian, what about your own sin (Brittney’s question) and the fight that goes on in your heart and your life and your family? Those are ongoing. These are the things that will come to an end when Christ returns for the 2nd time. He is sitting at the right hand of God . . . NOW, until all his enemies are made his footstool. But in Hebrews his sacrifice is the cause of victory now for the Christian. This means NOW, if you are a believer, your sins are taken away. You are clean! You are seated with Christ . . . NOW . . . victorious. As 9:28 says, “**so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin . . . but to save those who eagerly wait for him.**”

4. Prophesied sacrifice. Look at vv. 15-17: “**And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,**” then he adds, “**I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.**” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.”

Notice first “WHO” bears witness. It is the Holy Spirit. This is a clear statement from the author that the Holy Spirit is the author of the OT Scriptures. Here, the Holy Spirit (who is in essence God), is the One who inspires the words of the OT and the entire Bible. God is the author of the Bible. And since God is the author, it is true. It is without error. It will not lead you astray.

And for our context, the author, speaking to those Jewish Christians, is reminding them that ALL the Scriptures point to Jesus and his fulfillment of the Old Covenant. I was speaking with Kristen about this truth during the week. As Gentiles, we may have a hard time grasping this truth. For the most of us, we’ve grown up with such truths. We just think, “That’s absurd that the Jews would not move on from the Old Covenant and look to Christ.” But, for more than a thousand years, since the time of Moses, Israel was under that system of worship. That’s All they knew. The priesthood, the sacrifices, the washings, the keeping of the particulars of Mosaic law, all the traditions; it was who they were. It was their culture. (I’m reminded of my culture when I hear

the church bells from FBC when I walk around town.) And then, with the coming of Christ EVERYTHING changed. He fulfilled ALL the law and the prophets.

This is why so often, as he thinks about such a wonderful truth, Paul worships God in his letters. In Rom. 9-11, after speaking about how the Gentiles will be “grafted into Israel” as the gospel goes to the ends of the earth, Paul praises God by saying, **“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen”** (Rom. 11:33-36).

In 1 Cor. 15:1-3. Paul says, **“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures . . .”**

Application: Our response is worship! Who could think up such things but God in his great wisdom! The Bible is about Christ and God’s great plan of “perfecting” the church in Him! Though it is a great mystery, from before the foundations of the world, the sending of the Son to die on the cross was in the plan of God. The words, **“I will be your God and you will be my people”** find their fulfillment of the Son, particularly in the New Covenant which we read here in vv. 16-18: **“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”** then he adds, **“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”** Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.”