

Heb. 10:11-18 The Offering of Christ Summarized (part 2)

This morning, I will continue with the 2nd part of a sermon I preached two weeks ago. Verses 11-18 summarize what the author has been saying since way back in chapter 5 about the person and work of our great high priest. And he is clear about his point in 8:1: **“Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven . . .”** And for us, nothing can be more important! Last week we considered two truths from the passage: 1) The Offering of Christ was once-for-all; and 2) The Offering of Christ was efficient to take care of sin. The priests of the old covenant stood daily to make offerings. They were continuous. And, there was no end in sight to those offerings. But they could never accomplish the will of God. Let me ask, *“What was the will of God in this respect?”* Look at v. 14 for our answer. **“For by one single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”** The will of God was to save a people for himself. And the reason we need to be saved is because we are sinners. In and of ourselves we are separated from God. Why? Because of sin. We are guilty. Our conscience bears witness. And God cannot just let sin go. He cannot grade on the curve. There must be an acceptable way besides the blood of bulls and goats that could never accomplish such a task. Brothers and sisters, Our sin is eternal. It is eternal because we have sinned against an eternal God. Those animals were of the earth. Their death, their sacrifice, could never reach to the heavens. They could never cover our sins. They could never take away the wrath of an eternal God.

You might say, *“Then, why did God give such a system of sacrifices under the OC?”* Well, they served their purpose. Each year they allowed Israel to continue in favor with God. But, THERE WAS NO END! Those sacrifices were only shadows. They were pictures of the offering of Christ. And who is He! Cp. 1: He is the **“radiance of the glory of God,”** the **“exact imprint of his nature,”** the one who **“upholds the universe by the word of his power.”** He is **the Son of God.** The angels worship him. His **“throne,”** as God, is **“forever and ever and ever.”** He remains forever! The heavens are his work. He laid the foundations of the world. And these will perish, but he remains. (1:3-13). And as those animals of that system were passive. It was not so with the Son. Before the foundations of the world, the Father asks the Son, *“Will you go and accomplish MY WILL?”* And he says, *“Yes!”* Look at 10:5-7: **“Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, Behold I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”** Do you realize, these words are a summary of the entire Bible. In these words we find the glorious gospel of God! And this gospel is displayed in the one-time, sin-bearing, offering of Christ. (That was the first part of this sermon.) Today, I have two more truths: 1) His offering was victorious, and 2) His offering was prophesied.

1. 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 run a long race. 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 tabernacle of the temple to sit down and rest. Why? As we’ve seen, their work was never finished. They 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!

Also, very important! Those priests did not have the RIGHT, the AUTHORITY, to sit down. Jesus did! In this book, the author quotes Psalm 110:1 four times; each time has a different emphasis of Jesus authority. Let’s recall them: 1) In **1:3**, his personal glory gives him the right, as we’ve already quoted this morning. In essence, He is God. 2) In **8:1** he has the right to sit because of his superiority to the earthly priests. 3) In **10:12** (our verse now), it is the fact that God accepted the sacrifice (which was Christ himself). 4) In **12:2** it is the seat of the Victor, the prize given to him for running the race. This means Jesus has ALL authority necessary to carry out the plan of perfecting the church (v. 14).

Let me quote some very common verses from John 1:11-12: “**He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.**” We are Christians today because Jesus sat down at the right hand of God with all authority. If this were not the case, we would not be reading John 1:12. Also, the authority of Jesus in heaven doesn’t merely mean that our sins are covered. He is also with us now in our mission to make disciples. Matt. 28:18-19: “**And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . .”**” Brothers and sisters we are not sent into this world by a king who is not victorious, or by a king who may be victorious. We serve a king who sits at the highest place of authority at the right hand of God.

Let me be clear. The context of this victory in Hebrews is his sacrifice, which is the author’s point from the beginning. As regards sin, he has no more work to do. This is why Paul can say, “There is therefore NOW no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1). As Christians we are justified. But, you might say, “*I’m a Christian and I sin. Where is the victory?*” 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 seem endless as we see wars and rumors of wars and lies and cheatings and murders (particularly abortion) and deceit and heartbreak, etc. And what about the groanings of this physical world as we have earthquakes and hurricanes

(even as it hits home for us with Ian in Florida). There are also 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 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.”**

There is also another side to the victory of Christ. He waits now. Until when? Until **“all his enemies are his footstool.”** NOW, Christ is victorious over sin. But, the other side of this is that he will bring justice on the earth. He will take vengeance on his enemies. He will make all things right. When we take the Lord's Supper, we do this until when? **“until he comes.”** But, there is coming a time when ALL his enemies will be made his footstool. (And those with different views on the end times may see this vengeance coming gradually, or at some golden age right before his coming. Others see things getting worse until that time when he will come back and crush his enemies. But, either way, that time is coming. And know that ALL his enemies will be crushed. Let me give some applications before moving on to a more brief 2nd truth.

Application: There is a time of waiting now. We are in that time, the time between his first and second coming. And from this perspective, we are always to be ready.

Application: This also means we must be patient, knowing that God is working all things for the good of his people and for his glory.

Application: Know that vengeance belongs to God. I must be frank. As I listened to the prime minister of New Zealand speak of their new laws concerning abortion, I had to walk away from Kristen with sadness in my heart. And at the same time, I have a desire for God to judge in this case. There are many issues that the Psalmists speak of when they ask God for vengeance upon their enemies. With this in mind, we must not become bitter or angry in a sinful way, knowing that God will do what is right. At the same time, we must pray for our enemies . . . that God will save them. Wasn't the Apostle Paul a first-degree murderer, an insolent and violent man? Yet, God showed him mercy!

Application: There is no universalism. To be a universalist is to be one who believes the Scripture teaches that All people will go to heaven. But, this does not square up with Psalm 110 as Jesus waits until all his enemies become his footstool. Otherwise, there would be no judgment on his enemies.

Application: All future victories are dependent upon the first victory of Christ as our high priest. The first victory ensures the 2nd victory. If your sins are covered, you will not be a part of God's vengeance. If your sins are not covered, you will be the object of the wrath of God. On the cross,

justice has already been accomplished. But, for those who are not under the blood of Christ, what awaits? (See cps. 6 and 10). Therefore, turn to him now!

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 us 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 recently. 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 . . .”** All of history has awaited the person and work of our great high priest as prophesied in the OT.

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.”