

OUR TEXT

*Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. **For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.***

And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, and on their mind I will write them,” He then says, “And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.

INTRODUCTION

This portion of Hebrews that we examine today is the culmination of the author’s doctrinal argument. (in Hebrews 10:19 we begin the author’s practical application and urgings to godliness.)

Today’s text summarizes the “meaty” truths that he has been trying to convey and wraps them up in verse 14, which is the key verse of the chapter, and really the key to the whole of Hebrews.

“For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified”.

Hebrews is all about how we can achieve access to God. The author argues that it is through the unique priestly role of Jesus that this is accomplished. And specifically it is through the priestly duty of sacrificing Himself once and for all for all human sins that has made our intimate relationship with God possible.

Last week we saw the 3 required elements of this “better” or “perfect” sacrifice:

1. A perfectly unblemished (sinless) sacrifice – which Jesus was, being divine
2. A human body – which Jesus has as the God-Man
3. A willing sacrifice – **which Jesus was, having come to do the Father’s will**

We found these 3 requirements summarized in verse 10, the closing verse of last week:

Hebrews 10:10 *By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

God knew that the only way for a sinful man to be brought into intimate relationship with a perfect God was to make that sinful man perfectly cleansed. Man could not do this on his own - God must accomplish this for man. And this is exactly what we see in this climactic doctrinal section of **Hebrews: the “meaty” truth that God has “perfected” man** (those who have submitted themselves to being sanctified by God).

So with that weighty thought, and expectation of doctrinal culmination, **let’s launch into** our Scripture.

10:11-18

This section begins with a verse full of drudgery:

Every priest / stands (to work) / daily / ministering and offering (work) / time after time / the same sacrifices / which can never take away sins.

In contrast, we get verses 12-13 which are verses of freedom and hope:

Christ offered (only) one sacrifice, which paid the price for sins for all time, and then sat down (meaning “it is finished”) victoriously at the side of the Father in heaven.

He now waits for the appointed time when all will bow before him (quoting from Psalm 110):

Psalm 110:1 *The Lord (The Father) says to my Lord (Jesus the Son): “sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”*

Philippians 2:10-11 *At the name of Jesus every knee will bow ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.*

And then we get the key summary in verse 14:

By the one offering (willingly, of His sinless body on the cross) Jesus has made every follower of His perfectly **cleansed in God's sight, and for all time. This is even though every Christian is still in the process of being made holy** (through the inner working of the Holy Spirit).

Here, I favor the New International Version, which translates:

"For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

In other words, even though God is still in the process of making us perfect, we are seen as perfect in His eyes as far as the payment for our sins is concerned. And this is because of the once-for-all sacrifice that Christ made on the cross, "becoming sin" for us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *He (The Father) made Him (the Son) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

"Become the righteousness of God in Him" is Paul's way of saying "made perfect in God's eyes through Christ."

As he so often does, the author clinches his argument to his largely Hebrew audience with an Old Testament Scripture. Here he quotes from Jeremiah 31 which he previously referenced in chapter 8, regarding the "new covenant." This time he specifically references verses 33-34.

Jeremiah 31:33-34 *"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord. "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

Here is the author's proof that God intended from old to bring about an intimate relationship with man by doing a miraculous work in the mind and heart of man, cleansing and forgiving their sin for all time. This, he explains in Hebrews 10, was initiated through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, though we understand that it was completed in the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Finally in verse 18 we hear the closing doctrinal argument:

"Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin."

Or, to put it even more concisely: FORGIVENESS MEANS NO MORE SIN OFFERINGS

ACCESS APPROVED ! RELATIONSHIP AVAILABLE !

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

For us, verse 11 might as well say:

Every well meaning but uninformed Christian who lives in guilt and fear tries every day to offer gestures of love and obedience to God to somehow earn His pleasure. But these sincere but meager efforts **can never accomplish what Christ's one-time sacrifice has already done.**

And then verse 14 would go on to say in amplified version:

For by one offering Jesus has made perfect in God's eyes for all time those Christians who are willing to allow God to sanctify them. (Therefore there is no need to feel guilty or fearful or try to **earn God's favor.** My sincere confession and contrition is sufficient.)

And verse 18 completes the thought:

And since God has forgiven all my sin, past and present, there is no longer any need to try to appease God – He is already appeased by the sacrifice of Christ. And I am already cleansed and restored in His eyes by my reception of that sacrifice as for my benefit.

So then, does God now require any thing of me? Silly question – of course He does.

But what he asks is not to be appeased or that I should try to appease myself, but to experience the intimate relationship with Him that He has made possible. What God now expects is summarized in the following section, verses 19-25, which we will discuss in detail next week. In summary: draw near, hold fast, stimulate others to love and good deeds and don't forsake assembling together as believers.

QUOLOZING QUIZ

Now just to BE SURE you have the Hebrews message down pat, let's have a brief quiz. And to make it easy, all the questions will be TRUE or FALSE.

1. Christ died on the cross to put away sin. True or False?

Answer: TRUE

9:27 "He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself"

2. Since sin has been put away, all men are saved. True or False?

Answer: FALSE (his death is sufficient for all but efficient for some)

7:25 "He is able ... to save forever those who draw near to God through Him..."

9:28 "Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many ..."

10:14 "By one offering He has perfected for all time those who are [being] sanctified."

3. It is Jesus' priestly office that makes access to God possible. True or False?

Answer: TRUE

7:24-25 But Jesus ... because He holds His priesthood permanently ... is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him ..."

4. It is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from our sin and brings forgiveness. True or False?

Answer: TRUE

9:14 "How much more will the blood of Christ ... cleanse your conscience from dead works..."

9:22 "...Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

5. Being "perfected by God" by Christ's sacrifice means that we are without sin. True or False?

Answer: FALSE

We are in the process of being sanctified, but are still prone to sin. We are cleansed and forgiven but our "perfection" is how God sees us because we have accepted Christ's righteousness as our own.

10:14 (NIV) "For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

6. I never again need to make a sacrifice to appease God for my sin. True or False?

Answer: TRUE

10:19 "Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering [needed] for sin."

7. (Last one:)_Now that I am cleansed and forgiven God has no further expectations of me.

True or False? **Now YOU know the answer to this one. And to be sure ... come next week!**