

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

BOOK OF HEBREWS

A SHADOW (HEBREWS 10:1-10) STARTING TO CLOSE THE ANALOGY

The author is wrapping up his point about the OT ceremonies, bringing awareness of holiness (what pleases God), and revealing the need for a Savior. These ceremonies reveal sin but do not remove it. They also did not bring a permanent relationship with God but pointed to the One that does.

IF THE LAWS MADE US PERFECT, THEY WOULD STOP

The OT sacrifices only dealt with the infractions committed since the last sacrifice. In other words, sin had been building up since the fall of man up until Jesus died on the cross.

- The repetition of the sacrifices showed that they were inadequate to remove sin and guilt.

WHY WERE ANIMAL SACRIFICES INEFFECTIVE?

They were ineffective at removing sin because God never intended them to do so. The sacrifices of the OT were intended to point to Christ

- "The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit" (Psalm 51:17) and only the perfect sacrifice of Jesus could represent a broken and contrite expression of obedience to God.

THE INADEQUACY OF THE 1ST BEGGED FOR A 2ND

The failure of animal sacrifices to secure forgiveness led to an explanation of a better approach. So, the author quotes Psalm 40:6-8 to show the mission of Christ while on earth.

- Jesus' mission was simple; do the will of the Father. God wasn't desiring a sacrifice as much as He was a full devotion to His will. (1 Samuel 15:22)

JESUS CAME TO FULFILL THE PROMISE OF SCRIPTURE

Christ came to give perfect obedience to God's divine will. In doing so, He ended the 1st covenant and established the 2nd.

- The only complete fulfillment of God's will appeared in Christ's perfect obedience. **If we put our life in Jesus' hands, we are identified with His perfection, therefore fulfilling the will of God.**

THROUGH JESUS "ONCE AND FOR ALL" (V10)

This shows the finality of what Jesus did on the cross. Through this one transaction, we can have complete cleansing of sin and enter into the presence of God.

- **Through Jesus, we have acceptance, not with imperfect people that change like the passing breeze, but with the God of all creation!**

SITTING DOWN (HEBREWS 10:11-18)

CHRIST'S ACTION WAS A PERMANENT PARDON

The rituals of the OT and the Day of Atonement were arrows pointing toward Jesus, but in and of themselves they were futile

- Sitting was a sign of accomplishment, and the priests never sat down. This shows that their work was never fulfilled. **As hard as we work, we never reach a place of fulfillment without God.**

JESUS ONLY HAD TO PERFORM ONE ACT

Christ's single action, the cross, effectively removed sins for the believer for all time. When Jesus said, "It is finished." (John 19:30), He meant it.

- After His work was completed He sat down at the right hand of God, showing He had accomplished what He came to do.

AND NOW WE ARE IN THE WAITING PERIOD

Since the time of Jesus on earth, we have been in an era of Jesus relentlessly pursuing us to reconcile us with the Father. Christ has already won the victory over His enemies, but we are waiting for His complete defeat over evil

- We should see this interim as a grace period to **connect others to God's mercy and forgiveness**

REMEMBER THE ANALOGY OF THE HIGH PRIEST

Chap. 4 points to Jesus as our perfect High Priest. Here we are reminded that He made the perfect sacrifice, Himself, and all who respond in faith will be saved by God's grace.

- **To become "perfect" (v14) didn't promise sinless perfection, but it promised believers the full realization of God's perfection and His desire to save us.**

BACK TO THE NEW AGREEMENT

The author quotes Jeremiah 31 to remind us the actions of Jesus were driven by the Holy Spirit. We're also reminded that **the practical application of the cross is forgiveness of sins and Him forgetting our past.**

- Anyone who wants forgiveness can find access **by placing repentant faith in the completed work of Christ.**

PRACTICALITY (HEBREWS 10:19-25)

SWITCHING GEARS

V18 ends the doctrinal section of Hebrews, and V19 begins the practical application

- The application of knowing who Jesus is and what He has done is experiencing His transformational power by **drawing near to Him, maintaining and growing our faith, and loving other people**

WE CAN APPROACH GOD WITH CONFIDENCE

Because of the blood of Jesus, we can approach God with confidence. We now have access to God and can have an intimate relationship with Him.

- Since the dividing wall is gone, we all have access to the Most Holy Place, the presence of God

WE GET TO EXPERIENCE A "NEW AND LIVING WAY"

A life devoted to Christ is made new and the old self is put to death. It is living because it is effective and has a purpose. This not only stands in contrast to the OT rituals, but in contrast to the ways of the world that lead to death

- **Jesus is the way (Act 9:2), not just to eternity, but contentment in the present**

WE ARE URGED TO APPROACH THE FATHER

- **With a sincere heart** and proper motives.
- **In full assurance of faith** and confidence that Christ is able and we have access to Him.
- **With hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience.** We must live repentant.
- **With our bodies washed in pure water.** We must live righteously and profess our faith in baptism

WE ARE URGED TO MAINTAIN CONSISTENCY

To hold on to the confession of our hope

- We are to be "without wavering." This does not mean we are perfect, but it means we continually lean against what is perfect, Jesus. No persecution in any degree is to sway us from our devotion to Christ
- Christ provides stamina and strength. Examples will be given in chap. 11

WE ARE URGED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OTHERS

To promote good works.

- We have an obligation first to our brothers and sisters in the faith. Then, we have a social obligation to the world around us that doesn't know Christ. **We are to do good works as a result of grace shown to us, and in the hopes that others will see the goodness of God through them**

"I LOVE JESUS BUT HATE THE CHURCH"

V25 is clear instruction to not forsake worship gatherings. It is God's design that we **meet together, learn from each other, meet others' needs, encourage, correct, promote godliness, and work together for the good of the kingdom and the local community**

- This should be more of a priority as we approach the coming of Christ

WHY WERE THE PEOPLE DISENGAGED?

Negligence of the corporate worship gathering was most likely from persecution.

- In our area, we don't often see physical abuse for our beliefs, but more social. Suffering in this world is certain (John 16:33), and there will come a time when believers will be openly hated for His namesake (Matthew 10:22)

FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

- Faith provides assurance. Belief in what Jesus did and His love, produces confidence
- Hope is an incentive to be obedient. If we believe in the promises of God, we will be obedient in order to receive them
- Love is the foundation and motive for godly living. If we truly love God, we will live for Him and love those around us. With these virtues, we can overcome all adversities, temptations, selfishness, and persecution. Jesus equips the Believer.
- The question isn't are these virtues effective, but do we really have them? Do we value Christ above all else? Do we rest in Him? Do we believe His ways are superior to our own?