

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 29TH-30TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

SHADOW (HEBREWS 10:1-4) DRIVING THE POINT HOME

The writer of Hebrews continues to point out the shortcomings of the old covenant. Shortcomings do not mean failure. The old covenant had several purposes, which, by God's grace, it accomplished.

- Nothing is perfect but God. **God uses broken things for His purposes and glory.**

ONE PURPOSE: PREPARATION

Having to offer sacrifices for sin over and over only pointed out the sinfulness of sin. Would Israel have to do this forever? No! **The shadow of the cross fell on every animal sacrifice, preparing us for Jesus' death for us.**

- **God moved from the over-and-over sacrifices to a once-for-all sacrifice!**

ANOTHER PURPOSE: TO CREATE A LONGING

Many of the Psalms, especially David's Psalms, expressed a longing for union with God that was impossible with the old covenant. Everything in the Law pointed out God's holiness and man's separation. There was a cry for forgiveness and a hope it would come, but never with a settledness that satisfied.

A FINAL PURPOSE: A DEPENDENCY ON GOD

Even without a settledness, the people kept coming to God offering sacrifices year after year. God was teaching them to hope in Him, not in their sacrifices. The OT called it **God's lovingkindness; His covenant faithfulness.**

- **If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny himself** (2 Timothy 2:13).

GUILTINESS INGRAINED BY REPETITION

The sacrifices were not helpful because they emphasized the guilt of the people since they were reminded of their sins year after year. This means there would be no clean hands, clean minds, or clean hearts, only condemnation.

- **The Law said, over and over, that we were filthy rotten sinners.**

ANIMALS HAD NOT SINNED, MANKIND HAD

Animals were not guilty before God for sin, humans were. God graciously allowed a temporary reprieve through the sacrifices, **but those sacrifices could not secure forgiveness.**

- God is incredibly patient with us. He could justly punish us immediately for any willful sin. **Instead, He lovingly pursues us.**

AGAINST GOD ONLY HAVE WE SINNED

The animal sacrifices of the old covenant did not satisfy the wrath of God. They only temporarily pushed the consequences of sin into the future.

- The debt of sin we accumulated cannot be pushed off on anyone but ourselves. **Our personal sin against God is ours to pay.**

THE BETTER WAY (HEBREWS 10:5-10)

GOD IS THE SOLUTION FOR GOD!

The writer takes another Davidic Psalm (Psalm 40) and shows how David, by the power of the Holy Spirit, anticipated the coming of Jesus as the final and complete satisfaction of God's wrath against sin.

- God the Son, Jesus, took on flesh to be both our **Substitute** and **Wrath-satisfier.**

RITUAL REMINDS BUT DOES NOT REDEEM

If animal sacrifices were satisfactory for the permanent removal of God's wrath, there would be no need for Jesus to die for us. But even David knew that animal sacrifices fell short of complete forgiveness for our sins.

- **People try all kinds of ways to remove guilt and shame without success.**

OUR SUBSTITUTE

God the Son became fully human while still remaining fully God (Philippians 2:5-11).

According to all that the Law commanded, Jesus was completely obedient in thought, word, and action. Thus, He didn't have to die for His sins.

- **Either we will pay the penalty for our own sins or trust that Jesus paid it all.**

OUR WRATH-SATISFIER

The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). But according to David, God planned for Jesus to take on a body so He could die in our place as a sinless sacrifice so He could fully satisfy (pay in full) God's righteous wrath against sin.

- **We are fooling ourselves if we think sin is no big deal! Look what forgiveness cost!**

THE TEMPORARY FOR THE ETERNAL

As a shadow pointing to the reality, the old covenant had an expiration date. The old covenant came to an end because the final, eternal solution to our sin and separation had come. Jesus is the **Yes** and **Amen** to the OT!

- **Since Jesus is the final, eternal solution, our only hope is in Him.**

LIVE OUT WHAT WE SAY WE BELIEVE

As far as God is concerned, if we are in Christ by grace through faith, our sanctification (being made more and more like Jesus) is already accomplished.

- **If we say we love Jesus, isn't it time we start living the life He died to secure for us by His power and for His glory?**

PAID IN FULL (HEBREWS 10:11-18) EMPTY RELIGION

It seems the Temple was still standing (so this is sometime before 70 A.D.), and the rituals of the old covenant were still being practiced. But those rituals accomplished nothing.

- **There's a way we can "practice church" which seems meaningful but is empty of the power of God** (Matthew 7:21-23).

IT IS FINISHED!

Because of Jesus' once and for all time sacrifice for sins, His work to make salvation possible for those who repent and believe is completed. He reigns in heaven over all creation.

- **It is not what we accomplish that secures our salvation, it's our faith in what Jesus has accomplished that saves us.**

SIN AND SUFFERING HAVE AN EXPIRATION DATE

While we struggle both personally and culturally with the effects of sin, a day is coming when all these "enemies" will be crushed under the feet of our conquering Lord Jesus!

- **As Christ followers, why would we chase after things Jesus has set us free from and that will one day be defeated?**

ONCE FOR ALL

The one sacrifice Jesus offered (Himself) accomplishes what the unending blood of sacrificial animals never could: the future perfection of all those who are in Jesus. In His mind, our **justification** (being declared righteous in Christ) has secured our **sanctification** (being made like Christ).

"I WILL NEVER AGAIN REMEMBER THEIR SINS"

God never forgets anything. So, what is verse 17 saying? God knows every sin we have committed against Him and yet treats us **as if we never sinned!**

- **God does not forgive and forget. He remembers and still chooses to forgive us, all because of Jesus.**

QUIT "RELIGIONING." START RESTING AND LIVING.

The Jews would go to the Temple, do their religious duties, then leave and live according to their desires, not God's. Because Jesus made the one, true offering, Temple religion was a relic of the old covenant.

- **Forgiveness is only found in Jesus. So, we rest in Jesus as we live for Him.**

GOD AS HE IS, NOT AS YOU'D HAVE HIM

- God is holy, just, and righteous.
- God sets the terms of our salvation, not us.
- God hates sin but loves to save sinners.
- Jesus didn't die to make good people better.
- **Religious practices, absent of faith, are empty of power. We need Jesus in our religious work.**
- Humility fuels worship.

PLAYING THE BLAME GAME

- "I was born this way." **Then be born again!**
- "You don't know my past." **Jesus gives you a new name, a new family, a new present, and an eternal future!**
- "I don't know if I can trust Jesus and the Bible." **What do you have to lose? It is okay to have questions, so come and see.**

WHERE ELSE WILL YOU GO?

- **Religion** leads to pride or despair.
- **Porn/sex** leads to a false sense of intimacy.
- **Seeking approval** never ends.
- **Fame, beauty, and money** last a short time.
- **Alcohol/drugs** numb but do not heal.
- **Distractions** are temporary.
- **Idolizing others** always disappoints.

BE FREE FROM YOUR BURDEN OF SIN

- We can carry guilt and shame or **give it to Jesus.**
- We can wallow in self-pity or **remember that we are sons and daughters of God.**
- We can hide our sin in darkness or **expose it to the light of Jesus' mercy and grace where we find love, forgiveness, and healing.**