

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 30TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

### GOOD THINGS TO COME (HEBREWS 10:1–4) COMING TO A CONCLUSION

The author is wrapping up his point about OT practices, bringing awareness to holiness (what pleases God), and revealing the need for a Savior.

- The OT law, practices, and rituals could only point out sin but were **unable to do anything permanent about it**. These things were **unable to restore our relationship with God**, but they **pointed to the One who does**.

### THE PRECURSOR TO A GREATER REALITY

The author says, **“The law has only a shadow of the good things to come, and not the reality itself of those things.”** A shadow connects to reality, but someone cannot have a relationship with a shadow.

- Yet, **many of us have mistaken an adherence to the law** (“a shadow”) **as fellowship with God**.

### “A REMINDER OF SINS YEAR AFTER YEAR”

The weakness in the law pertaining to sacrifices was shown in its repetition. If animal sacrifices were able to “fix” the sin problem, then they would have ceased at some point.

- The repetition of sacrifices served as a reminder of sin. With each sacrifice, **people were reminded of the inadequacy of the previous sacrifice**.

### A SUPERIOR SACRIFICE

If animal sacrifices could not remove sin, then why did God command His people to offer these sacrifices if they were so ineffective?

- The continual offering of sacrifices was never meant to take away sin, but was intended as a **foreshadowing of a perfect sacrifice that could take away sin, Jesus Christ**.

### WE HAVE BEEN SANCTIFIED (HEBREWS 10:5–10) “AS HE WAS COMING INTO THE WORLD, HE SAID”

Verses 5–7 are taken from Psalm 40:6–8 to express Christ's mission after coming into the world in the incarnation (the act of being made flesh).

- These verses prophetically pointed to **the insufficiency of OT sacrifices** and **Jesus' willingness to offer a perfect sacrifice under the New Covenant**.

### “YOU DID NOT DELIGHT IN...OFFERINGS.”

Animal sacrifices were not meant to appease or please God, but the obedience of His people to His commands did.

- “The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit” (Psalm 51:17) and **only the perfect sacrifice of the incarnate Son of God could represent a broken and contrite expression of obedience to God** (Luke 22:39–46).

### “SEE, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.”

The plan of God's redemption through the perfect sacrifice of Christ was determined before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8), but **it was still an act of obedience and submission to the cross on Jesus' part**.

- God does not desire animal sacrifices, but what He desires is **a person devoted to fulfilling His will** (1 Samuel 15:22).

### HE CAME TO FULFILL THE PROMISES GOD

Jesus offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice. Through His perfect obedience, He fulfilled God's will. In doing so, He ended the first covenant and established the second.

- We are incapable of fulfilling the will of God, but **when we place our faith and trust in Jesus, we are identified with His perfection, therefore fulfilling the will of God**.

### “BY THIS WILL, WE HAVE BEEN SANCTIFIED...”

Our sanctification (the process of being set apart for the purposes of God) is **founded on the will of Jesus to offer His body as a sacrifice and not on our own sacrifices to God**.

- So, **why do we operate in a way that indicates we believe God owes us something because of the sacrifices we have made for Him?**

### PERFECTED FOREVER (HEBREWS 10:11–18) “EVERY PRIEST STANDS DAY AFTER DAY...”

The temple work of the OT priests was never finished. The necessity to offer daily gifts and sacrifices, as well as rituals like the Day of Atonement, all pointed toward Jesus.

- At the cross, Jesus said, **“It is finished”** (John 19:30)—He has effectively removed sins forever for Believers. As a sign of completion, He **“sat down at the right hand of God.”**

### “HE IS NOW WAITING...” (V. 13)

Since Jesus' time on Earth, we have been in this “waiting” period where **Christ is relentlessly pursuing us to reconcile us to the Father** (2 Corinthians 5:19).

- Victory has already been won over His enemies but we await His complete defeat over evil. This waiting period should be filled with us trying to **connect others to God's mercy and forgiveness**.

### “PERFECTED FOREVER THOSE WHO ARE SANCTIFIED”

The work of Jesus, though capable to save everyone, is only effective in saving those who are being sanctified (set apart to God for His purpose).

- **Anyone looking for truth** (Matthew 7:7) **and forgiveness will find it by placing repentant faith in the completed work of Jesus** (Romans 10:9).

### IS GOD FORGETFUL?

Sacrifices under the Old Covenant temporarily addressed sin, but **with the New Covenant comes complete forgiveness from sin**.

- It can be said that God doesn't **“remember [our] sins and [our] lawless acts.”** God is not forgetful, but through Christ, **our sins are addressed in a way that they can be “forgotten” as if they never existed**.
- Psalm 103:10–12
- Micah 7:18–19

### “FOR ALL TIME”

Our sins are dealt with in a sufficient and satisfactory way so that they can no longer affect us.

- This does not mean we can no longer sin or that our sins have been erased from God's mind, but it does mean that **if we are covered by the blood of Jesus, our sins have no bearing on our salvation**.

### REPENT...

- Do not be deceived into thinking that we are “good enough” to enter heaven on our own effort or goodness (1 John 1:8).
- When we **humbly admit we are sinners in need of saving** and **place our trust in Christ through a relationship marked by obedience**, He forgives and cleanses us (1 John 1:9) in a way that our sins are not remembered.

### RECEIVE FORGIVENESS...

- Because of Christ's work on the cross, we are no longer judged by our sins (Romans 8:1).
- We have been set free from the penalty of sin to **now live a life that pleases God**.
- Spiritual maturity is recognizing the total forgiveness that exists in Jesus and choosing to rest in that forgiveness.
- **If you are forgiven, live like it!**