**Fixing Our Hearts on Jesus**

**Jesus Is a Better Sacrifice**

**Hebrews 10:1-18**

Good to be with you on this Lord’s day, **fixing our hearts on Jesus.**

Because of the fall, we are not perfect. We fall short of what ought to be. Humanity is capable of the worst kinds of evil.

Here’s the point: man can never live with God. We fall short of the perfection that a person must have to live with God.

In order to stand before a holy God, God provided a way for man's sins have to be cleansed and washed away, because if not, he will ultimately have to bear the guilt of his sins at the Great White Throne Judgment

Mans only hope of escape is for a substitute to be sacrificed for his sins.

If there is a substitute who can bear the sinners sins, then it follows that the sinner can be free of sin and the guilt that comes with our fallen condition.

So here’s what our Lord did: God established two covenants. The old covenant provided animals which were sacrificed for man's sins.

The animal had to be flawless – no flaw. When it was sacrificed, it pictured

* That a sinless life substituted for the sinner.

But there was a problem: animal sacrifices were not designed to atone for man’s sin

forever.

The design of the system itself pointed to an ultimate and more perfect sacrifice yet to come.

Something else: An animal is not a man. So then it could never be an acceptable sacrifice or substitute for man.

All it could do was to offer a temporary reprieve of judgement – yes. The removal of sins once and for all – no.

The only sacrifice that could become a sacrificial substitute for man would be another man, and that man would have to be the perfect and ideal man.

That’s where the New Covenant comes under Christ to show that He is the Minister and Mediator of the new covenant with man.

In fact, Jesus Christ Himself is the perfect sacrifice for the sins of men.

1. The OT sacrifice were powerlessness to save (vv.1-4).

2. Jesus Christ: the perfect sacrifice. (vv.5-10).

3. The difference between the old sacrifices and the once-for all sacrifices (vv.11-14).

4. The witness to the perfect sacrifice: the Holy Spirit (vv.15-18).

To put it simply **Jesus is a Better Sacrifice.**

So by way of application, I would hope for you to see…

**4 ways to live in the cleansing forgiveness of Christ’s sacrifice**

**I. Don’t Mistake a Shadow for the Real Thing**

There was a sense in which some of these believers he was writing to were doing just that – tempted to go back to the shadow – tempted to go back in order to escape pressures of persecution, all the while the shadows were always pointing to a greater reality, that is Christ.

They should have understood this. It’s not that the old covenant was wrong, but it is to say that it was partial – it is to say it was *provisional* for a time until the real thing came.

In other words, it was intended to pass away!

So if you think your life is better lived out without taking up the Cross of Christ, the law itself will judge you without mercy because it wasn’t intended to save you, but to reveal your fallen heart before a holy God who will judge you without mercy, save you repent and believe in Jesus who is a better sacrifice.

Going back will not bring you any closer to God.

**A. Our efforts cannot bring us closer to God**

Whether Jew in Christ who is familiar with the Law or the Gentile in Christ

The author had to explain to his readers the purpose of the law in so far as the sacrifices were concerned.

**Hebrews 10:1-2** – *“For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come*

*and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer*

*continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not*

*have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would*

*no longer have had consciousness of sins?”*

In other words, if the sacrifices were designed in such that they worked – they made atonement for sins once and for all, no more sacrifices would have been necessary no sooner than the first sacrifice was offered at the alter

Heaven’s gates would have swung wide open! But we know that’s not how the story

ended, right?

So then what happened? You already know the answer to that. We understand that the priests continued on with a perpetual cycle of death. A perpetual cycle of sacrifices.

The fact that it was an ongoing thing ought to be a clue for you that it wasn’t final. So why go back to something that was partial/provisional?

Why go back to your old life when Christ himself offers a far better life that won’t pass away?

But it needs to be said that the …

**B. Continual sacrifices were intended to remind and foreshadow**

At this point, someone could ask – what was the point, anyway? If the sacrificial system

Wasn’t designed to remove sins, then why have it at all? To which the writer tells us in

verses 3-4…

**Hebrews 10:3-4** *- But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*

Even though it wasn’t designed to remove your sins, *it cried out for the need of a Savior.*

It cried out for the need of a better and more permanent sacrifice!

That can only be actualized in Christ.

So if you go back, those sacrifices were not designed to remove your sins

as far as the east is from the west.

If you go back to your old life, you have, in affect rejected God’s perennial and most

perfect Son who offered himself for you once and for all.

What kind of judgment do you think you will incur after having received the fullest

expression of revelation available, only to have to reject your only means of salvation?

You see, the shadow was never the real thing; it is only an imperfect reflection of the

real thing.

It and its sacrifices for sin were only a shadow of better things.

The law and its sacrifices were neither designed to perfect or forgive sins. But they did

reflect and point to the perfection and power that was to come in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The offering of sacrifices had to be repeated year by year, time after time (v.1). This

shows that they were powerless to forgive sins. If they were a perfect sacrifice, they

would never have to be repeated.

Perfection completes, fulfills, satisfies, and finishes or else it is not perfect.

Note exactly what the verse says: the sacrifices could not "continually make the comers

thereunto perfect."

The desperate need of man is to be made perfect. But animal sacrifices for sin fail; they

are powerless to make us perfect.

The fact that they had to be offered time and again, over and over shows that they

never completed the job. They never finished the work of redemption and salvation.

That’s why we simply have to…

**II. Marvel at God’s Amazing Plan**

Our Lord did not provide any opportunity for his people to move backward, but to press forward. God’s redemption story always moves forward.

It’s very much like progressive sanctification. He will do whatever it takes to purify his people.

**Hebrews 10:5-8** *- Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, “Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, but a body You have prepared for Me; in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come (In the scroll of the book it is written of Me) to do Your will, O God.’” After saying above, “Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have not desired, nor have You taken pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the Law)…*

**A. He would come in bodily form**

**Psalm 40:6-8** *“Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; my ears You have opened; burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. Then I said, “Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.”*

**1. In humility**

**2. With purpose**

**3. In submission**

**4. In preparation**

**III. Don’t Go Back to the Temple**

**A. The Law has been replaced by God’s Will**

**Hebrews 10:9** *- …then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second.*

**B. The work is totally done**

**Hebrews 10:11-12** *- 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.*

C. We are perfectly sanctified in Jesus

**Hebrews 10:10, 14** *- By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all… For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*

**IV. Rejoice that His Spirit is Now in Us**

**A. His internal presence imprints a better law**

**Hebrews 10:15-16a** *- 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.”*

B. He doesn’t remember our sin

**Hebrews 10:16b-17** *- He then says, “And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”*