

Is “The Church” Making a Difference?

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Hebrews 10:1-18

One Sacrifice of Christ Is Sufficient

¹For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very ^[a]form of things, ^[b]can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. ²Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? ³But in ^[c]those *sacrifices* there is a reminder of sins year by year. ⁴For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says,

“SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED,
BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME;

⁶IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND *sacrifices* FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE.

⁷“THEN I SAID, ‘BEHOLD, I HAVE COME
(IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME)
TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.’”

⁸After 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), ⁹then He ^[d]said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰By ^[e]this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; ¹²but He, having offered one sacrifice for ^[f]sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, ¹³waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. ¹⁴For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are ^[g]sanctified. ¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying,

¹⁶“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,

¹⁷“AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS
I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.”

¹⁸Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer *any* offering for sin.

Footnotes:

- a. Hebrews 10:1 Lit *image*
- b. Hebrews 10:1 Two early mss read *they can*
- c. Hebrews 10:3 Lit *them there is*
- d. Hebrews 10:9 Lit *has said*
- e. Hebrews 10:10 Lit *which*

- f. Hebrews 10:12 Or *sins, forever sat down*
- g. Hebrews 10:14 Or *being sanctified*

Ephesians 2:1-10

Made Alive in Christ

2 And you ^[a]were dead ^[b]in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the ^[c]course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, ^[d]indulging the desires of the flesh and of the ^[e]mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead ^[f]in our transgressions, made us alive together ^[g]with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and ^[h]that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Footnotes:

- a. Ephesians 2:1 Lit *being*
- b. Ephesians 2:1 Or *by reason of*
- c. Ephesians 2:2 Lit *age*
- d. Ephesians 2:3 Lit *doing*
- e. Ephesians 2:3 Lit *thoughts*
- f. Ephesians 2:5 Or *by reason of*
- g. Ephesians 2:5 Two early mss read *in Christ*
- h. Ephesians 2:8 I.e. that salvation

Point 1: We must be gripped by an irresistible compulsion.

Point 2: We must all present irrefutable evidence of what we preach.

Matthew 8:5-13

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

⁵ And when ^[a]Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, ⁶ and saying, ^[b]“Lord, my ^[c]servant is ^[d]lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented.” ⁷ Jesus *said to him, “I will come and heal him.” ⁸ But the centurion said, ^[e]“Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just ^[f]say the word, and my ^[g]servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does *it*.” ¹⁰ Now when Jesus heard *this*, He marveled and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith ^[h]with anyone in Israel. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from east and west, and ^[i]recline *at the table* with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; ¹² but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³ And Jesus said to the centurion, “Go; ^[j]it shall be done for you as you have believed.” And the ^[k]servant was healed that *very* ^[l]moment.

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 8:5 Lit *He*
- b. Matthew 8:6 Or *Sir*
- c. Matthew 8:6 Lit *boy*

- d. Matthew 8:6 Lit *thrown down*
- e. Matthew 8:8 Or *Sir*
- f. Matthew 8:8 Lit *say with a word*
- g. Matthew 8:8 Lit *boy*
- h. Matthew 8:10 One early ms reads *not even in Israel*
- i. Matthew 8:11 Or *dine*
- j. Matthew 8:13 Or *let it be done*; i.e. a command
- k. Matthew 8:13 Lit *boy*
- l. Matthew 8:13 Lit *hour*

Point 3: We must rely on an inexhaustible source of power.

John 4:31-34

Disciples Encourage Jesus to Eat

¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” ³² But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples were saying to one another, “No one brought Him *anything* to eat, did he?” ³⁴ Jesus *said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

Matthew 11:25-30

Come to Me

²⁵ At that ^[a]time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.

²⁸ “Come to Me, all ^[b]who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ For My yoke is ^[c]easy and My burden is light.”

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 11:25 Or *occasion*
- b. Matthew 11:28 Or *who work to exhaustion*
- c. Matthew 11:30 Or *comfortable, or pleasant*

Point 4: We must not become entangled too much in this world.

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Be Strong

² You therefore, my ^[a]son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³ Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵ Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he ^[b]does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to

receive his share of the crops. ⁷ Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

Footnotes:

- a. 2 Timothy 2:1 Or *child*
- b. 2 Timothy 2:5 Lit *is not crowned*

Ephesians 6:10-24

The Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against ^[a]flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ¹⁶^[b]in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. ¹⁷ And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸^[c]With all prayer and petition ^[d]pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, ^[e]be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, ¹⁹ and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in ^[f]chains; that ^[g]in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

²¹ But that you also may know about my circumstances, ^[h]how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you. ²²^[i]I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know ^[j]about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

²³ Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ ^[k]with incorruptible *love*.

Footnotes:

- a. Ephesians 6:12 Lit *blood and flesh*
- b. Ephesians 6:16 Lit *in all*
- c. Ephesians 6:18 Lit *Through*
- d. Ephesians 6:18 Lit *praying*
- e. Ephesians 6:18 Lit *being*
- f. Ephesians 6:20 Lit *a chain*
- g. Ephesians 6:20 Two early mss read *I may speak it boldly*
- h. Ephesians 6:21 Lit *what*
- i. Ephesians 6:22 Lit *Whom I have sent to you*
- j. Ephesians 6:22 Lit *the things about us*
- k. Ephesians 6:24 Lit *in incorruption*

Point 5: We must realize it is the responsibility of everyone not just the preacher.

Matthew 28:16-20

The Great Commission

¹⁶ But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated.

¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped *Him*; but some were doubtful. ¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ ^[a]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you ^[b]always, even to the end of the age."

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 28:19 Or *Having gone*; Gr aorist part.
- b. Matthew 28:20 Lit *all the days*

Romans 5:6-11

⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will hardly die for a righteous man; ^[a]though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified ^[b]by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved ^[c]by His life. ¹¹ And not only this, ^[d]but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Footnotes:

- a. Romans 5:7 Lit *for*
- b. Romans 5:9 Or *in*
- c. Romans 5:10 Or *in*
- d. Romans 5:11 Lit *but also exulting*

5 Points: If The Church is Going to Make a Difference

1. We must be gripped by an irresistible compulsion.
2. We must all present irrefutable evidence of what we preach.
3. We must rely on an inexhaustible source of power.
4. We must not become entangled too much in this world.
5. We must realize it is the responsibility of everyone not just the preacher.

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