

Hebrews 10:1-18

REVIEW...

- As the author continues to show Jesus is BETTER than EVERYONE and EVERYTHING...
 - BETTER than the Prophets – He is the Word of God...
 - BETTER than the Angels – He is the eternal creator who will rule over all...
 - BETTER than the servant Moses – as Jesus is the BUILDER and the Son...
 - BETTER Rest – because ONLY in Jesus can we have victory of sin!
 - BETTER High Priest – who allows us to come BOLDLY into the Throne Room of Grace!
 - BETTER Priesthood – built on a BETTER hope – with BETTER promises...
 - BETTER Covenant – because the OLD Covenant had a FAULT – US!
- BETTER Tabernacle – because the OLD tabernacle was EARTHLY...
 - CHRIST came as High Priest of The GREATER and more PERFECT tabernacle...
 - One that was not built by men – or by earthly materials – but one built by God in heaven!

THE BETTER SACRIFICE... (3 POINTS)

- 1ST – LIMITS OF THE LAW... vs. 1-4
 - We all have a PROBLEM - we are NOT good...
 - This can be VERY confusing to people – because we do GOOD things...
 - We can be kind – help those in need – which are all GOOD...
 - But SIN is like a DEBT – every time we make a mistake – we OWE more...
 - Doing GOOD is what is expected – it does not PAY off any of our DEBT!
 - So we sink deeper and deeper into a DEBT we have NO WAY to pay back!
 - We have seen that Jesus is BETTER than EVERYONE and EVERYTHING in EIGHT ways...
 - But they ALL lead up to this final point – Jesus is a BETTER Sacrifice...
 - The MOST important thing about life – is where we go when it ends...
 - EVERYONE will live forever – the question is where – HEAVEN or HELL...
 - And the ONE thing that keeps us out of HEAVEN is our DEBT – **Romans 6:23**
 - The MOST important question the Bible can answer – how can our DEBT be FORGIVEN!
 - 1st - Just a SHADOW... vs. 1
 - The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow...
 - A dim preview of the good [ἀγαθός] things to come - not the good things themselves...
 - THE Law – [ὁ νόμος] – referring to the 613 commands in the Law of Moses...
 - They were NOT the GOOD [ἀγαθός] things to come – the plan of God to FORGIVE our DEBT...
 - They were just a SHADOW – meant to point us to the BETTER plan God had!
 - **Colossians 2:16-17** – “Let no one judge you... regarding [the laws] which are a SHADOW of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”
 - If we are sick and NEED a doctor – we would NOT run up to his SHADOW and ask for help...
 - The shadow has no POWER – but it does tell us HELP is CLOSE by!
 - In the SAME way the LAW cannot help us – but it does point us to the ONE who can!
 - 2nd – LIMITED sacrifices... vs. 1-2
 - The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again - year after year...
 - But they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship...
 - If they could have provided perfect cleansing - the sacrifices would have stopped!
 - The author gives us TWO ways we see the LIMITS of the OT sacrifices...

- FIRST – they were REPEATEDLY – every year!
- If we owed a DEBT – and after giving money wondered if it was PAID in full...
- But the next day found we still had a DEBT – what we gave was NOT enough!
- No matter how many times the sacrifices of the OT were offered – the DEBT remained!
- Which tells us they were NOT able to PERFECT [τελειόω] those who came to WORSHIP!
- If they had been able to do the job – then those sacrifices would have STOPPED!
- The worshipers would have been purified once for all time...
 - And their feelings of guilt would have disappeared!
 - SECOND – even after the OT sacrifices - people still felt GUILTY about their sin...
 - The sacrifices were NOT able to PURIFY [perfect] the worshiper once and for all...
 - PURIFY [καθαίρω] 2x in NT [John 15:2] – to cleanse of filth – wash away impurity!
 - People will go to EXTREMES in an effort to try and PAY for their SIN...
 - Hindus who pull heavy carts with hooks attached to their backs...
 - Christians who practice flagellation and crucifixion (*usually during Lent*)!
 - But it does NOTHING to PURIFY [perfect] their conscience – their GUILT remains!
- o 3rd – REMINDER of SIN... vs. 3
 - Instead - those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year...
 - One might ask – if the OT sacrifices were ONLY a SHADOW – and LIMITED...
 - Then what was their PURPOSE – the answer...
 - The sacrifices were a CONSTANT reminder to the people – they still had a DEBT!
 - The world tries to convince us – as long as we are SINCERE – God will accept us...
 - ALL roads lead to heaven – there is NO DEBT...
 - Partially true – ALL roads lead to the White Throne Judgement – **Revelation 20:11**
 - Wide is the path that leads to destruction – many go in by it - **Matthew 7:13**
 - If all roads lead to heaven – then the CROSS was a waste of time...
 - Jesus suffered and died for NO reason – and the Gospel is just news – not GOOD News!
 - **Galatians 2:21** – “If we could be saved [another way], there was no need for Christ to die.”
 - The LAW reminds us of our DEBT...
 - Like a speedometer that shows we are speeding - but cannot slow us down...
 - The Law points out to us all our failures – shows us all our flaws!
 - **Romans 3:20** – “By the law is the knowledge of sin...” [NKJV]
 - Not so that we then be might PERFECT through the LAW...
 - The LAW is ONLY meant to be our TEACHER – that points us to our NEED for Jesus!
 - **Galatians 3:24** - “The law was our [teacher] to bring us to Christ...” [NKJV]
- o 4th – CANNOT take away sin... vs. 4
 - It is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins...
 - NOT POSSIBLE – [ἀδύνατος] to lack the STRENGTH...
 - The OT sacrifices were not unwilling to take away our sin – they lacked the STRENGTH!
 - If I had a friend who owed a DEBT – and I wanted to help – so I gave one THOUSAND pesos...
 - Only to find out he owed one BILLION pesos – I would NOT be much help...
 - It is not that I am UNWILLING – it is that I am UNABLE to pay that big a DEBT!
 - The DEBT we owe because of our SIN – is far too great for an ordinary sacrifice for pay...
 - We needed a BETTER sacrifice – one that could pay ALL of our DEBT – we NEED Jesus!
 - His sacrifice was not just enough to pay our DEBT – He paid for the DEBT of the world!
 - **John 1:29** – “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” [NKJV]
- 2ND – FULFILLED THE WORD... vs. 5-9
 - o 1st – NO animal sacrifices... vs. 5-6

- When Christ came into the world - he said to God...
- You did not want animal sacrifices or offerings...
- You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin – **Psalms 40:6**

- Animal sacrifices [זֶבֶחַ] – the PEACE offering - **Leviticus 3:1**
- Offerings [מִנְחָה] – the GRAIN offering - **Leviticus 2:8-13**
- Burt offering [עֹלָה] - the BURNT offering – **Leviticus 1:3-9**
- Offerings for sin – [חַטָּאת] - the SIN offering - **Leviticus 4:13-21**
- God did NOT want ANY of the FOUR kinds of offerings found in the LAW!
- Because they were only a SHADOW – LIMITED – and could NOT take away sin!
- 2nd – A BETTER sacrifice... vs. 5/7
 - But you have given me a body to offer - **Psalms 40:6**
 - Interestingly - this is NOT an accurate quote from the Old Testament...
 - **Psalms 40:6** – “My ears You have opened.”
 - This is not a MISQUOTE - it is an INTERPRETATION...
 - Jesus listened [ears opened] to what the Lord said – which was to OFFER his BODY!
 - **Luke 22:19** – “This is my body which is given for you.”
 - Look - I have come to do [aorist] your will - O God... vs. 7
 - The WILL of GOD for Jesus – was to come to sacrifice Himself on the CROSS!
 - **Luke 22:42** - Jesus prayed - not My will but Yours be done...
 - Jesus did not desire to suffer – He did not want to go to the cross!
 - He could have walked away at any point - spared His life - avoided death...
 - But Jesus was OBEDIENT to the WILL of God – and offered His Body on the cross!
 - **Hebrews 12:12** - “For the joy that was set before Him endured the cross...” [NKJV]
 - Too often when we come to God – we try and get him to agree to OUR plans...
 - Having OPEN ears – is not about getting God to do what WE want...
 - Having OPEN ears – is about us coming around to doing what GOD wants...
 - Even if we do not LIKE it – AGREE with it – we TRUST that God knows BEST!
 - As is written about me in the Scriptures... vs. 7
 - The VOLUME of the BOOK is written of Me [NKJV]
 - VOLUME – only here NT – describes the wooden rods around which a scroll was rolled...
 - BOOK - [βιβλίον] – where we get the word BIBLE...
 - The Bible when this was written was ONLY the Old Testament (*NT not done yet*) ...
 - Therefore - the WHOLE Old Testament - is rolled up around Jesus!
 - **Luke 24:27** – “Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” [NKJV]
 - You may have noticed we talk a LOT about Jesus – EVERY Bible study...
 - That is because the WHOLE Bible revolves around ONE person – Jesus Christ!
- 3rd – A BETTER Covenant... vs. 8-9
 - First - He said - You did not want animal sacrifices... (though they are required by the law) ...
 - Then He said – Look - I have come to do your will...
 - He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect!
 - If God does NOT want the sacrifices of the OT – then they are no longer NEEDED...
 - If God does WANT Jesus to offer Himself as a sacrifice – that is the SOLUTION for sin!
 - SIMPLE – yet POWERFUL – the old way did NOT work...

- So God gave us a BETTER sacrifice – under a BETTER covenant – to pay our DEBT!
- We see that the BETTER sacrifice of Jesus – was in fulfillment of the Word of God!
- **3RD – ONCE AND FOR ALL... vs. 10-18**
 - 1st – Once for all... vs. 10
 - To be made HOLY by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ - once for all time...
 - HOLY – [ἁγιάζω] – [perfect / passive] – to be set apart for God...
 - Do NOT miss – Jesus is the ONE who did ALL the WORK – we just RECEIVE it!
 - The moment we believe in the cross of Christ – we are forgiven ...
 - Not just a portion of our DEBT – is it not a repayment plan – it is ALL completely PAID!
 - **Romans 6:10** – “For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all.”
 - 2nd – The work was FINISHED... vs. 11-12
 - Under the old covenant - the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day...
 - Offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins...
 - Old Testament priests never SAT DOWN...
 - Their work was NEVER done – there was always another SACRIFICE to give!
 - But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins - good for all time...
 - Then he sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand...
 - Jesus only had to offer Himself as a sacrifice ONCE – and it was FINISHED!
 - **John 19:30** – “He said - It is finished [perfect/indicative]!”
 - Jesus came to die – He came because we were all destined for hell because of our DEBT...
 - Through the cross His work was done – sin was defeated – our DEBT was paid...
 - Jesus paid a debt He did NOT owe – because we owed a debt that we could NOT pay!
 - **II Corinthians 5:21** – “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” [NKJV]
 - 3rd – VICTORY is guaranteed... vs. 13-16
 - There He WAITS until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet... vs. 13
 - Jesus will WAIT - till he brings an end to every authority and power – **Psalms 8:6**
 - Every knee will bow - all nations / all men / even satan and his demons - **Romans 14:11**
 - But the VERY last enemy that will be humbled is DEATH!
 - **I Corinthians 15:25-26** – “He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death...” [NKJV]
 - But because of the CROSS – our VICTORY is not in question – it is a GUARANTEE!
 - We can have ABSOLUTE confidence in how the story ends - because...
 - By that one offering He forever made perfect... vs. 14
 - Jesus made us PERFECT [τελειόω – perfect / passive] – to be COMPLETE forever!
 - This is a POWERFUL statement – it is the declaration of our VICTORY...
 - We have been FORGIVEN – the work is COMPLETE – our sin DEBT is totally paid!
 - Through Jesus we have VICTORY over sin from an ETERNAL perspective!
 - Those who are being made holy... vs. 14
 - We are also being made HOLY [ἁγιάζω – present / passive] ...
 - NOTE – being HOLY is not something we DO – it is something that is DONE to us!
 - Although our salvation is COMPLETE – we still struggle with sin practically...
 - Therefore – God is DAILY helping us to WALK in HOLINESS – learning to be SET APART!
 - Meaning – through Jesus we have VICTORY over sin on a daily basis!
 - **Philippians 2:13** – “God is working in you - giving you the desire and power to do what pleases Him.” [NLT]
 - The Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so... vs. 15-16

- This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day - says the LORD:
- I will put my laws in their hearts - and I will write them on their minds – **Jeremiah 31:33**
- So often we get this backwards - thinking we become HOLY by what we do for God...
- But is NOT about what we do for God – it is what He does to us...
- He puts His LAWS in our hearts – He writes them on our MINDS...
- God makes us HOLY – so we want to do GOOD – we are His WORKMANSHIP!
- **Ephesians 2:10** – “We are His workmanship created in Christ for good works...” [NKJV]

o 4th – Sin is FORGOTTEN... vs. 17

- I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds – **Jeremiah 33:34**
- There is a CONTRAST – under the LAW there was still GUILT – **Hebrews 10:2**
- But with the BETTER sacrifice of Christ – our sins are GONE!
- **Psalms 103:12** - “He removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.”
- I love that it is the EAST from the WEST – and not the NORTH from the SOUTH...
- Because if you go SOUTH – you will eventually go NORTH – and vice versa...
- But if you go EAST – you will NEVER go west – and vice versa...
- Meaning God sent our sins one way and us the other – NEVER to meet again!
- We are sinners – we have made countless mistakes – but we have NO DEBT...
- When God looks down on us – He does NOT see our MISTAKES...
- He instead sees the perfect life of His Son Jesus – He sees us as perfect / FAULTLESS!

o 5th – No more SACRIFICES... vs. 18

- When sins have been forgiven - there is no need to offer any more sacrifices...
- This has unusual grammar – there are NO verbs in this sentence [in Greek] ...
- No action is occurring – it is simply stating the FACTS!
- We have been FORGIVEN – 17x in NT – to be PARDONED – released from bondage...
- And if someone is PARDONED – then there is no longer a need to PAY a DEBT...
- So there is NO longer any need for sacrifices to REMOVE our sin!
- If you are like me – often we feel like WE owe something to God for our sin...
- Like there is something WE must do to undo our poor choices – a price WE must pay...
- But the work is DONE – ALL of our sin is PARDONED – there are NO sacrifices left to make...
- Jesus did it ALL – He gave us a BETTER sacrifice – so we can be confident we are FORGIVEN!
- **Ephesians 1:7** – “In [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” [NKJV]