



Lesson 43

Lesson 43: Perfected and Perfecting

Scripture: Hebrews 10:1-18

The Closing Chapters

- (Hebrews 9:28) Two things were mentioned:
 - ❶ The Cross
 - ❷ The Second Coming
- ★ What happens between these two events is the Church age and the Christian life.
- ☆ These closing chapters will put forth the Christian's privileges, walk, discipline, and responsibilities.
- ★ Chapters 1-9 has shown that the saint's redemption (atonement) was accomplished by Christ offering Himself, presenting His blood in the Most Holy place before God, satisfying God's justice, and purifying the heavenly place by His blood.
- ☆ NOW, the Holy Spirit presents the saint's privilege to approach the holy, holy, holy God as an accepted worshiper.

Insufficiency of the Old Sacrifices (vv. 1-6)

- "For" connects us with what preceded.
- ❶ **They never made those who approached God perfect.** (v. 1)
 - The true saints of the Old Testament wanted to be **in the presence of God.** (See Exodus 33:15; Psalm 16:11)
 - **BUT** they had no way to that presence!
 - ALL of the Old Testament ceremonies and sacrifices *never* made any of them PERFECT.
 - The LAW with all of its ceremonies and sacrifices was only a SHADOW "shadow of good things to come".

- The sacrifices were offered over and over – continually ---
 - You can lay one shadow on top of another shadow and NEVER have the real thing!
- “Shadow” is contrasted with “the very image of the things.”
 - A shadow has no substance (see Colossians 2:16-17) **but** it *does* bring to mind the image it is projecting.
- “The closest any Old Testament saint could ever get to the good things of God was the **shadow** of those things!!”
- τελειόω teleioo {tel-i-o'-o} means “to make perfect”; “to make whole”; “to make something complete”; “to accomplish something”; “to bring to completion”; “to bring to an intended end.”
 - “Perfection” - an unchanging standing in favor of God which Christ secured by offering Himself for His people.
 - “Perfection” requires absolute conformity to God’s moral law.
- God’s PURPOSE for “**shadow** of the good things”:
 - ❶ To point to the REAL THING. To make His people expectant! A shadow is better than no evidence at all!
 - ❷ To remind His people of the penalty of sin.
 - ❸ To provide a **covering** for sin that removed **immediate and temporal** judgment of God.
- ② **They never could remove sin.** (vv. 2-3)
 - These offerings could not make peace with God nor give peace to the conscience.
 - They could **cover** but NOT **remove** or **cleanse** sin.
 - They were a constant **reminder** that they could not remove sin!
 - The covering was **temporary!** It lasted until the **next** sin!!
 - **Consciousness** – man’s innate awareness of sin and his sense of guilt.
 - Guilt is to the moral and spiritual as pain is to the physical.
 - BOTH are not pleasant but needful.
 - Pain tells us something is not right physically.
 - Guilt tells us something is not right spiritually.
 - Our GUILT is taken away by Christ’s offering – there is NO CONDEMNATION for those who are IN CHRIST. (Romans 8:1) **KEEP READING ROMANS 8:1.** Compare Nehemiah 1:5.
 - Verse 2 does not communicate that there is no responsibility for daily confession **and** repentance of sins. (Matt 6:12; Luke 11:3-4; Proverbs 28:13)

- Why must a Christian confess their sins if they are already pardoned?

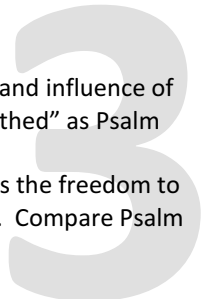
- ① Because God commands us to agree with Him that our transgressions of His Law is, in fact, sin. (1 John 3:4; 1:8-9)
- ② To humble us, showing us the weakness of our flesh.
- ③ To induce a greater watchfulness against sin.
- ④ To remind us of God's great mercy which He bestows on us **daily**.

③ **They were only EXTERNAL.** (vv. 4-6)

- First, the necessity of sin being taken away:
 - ★ Sin separates one from God! (Isaiah 59:2; Proverbs 15:29)
 - ☆ There can be no reconciliation with a holy, holy, holy God if there is still sin.
- Animal sacrifices were external. Sin is a HEART problem – it is **INTERNAL**. (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 12:35; 15:19; Mark 7:21-23; James 1:14-15)
- See Genesis 6:5 (“every imagination” includes, not only imaginations but, desires and purposes.)
- The blood of bulls and goats were for the “cleansing of the flesh” whereas Christ’s offering cleanses our consciences – the internal.
- “There was no relationship between a person’s sin and an animal sacrifice. The relationship was only symbolic or typical.”
- **There was an internal requirement to make the Old Testament sacrifices acceptable to God – an honest heart!**
 - (v. 5) “Sacrifice and offering Thou has not desired . . .” – the Psalmist is writing about sacrifices and offerings offered up externally and not “from the heart” or internally. (See Amos 4:4-5; 5:21-25; Isaiah 1:11, 15-18)
 - God requires “a broken spirit and a contrite heart.” Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 57:15; 66:1-2

Body vs. An Ear (Hebrews 10:5 vs. Psalm 40:6)

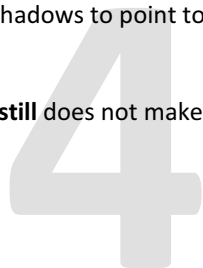
- Why the difference?
- **RULE #1:** The writer of Hebrews is under the power and influence of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 10:5 is just as “God breathed” as Psalm 40:6.
- **RULE #2:** The Holy Spirit, the author of the Word, has the freedom to “interpret Old Testament” passages as He sees fit. Compare Psalm 118:2 and Acts 4:11; Isaiah 42:6 and Acts 13:47.



- **RULE #3:** Interpretation is based on the WHOLE WORD of GOD and not single verses.
- **RULE #4:** The wording of the Old Testament passage may better fit the context, whereas the wording quoted in the New Testament may have a fuller meaning in its context.
- Sometimes “a part” can mean “the whole.” For example, in English, we say, “A farmer has 100 **heads** of cattle,” or “the manufacturer hired many **hands** to accomplish the task.”
- The EAR is the instrument we use to receive divine instruction. Note how it is used for the Messiah in Isaiah 50:4, 5.
- The EAR also was “pierced” as a symbol of voluntary SERVANTHOOD – one who does the WILL of a MASTER (Exodus 21:6). Christ was God’s servant – see Isaiah 42:1; 53:11; Philippians 2:7.
- If one has EARS it is assumed that he has a BODY!
- In order to do the WILL of the FATHER, to be SUBMISSIVE to His Law, the Messiah **needed** EARS as well as a BODY! – This God **prepared** for Him!

The Effectiveness of the New Sacrifice (vv. 5-18)

- ① **It was the WILL of the Father.** (vv. 5, 7)
 - Christ was **foreordained** before the foundation of the world to come and offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. (1 Peter 1:19-20)
 - Christ came to **do** the will of the Father. (See John 6:38-40; John 4:34; 5:30; 14:31; Mark 14:36)
 - “in the roll of the book it is written of Me” (v. 7) – see Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.
 - **MEDITATE ON THIS:** If God’s eternal plan was “written” down for “Christ” did not that same “roll” or “book” have to involve other people’s lives! (Consider carefully Psalm 139:16-17)
- ② **Christ Sacrifice Replace the Old Sacrifices** (vv. 8-9)
 - God plan focused on and ended with CHRIST – the “second covenant” (see Isaiah 42:6).
 - The Old Testament sacrifices were symbols or shadows to point to the REAL thing.
- ③ **Christ’s Sacrifice Sanctifies the Believer** (v. 10)
 - The Law NEVER made anyone HOLY! The Law **still** does not make anyone holy!



- ἁγιάζω hagiazo {hag-ee-ad'-zo}Ar “to sanctify” or “to make holy” is a **PERFECT PARTICIPLE** verb. The PERFECT tense describes an action happening in the past never to be repeated again!
 - Paraphrase: “You have been permanently made holy.”
 - See Colossians 2:10
 - It is God’s will that all of His people be HOLY - see 1 Peter 1:15-16; Ephesians 1:3-4; Romans 8:29; 1 Thess 4:7.

• **THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE WILL OF THE FATHER THAT CHRIST CAME TO FULFILL!**

④ **Christ’s Sacrifice REMOVES Sin.** (vv. 11-12)

- Note the contrasts in these verse:

The OLD Covenant

- Many priests
- Continual standing
- Work never finished
- Many offerings
- Repeated

The NEW Covenant

- ONE Priest
- Sitting down
- Work finished
- One sacrifice
- Complete ONCE for all time
- Completely removes sin

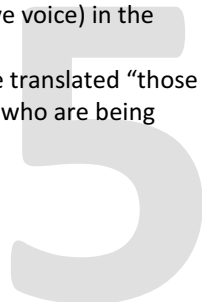
- (v. 18) Forgiveness is PERMANENT because the offering is PERMANENT!

⑤ **Christ’s Sacrifice Destroyed His Enemies** (v. 13)

- (Hebrews 2:14) Christ conquered “him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.”
- (Colossians 2:14-15) Christ triumphed over all *principalities and powers* (both spiritual and physical).
- He now waits until all “His enemies be made a footstool – Philippians 2:10.

⑥ **Christ’s Sacrifice Perfects the Saints Forever** (v. 14)

- Christ’s death removed sin from believers FOREVER.
- By ONE OFFERING He PERFECTED (**PERFECT TENSE; ACTIVE VOICE**) – This is something CHRIST DID (active voice) in the PAST never to be repeated again!
- “sanctified” is in the PRESENT tense and can be translated “those who are sanctified” (see verse 10) or “those who are being sanctified”.



- ⑦ **Christ's Sacrifice RATIFIED the PROMISED New Covenant** (vv. 15-17)
- Christ's sacrifice fulfilled the new covenant spoken by Jeremiah in 31:33-34; 32:36-42)
 - The NEW COVENANT was NOT a new revelation but the fulfillment of an old one.
 - The PROMISE in Jeremiah 31:33-34 and 32:36-42 was not JEREMIAH's but GOD's!