

By His Blood, We Have Been Made Whole!**Heb. 10:1-18 (vv. 8-10)****Teacher Minister Alice D. Tamrie****I. Historical Background and Biblical Context****A. Historical Background**

This book of Hebrews is like no other book in the Bible, it is distinctive and its picture of Jesus as our great High Priest is its own. God has spoken through his son Jesus in various ways, an appointed heir, through whom he made the universe. Its direct intent is to a distinct set of restricted set of readers who ought to be teachers. It's like he is teaching teachers to a higher next level of comprehending Jesus' role. Paul has a good opinion of them and even asks for their prayers and gives them news of their mutual friend Timothy. He wanted them to advance to the next level of being powerful teachers. This epistle is to the recipients of a group whose members were of the Christian community and appears to be an argumentative exposition and uses the Old Testament with his favorite sources as the Pentateuch and the Psalms. The effect is to emphasize the divine authorship of the whole OT. For the author, what Scripture says, God says. Christianity for him is that all scriptures points to Jesus, and that he sees it as God's way of pointing men to Jesus. It is like the OT and NT are seen in the person and work of Jesus – a part of one whole. And it is Jesus who enables us to discern that whole and its meaning for the plan of salvation.

B. Biblical Context

The author's argument is that Judaism is superseded by Christianity and specifically that the sacrifices of the old system are of no avail now that the sacrifice of Jesus has been offered. At first Christianity was Jewish. Jesus was a Jew, His disciples were Jews, and the first converts were Jews. Their first meeting took place in synagogues, and their first controversies were over adherence to Jewish laws. So, believing in Christ raised many questions: What about the temple and animal sacrifices? What about the Law of Moses? Was it really enough to trust in Christ? Hebrews was written to address the doubts of those who were second-guessing their conversion to Christianity. It is being made clear that the man called Jesus is demonstrating His plan of Salvation, in essence, this is what the whole Bible is about. You believed and followed His plan of salvation through the temple sacrifices which were all symbolic. So now that when His once-for-all final sacrifice was made in Jesus Christ, you believed. This was God's plan. Do not go back on the steps you have taken! This book chapter by chapter establishes the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ (1:1-4; 9:11-14). His sacrifice was enough to take away our sin; He is all we need to come to God today. This is a very convincing and compelling statement that Paul is making to us even today so that we may not doubt Jesus as a witness with signs and wonders. Let's us go from elementary teaching to another level of spiritual maturity; giving us believers more explanation on who Jesus is:

Chapter 1: Jesus is God's supreme revelation; more exalted than angels.

Chapter 2: Keep Jesus as a firm grip on what we've heard so that we may not drift away.

Chapter 3: Jesus is faithful as the Son of God, the centerpiece of all that we believe.

Chapter 4: Jesus is the promise of “rest” (Heb. 4:12-13) His Word is sharp/firm/living/penetrating.

Chapter 5: Jesus is a priest forever; compassionate, strong, willing to do God’s will; selected/appointed,

Chapter 6: Jesus is our Master Teacher; expect better things as he did with Joshua, Abraham, and Moses. Let’s not re-crucify him all over again; be confident/certain/confirmed and hope;

Chapter 7: Jesus is an ultimate, permanent priest, who offered His body and is a better hope, holy,

Chapter 8: Jesus is our High Priest, holy, harmless, undefiled, separate.

Chapter 9: Jesus is the New Covenant-it’s in written on believers’ minds, heart, and we will all know God; and God will forgive the sins of believers and remember them no more. He had an inescapable appointment; Jesus is the supreme sacrifice.

Therefore, we will see in today’s lesson in Chapter 10, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice; animal sacrifices are insufficient. Christ’s death fulfills God’s will...” I have come to do your will.” The old plan was only a hint of the good things in the new plan. The plain fact is that bull and goat blood can’t get rid of sin. Be confident! Be certain! Be confirmed! Anchor your hope in Jesus! The Son is the radiance of God’s glory!

II. The Lesson: By His Blood, We have been Made Whole!

1. Verses 1-4:

The Law is just a shadow of the good things that are coming-not the realities themselves. The old plan was only a hint of the good things in the new plan. This means “not the exact representation”. Perfect refers to the removal of the consciousness of sins. The sacrifices of the Mosaic covenant prefigured Christ’s ultimate sacrifice of Himself. Therefore, these imperfect sacrifices of animals could not completely purify the person who offered them. If they had been able to, these sacrifices would have ceased. Thus, these sacrifices were a visible reminder of the people’s sins. No matter how many sacrifices were offered year after year, they never added up to a complete solution. (Psalm 40:6-8).

In other words, the ancient system was just an unsubstantial, shadowy affair! The real thing is in Christ!! These sacrifices practiced by the Jews could not deal effectually with sin! Since it was just a shadow.

“The law” means strictly the law of Moses, but here it stands for the whole OT. It has no substance! The shadow is preliminary before you get to the actual thing, it’s just a preliminary sketch. It shows the shape of things to come! It is like this: believing something when all along it is not true! This is like believing for years what you thought was true, is now false! Animal sacrifices are quite unable to affect the putting away of sin. The yearly repetition repeats the failure. There is an inbuilt limitation in animal sacrifice. This is why we must have in-depth, painstakingly deep bible study. We must move from elementary teaching to spiritual maturity!

The very necessity of repeated sacrifices and constant repetition shows that the desired cleansing has not been affected. An effectual atonement would mean the permanent removal and only Jesus can do this! Take the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19; 1 cor. 11:24-25), with the idea of remembrance, when people remember sins, they either repent (Deut. 9:7) or else persist (Ez. 23:19) in sin. When God remembers sin, he usually punishes it; when he pardons, he can be said not to remember sin. So, the Day of Atonement ceremonies each year reminded people of the fact that something had to be done about sin. But the ceremonies did no more than that! The yearly ceremonies were ineffective because "It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." So, Jesus is the only One that can remove sin. That is what is needed and that is what the sacrifices could not provide!

2. Verses 5-7:

Psalm 40:6-8: This is said of Christ, not David, who fulfilled the prophecies of this book. The OT alone had warned the Israelites that sacrifices alone would not please God. He desired obedience, which indicated that Jesus' obedience to God the Father was one of the reasons His sacrifice was better than the Old Testament sacrifices.

3. The verses 8-10 are emphasized here because it informs us of the plan of salvation which is the core of God's plan and Jesus is the answer to the problem of sin.

Verses 8:

This concludes that **God takes away the first**, meaning the Levitical sacrificial system, **to establish the second** – the Son's obedient sacrifice. Jesus is the perfect Sacrifice. If sacrifices were powerless to deal with sin, another provision had to be made. That's why we have the words, in quotes, regarding as coming from Christ Himself! "You don't want sacrifices and offerings. You do not ask for burnt offerings and offering to take away sins." Then he said, 'Here, I am, I have come to do your will.'" This is being enslaved to the Master for life! Are you/we offering to do the **will of God** as a series of liturgical actions are not so much as divine, but are they offered in the right spirit!! But the quotation emphasizes the importance of the **will**. Christ came to do the **will of God**. We are all called, designated to always come to do specifically **the will of the Father. It is important for us and Jesus that what God wills is done!**

Verse 9:

We sacrifice yes, often times, but be more mature in your thinking, for God desires that our attitude be consistently in Jesus and how he desire us to be obedience to do the **will of God**. Sacrifices were commanded in God's law and therefore must be offered. But they are not God's final will nor God's answer to the problem of sin. Sacrifices pointed the way; we are to recognize the limitation. Christ is not being set over against the Levitical sacrifices. He is the system. No compromise is possible between them.

Verse 10: Look closely, as **God's will** is large enough and deep enough to find a place for us all. Sanctification is a process whereby the believer grows progressively in Christian qualities and character.,. we are "set apart" for God. There is no contradiction between the two; both are necessary for the fully developed Christian life. But we must be on our guard, for Christ died! It has to do with making people Christian, not with developing Christian character. It is the offering "of the

body” of Christ that saves! **Death was incidental; the will was primary, so there is a cost!** Jesus was made “once for all.” **There is no other distinction in any other world religion in which one great happening brings salvation – this is the distinctive doctrine of Christianity. No other religion does this in the world!**

Verse 11: This verse contrasts the continuing activity of the Levitical priests and Jesus sacrificial finality. It is characteristic of priests to stand and minister day by day, which is what priests does as a service activity. Yet, they cannot do away with removing sin!

Verse 12: Jesus’ work throughout this contrasting and symbolic action, he does this and then “sats down”. This is the posture of priests to stand, for their work is not done, but Christs sits, for his work is done! Sitting is the posture of rest, not of work. That Christ is seated, means his work is done, completed! Further, to be seated at God’s right hand is to be in the place of highest honor. Angels stand in God’s presence. When Jesus claims this place for himself, it is a finished work, with the highest dignity and honor.

Verse 13, 14. His work is accomplished, the Lord now waits. This is a quote from Psalm 110. The meaning appears to be that Christ “rests” until in God’s good time all evil is overthrown. Let’s take care that we are not numbered among God’s enemies – by being i.e., disobedient, indifferent, cold-hearted and evil, and even forgetting what Christ has done for us.

Paul is consistent in coming back to this again and again. Jesus is the One! The sacrifice perfects us. His salvation is personal. The process of salvation takes people who are far from perfect and makes them fit to be in God’s presence forever. It is improvement that is never ending. Those that Christ saves are set apart for the service of God and that’s forever eternal.

Verse 15-17: The Holy Spirit affirms us by being a witness to us by stating this is the covenant that I will make with them. The Holy Spirit empowers, enables, equips and educates us by speaking as a witness, it “testifies” from Jeremiah 31, quoting enough to show that it is the “new covenant” passage he has in mind by providing for forgiveness of sins.

Verse 18: To remember sins no more does not mean to forget, but not to hold sin against us any longer. This is the utter finality of Christ’s offering. It has taken Paul 10 chapters to explain since the new covenant was established, there is no room for any further sacrifice. He, Jesus, is the One!

III. Conclusion

Paul has gone to extreme and consistent arguments to exhort believers that those who profess belief in Christ should live in a manner befitting them. Jesus as our great High Priest is the ultimate sacrifice and he exhorts us as readers to make the utmost use of the blessings that has been won for us. We as Christians can approach God confidently, and completely in the Most High Place, no physical sanctuary but is, in truth, the presence of God and we enter it “by the blood of Jesus”, on the basis of his saving death.

Let’s walk with Jesus, don’t throw it away! Don’t drift! Exhort each other and keep a firm grip on the promises of the Word, encourage each other, let us continue to worship together and spur each other on!