



CHRIST OUR BETTER SACRIFICE

Hebrews 10:1-18

Introduction: Hindsight is 20/20

I. Reasons Not to Trust in the Old Covenant Sacrificial System (v.1-4)

- A. Reason #1: Sacrifices according to the Law Were But a “Shadow” of Reality to Come
 - o The OT sacrificial system was not wrong or sinful; it was just provisional
 - o The entire relationship between OT and NT can be summed up by shadow vs. reality
 - o Why do you think human prefer religions that have external rituals?
- B. Reason #2: If OT Sacrifices Could Take Away Sins, Wouldn't They Have Ceased?
 - o The repeated, ongoing nature of animal sacrifices showed they were not effective
 - o Does that mean animal sacrifices accomplished nothing? No, they “were a reminder of sins” (v.3)
 - The entire OT order was designed to show people they were sinners
 - This should have led people to look forward to the promised future Savior
- C. Reason #3: Blood of Bulls and Goats is Not Able to Get the Job Done
 - o It is impossible (δύνατον) for animals to be enough to cleanse your sin!
 - o Shows we are tempted to trust in other things for cleansing besides Christ

II. Reasons to Trust in Christ as Our Perfect Sacrifice (v.5-18)

- A. Reason #1: Christ Offers His Own Body Instead of Animal Sacrifices (v.5-10)
 - o Author cites Psalm 40:6-8 as the words of Christ!
 - Shows OT is all about Jesus. Luke 24:27: “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus interpreted to them in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”
 - Shows that God had always planned to give his Son as the ultimate sacrifice



- o Psalm 40 explicitly states that God is not interested in animal sacrifices, but instead has prepared a “body” (v.5) for Jesus to sacrifice himself
 - Thus our author can say, “We have been sanctified through the offering of the *body* of Jesus Christ once and for all” (v.10)
 - Again, just had to be really human; he had to have a real body.
 - Last Supper: “This is my *body*, which is given for you” (Luke 22:19)
 - o Christ offered himself *willingly*: “Behold I have come to do your will, O God” (v.7)
 - This stands in contrast again with animal sacrifices which did not know or understand what was happening to them.
 - Thus, “He does away with the first in order to establish the second” (v.9)
 - This means the Old covenant is obsolete in light of the New that Christ brings
 - Another way to say that animal sacrifices are the *shadow*, Jesus’ bodily sacrifice is the *reality*!
- B. Reason #2: Christ’s Work Was Successful Because He “Sat Down” (v.11-14)
- o Notice that every priest “stands daily at his service” (v.11)
 - o But Jesus offered only a single sacrifice and “sat down” (v.12)
 - Sitting is a sign of success. His sacrifice worked!
 - Thus the author says “For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified” (v.14)
 - o The “right hand of God” is a position of power and judgment
 - Allusion here to Psalm 110:1: “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool’
 - This is the same passage that mentions Melchizedek!
 - Reminder that Jesus both saves and judges. He is both lion and lamb.
- C. Reason #3: The Holy Spirit Assures Us that Our Sins are *Really* Forgiven (v.15-18)
- o Author cites again from Jeremiah 31:33-34, a passage about the New Covenant and attributes it to the “Holy Spirit”!
 - o What does the Holy Spirit say to us? He assures us: “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more” (v.17)
 - o If so, then we need no more animal offerings (v.18)



Discussion Groups

1. How does this passage better help you understand the relationship between the OT and the NT? How does Christ speaking through the Psalms change your view of the OT? Why is it important for believers to understand this?

2. How might this passage change the way you view the Lord's Supper? Why is Christ's physical body so important for our salvation?

3. How does this passage show Jesus as both Lion and Lamb? Do you think you have a balanced view of Jesus as both of these things? What can help us get a better balance?

