

Hebrews

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October 25, 2023



Hebrews 10:1-10

Vss. 1-4

- The Law of Moses, the old system, the old covenant, simply cannot do what we needed it to do: cleanse us from sin and make a way to God. For the writer of Hebrews the whole point of religion is to open up the door to God by clearing the path of sin, for sin is THE impediment that keeps us from God. But opening the way to God by clearing away sin is precisely what the old system of sacrifices could never do!
- He calls the old law a “shadow” of the good things to come. But in truth the word is even stronger. The Law is but a “pale shadow”, barely perceptible. In plain language, he is saying that without Christ and the New Covenant in His blood, we would never have been able to get beyond seeing the thin and pale shadows of God, never to see God Himself.
- His logical proof is found in the fact that the sacrifices had to be done over and over again. The Day of Atonement which covered all the sins you missed the year before still had to be done on an annual basis. If forgiveness is forgiveness, then why do the sacrifices for forgiveness have to be constantly repeated? Was my soul not purified before? Was the way not opened to God for me? If not, then what good is any of it?
- So he concludes this thought by saying flatly, “it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins”. All animal sacrifice can do is underscore how truly sinful I am.

Vss. 5-7

- Then he does something a master of debate truly relishes in: he takes the source of his opponent’s authority and beats them over the head with it. As the preacher to

the Hebrews has repeatedly said in this sermon, "IT'S BEEN IN THE BOOK ALL ALONG! YOU JUST REFUSED TO OPEN YOUR EYES TO SEE IT!"

- He here quotes Psalms 40:6-9. God is saying that He does not want the sacrifice of animals or an offering from the harvest. Then another voice speaks. It is the voice of The Word: "Behold, I have come, just as the scriptures wrote about Me and I come to joyfully do Your will O God". We took the visible reminder of the cost of our sin, the sacrifice of animals and twisted it to become a means whereby we are able to buy God's forgiveness. But no, WE cannot buy our own forgiveness, especially not with the mere blood of animals. No, the cost of our sin comes at a MUCH higher price.
- (As an aside, if you compare the preacher's quote of Psalms 40 here with the actual Psalms 40 in your Old Testament you will see that it does not read the same. The preacher is reading from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament. The translation was begun around 270 BC. Your Bible's translation of the Old Testament is much closer to the original Hebrew. Still, the essence of the verse's meaning is the same in both translations.)
- Even before the Psalms there was 1 Samuel 15:22! The Truth isn't just out there. The Truth has been staring us in the face for thousands of years. We would just rather not hear it or see it.

Vss. 8-10

- The preacher uses these verses to parse Ps. 40 and drive home his point. Indeed, Psalms 50:14, Psalms 51:16-17, Hosea 6:6 Isaiah 1:11-20, and Micah 6:6-8 are all other examples of this same message over and over again. It's a broken spirit and a contrite heart that God desires, not the blood of animals.
- No, it is only through the once and forever sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ by which we are saved. And if we believe in Him, we shall not perish but have eternal life.