

## Hebrews

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Hebrews 10:11-18

Vss. 11-13

- Here the preacher continues to drive home his argument that the sacrifice of Jesus is far greater and supremely more effective than the sacrifices offered in the old Temple under the old covenant. Every day the priests would stand in the Temple making the same sacrifices over and over again, but nothing they did ever changed a person's heart, never took away sin.
- William Barclay outlines for us what the preacher of Hebrews and his congregation saw and remembered: “Every day, so long as the Temple stood, the following sacrifices had to be carried out (Numbers 28:3-8). Every morning and every evening a male lamb of one year old, without spot and blemish, was offered as a burnt-offering. Along with it there was offered a meat-offering, which consisted of one tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a quarter of a hin of pure oil (about 1.5 gallons). There was also a drink-offering, which consisted of a quarter of a hin of wine. Added to that there was the daily meat-offering of the High Priest; it consisted of one-tenth of an ephah (an ephah was approximately one bushel or 35 liters) of fine flour, mixed with oil, and baked in a flat pan; half was offered in the morning and half in the evening. In addition there was an offering of incense before these offerings in the morning and after them in the evening. There was a kind of priestly tread-mill of sacrifice. Moffatt speaks of "the levitical drudges" who, day in day out, kept offering these sacrifices. There was no end to this process and it left men still conscious of their sin and alienated from God.”
- By contrast, the sacrifice of Jesus was “once sacrifice...for all time”. What Jesus did could not be repeated, for there was no need. And who could do so? Only the One who was both able to forgive sin and at the same time join with humanity and become our singular representative, could make such a sacrifice. This is why the image of Christ on the cross stands alone as the greatest sacrifice there could ever be.
- One other contrast between Jesus and the old priests is shown in their positioning! Again, William Barclay: “The priests **stand** offering sacrifice; Christ **sits** at the right hand of God. Theirs is the position of a servant; His is the position of a monarch. Jesus is the King come

home, his task accomplished and his victory won. There is a wholeness about the life of Jesus that perhaps we ought to give more thought. His life is incomplete without His death; His death is incomplete without His resurrection; His resurrection is incomplete without His return to glory. It is the same Jesus who lived and died and rose again and is at the right hand of God. He is not simply a saint who lived a lovely life; not simply a martyr who died a heroic death; not simply a risen figure who returned to company with his friends. He is the Lord of glory. His life is like a paneled tapestry; to look at one panel is to see only a little bit of the story. The tapestry must be looked on as a whole before the full greatness is disclosed.”

#### Vss. 14-17

- Matthew 5:48 is where Jesus says we are to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. On our own this is impossible, but Jesus never asks us to do anything on our own. Remember He said in the last line of Matthew’s gospel that He will be with *ALWAYS*, forever and ever. So at the cross, those who are “*being sanctified*”, those who believe and are saved, are made perfect. Not by our own strength, nor by anything we have done beyond truly believing and in obedience to Him, surrendering our lives completely and picking up our own cross and following Him.
- Perfection cannot be improved on. With Christ we have the perfect revelation of God and the perfect sacrifice by one who was unblemished.
- The preacher goes on to quote Jeremiah 31:33-34. In this New Covenant, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit will make all the difference in *HOW* we live. Our hearts and minds will be renewed (Romans 12:2; Titus 3:5) and our sins will not only be forgiven but forgotten. In other words, when we stand before the Throne and Satan makes accusations based on our past sin, there will be no record for him to cite!

#### Vs. 18

- Once I am forgiven, I am always forgiven. I have known so many people who continue to pummel themselves over past sins, past sins for which they have long prayed to be forgiven. Because of what happened on the cross, once God forgives us, we are forgiven for now and forever more. There is nothing more we need to say or do to be forgiven. What we must do is accept God’s forgiveness by having faith in Him and His promises, so that as we pray and *KNOW* we are forgiven, we too can erase it and let it go.