

As we begin looking at chapter 10, the first 18 verses are a summary of the arguments Paul has been making since *Heb 1:1*, so we'll go thru them quickly as our review.

Heb 10:1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

- ° Those Old Covenant Laws & sacrifices are only a shadow of the eternal New Covenant Jesus made with God.
 - His sacrifice was made with His own perfect blood, & was presented to God Himself in the true Holy of holies in heaven.
 - His sacrifice was so perfect it only needed to be done one time, & it will endure forever.
 - His NC sacrifice makes those who believe in Him perfect in the eyes of God; He no longer sees our sin, but only the blood of Jesus & a sinless believer, perfect in His eyes.
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²For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. ³But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

- ° The OC sacrifices cannot take away our sin, it can only cover our sins, (It did this in the expectation of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus to come later).
 - Because in the NC our sins are eternally forgiven & removed, we can live free of guilt.
 - The OC reminded everyone in the covenant of their sin every time a sacrifice was repeated.
 - Our eternal forgiveness frees us from the bondage of trying to earn God's forgiveness in our flesh, & lets us focus our attention & love on Jesus, the author & finisher of our faith.
 - In the NC, God has written His laws on our new born again hearts so we can serve & follow Him out of love.
 - In the OC, the Laws were written on stone, where mankind had to hopelessly struggle in our fallen flesh to follow the strict letter of those Laws.
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⁵Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

- ° This is making a direct correlation between the shadow sacrifices of the OC, & the true sacrifice of Jesus in the NC.
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⁶In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'Behold, I have come; In the volume of the book it is written of Me, To do Your will, O God.' "

- ° Again, he's showing that the OC sacrifices did not please God, but Jesus alone followed God's will as the OT scriptures foretold.
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⁸Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), ⁹then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

- ° The OC Law, with all of the sacrifices made with the blood of animals, & in the flesh by sinful priests, could never please God, nor satisfy God's righteous standards.
 - *But a body You have prepared for Me*
 - Only Jesus; He's the only man since Adam that entered this world without sin.

- Only Jesus; He's the only man who ever lived without breaking any of God's Laws.
- Only Jesus could bring a perfectly spotless sacrifice that satisfied & pleased God.
- *He takes away the first that He may establish the second*
 - God never intended for two covenants to be in effect at the same time.
 - The power & effectiveness of the NC, makes the OC & Law obsolete; *Heb 8:7-13.*

¹⁰*By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

- ° By that will; He's referring to the will of God from vs 9 that Jesus came to establish on earth.
 - *Sanctify; set apart [for God];* Faith in His perfect sacrifice sanctifies; sets the believer apart from the world.
 - So, if the body & blood of Jesus has sanctified us, what does Paul mean when he says: *1 Thes 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - If believers have been sanctified when they got saved, what is Paul asking God to sanctify in these Thessalonian believers?
 - The answer is in this verse; *and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless.*
 - We are three part beings; *spirit, soul, and body*, just like God; *Father, Son & Spirit.*
 - When we were saved, it was our spirits that were made new:

Ezek 36:26–27 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put My Spirit within you ...

Jn 3:5–7 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

- So, at the time of our salvation, our spirits were born again; sanctified, & set apart from this sinful world.
- ° What about our souls (mind, will & emotions); & our bodies; When do they get sanctified?
 - **Our minds** get sanctified as we allow God's word to change us:

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

 - This sanctification, our minds being set apart from the world, is a lifelong process.
 - Our lives will be increasingly transformed, or “*set apart*”, from this world as we learn from His word & yield ourselves to His Spirit.
 - The sanctification of our mind, will & emotions is our choice; we have to choose God's word & His ways, & then, with His Spirit's help, we will be *set apart* from this world.
 - **Our bodies** will be sanctified when Jesus returns for us at the rapture:

1 Cor 15:51–52 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

 - At the rapture, believers will be physically “*set apart*” from the world when we are taken to heaven by Jesus in our new eternal bodies.
- ° Sanctification is a 3 part process that happens at 3 different times; Past, Present & Future.

- **Past**: Our spirit; (our heart), was separated from us when it was replaced by God with a new born again spirit when we believed & confessed Jesus as Lord.
 - **Present**: Our souls; (mind, will & emotions), are continually being separated from the world's ways when we allow God's word to transform our minds.
 - **Future**: Our bodies one day will be separated from the world on that great day Jesus calls us at the rapture.
- ° The three parts of our sanctification; our spirits, souls & bodies, happens at three different times past, present & future, as God unfolds His redemption plan for us.
- All of this sanctification; This separation from worldly things, happens because Jesus offered His body in a "*once and for all*" sacrifice, as a substitution for us.
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¹¹ And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

- ° In the OT temple, there was no chair or seat for the priests to sit on.
- Because the sacrifices of the Levitical priests couldn't take away sin, their work was never finished, & so they could never sit while working in the temple.
 - This is being shown in contrast to the finished work of Jesus, who has now sat down in heaven beside the Father because His work has been finished, *once and for all*.
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¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

- ° This sums up what he's been saying; The one offering of Jesus perfected, or gave total forgiveness, or even better, it completely removed sin from the account of those who believe.
- This is worded kind of odd; *He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified*.
 - *Perfected forever* is a work that has been accomplished in the past, & *being sanctified* is a work that is continually ongoing, hopefully in every believer's life.
 - Believers have a perfected spirit & perfectly sinless standing before God, & yet we are also, in our bodies & minds continually being set apart from the sinful things of this world.
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¹⁵ But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, ¹⁶ This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them, ¹⁷ then He adds, Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.

- ° In the NC, sin has been dealt with at the cross, & all who believe, have that applied to their lives.
- Now, God's Laws are not just a list of rules to struggle to obey in our own strength.
 - God's Laws are now written on our born again hearts, & they have been put into our minds.
 - They are part of us now, & as we live & listen to His Spirit, we naturally fulfill those just requirements; Not out of obligation, but naturally, out of a grateful heart of love.
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¹⁸ Now where there is remission of these [sins], there is no longer an offering for sin.

- ° Now that sin has been dealt with "*once and for all*", **there is no longer a sacrifice for sin**.
- This is important to grasp; never again does a price need to be paid for the sins we commit.
 - We do have to deal with the consequences of our sin, but as far as God is concerned, we are, & always will be, eternally forgiven.
 - We need to understand this because this statement explains one of the upcoming verses that is misunderstood by many Christians today.

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

° Because of everything we've been reminded of in these 10 chapters, we need to do something.

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see *The Day* approaching.

° The response this letter is requiring of these believing, but backslidden Hebrews, is fourfold:

1- *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering*

- Don't forget the things they have been taught, but hold fast to them.
- Don't waver in our faith because God is faithful to do all He has promised in this NC.
- These believers haven't held fast to these promises, & that's why this letter was written.
- Paul is going to expand & drive home this point of standing fast in faith in chapter 11.

2- *let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works*

- We need to think about, & help, our brothers & sisters in Christ, & live so as to motivate them to press on in their faith also.
- God has redeemed us to live a life of good works; not for justification, but for the growth of His kingdom, & to glorify His name on earth thru His people; *Eph 2:10*.
- These Hebrew believers were thinking only of themselves, & didn't understand the importance of their position in the body of Christ.

3- *not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some*

- Do not cut yourself off from the fellowship of the body.
- There is value to meeting with other believers, & we cannot hope to survive the attacks of the enemy or the trials of this cursed world, if we live apart from one another.
- These Hebrew believers were failing at this because they were abandoning the body of Christ to return to the Law & the temple sacrifices.

4- *and so much the more as you see the Day approaching*

- All three of these exhortations have one objective for the believer; to help us never forget the hope of our salvation; which is the return of Jesus for us.
- Standing in faith ensures that we will be ready for that day of His return.
- Thinking of those believers around us ensures that they also will be ready for His return.
- Maintaining Christian fellowship strengthens us to face the challenges of this world while we're waiting for His return.

° After making the argument for these 10 chapters that Jesus & His NC is vastly better than the Levitical priesthood & the Law, Paul now, is about to give them another warning.

- That warning begins in *Hebrews 10:26*, & is one of the most misunderstood passages in the New Testament; but that's for another study.