

A Study of Hebrews

Lesson 9

Hebrews 10:1-39

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

(Hebrews 10:1-18)

In this passage we have repeated the same theme that we have seen in the previous chapter. The sacrifice of Christ is better than the Old Testament sacrifices. In fact the Old Testament law was but a **shadow** of the good things to come. Hebrews 8:5 also uses the words **copy** and **shadow** in describing the sacrifices made by the high priests in the Tabernacle. The Greek word for “shadow” is *skia*, but what is coming is the true “form” of these realities. The word translated as “form” comes from the Greek word *eikon* which is the same word we find in Colossians 1:15 when we read that Jesus is the “image” of the invisible God. Before Christ arrived, we had a shadow of the good things to come, but now we have the “real thing” in Christ Jesus.

These animal sacrifices were unable to “make perfect” those who worshipped God. If they had been satisfactory to accomplish this purpose then no more sacrifices would have been needed, instead they reminded the people of their sins, but did not forgive them. Then we have this most important statement in **Hebrews 10:4**, *“For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”* It was necessary for Christ to come to this earth, live a perfect life and die for sin to be forgiven. It is his sacrifice and his alone that is sufficient to forgive sin.

Hebrews 10:5-7 is a quotation from Psalm 40:6-8. Here again we learn that God is not pleased with animal sacrifices, but required the death of his Son. Though God required these sacrifices (Leviticus 1-7), they were incapable of removing sin.

1. What is the meaning of Hebrews 10:7?

Hebrews 10:10 teaches us the necessity of the death of Jesus Christ. *“And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

2. Describe the significance of the words “will” and “body” in Hebrews 10:10.

3. Define sanctification.

The phrase “once for all” is important in Hebrews 10:10. This word has been previously used in Hebrews 7:27 and 9:12. The sacrifice of Christ had to be completed only one time for all eternity!

4. Why do the priests “stand” day after day according to Hebrew 10:11, while Jesus “sat down” in Hebrews 10:12?

5. Utter and complete victory is indicated for Christ in Hebrews 10:12-13. Has this victory already arrived? If so when did it come or if not, when will it be realized?

6. Hebrew 10:14 is an interesting verse. Here we find that the believer has been “perfected for all time” while at the same time he is “being sanctified.” How do we reconcile these two aspects of the Christian’s relationship to God?

Hebrews 10:16-18 is a quotation from Jeremiah 31:33-34. Here we are reminded that God had planned for the new covenant from the beginning. What sets this new covenant apart is that it means that God now provides for true and complete forgiveness for all sins. Because Jesus has paid the penalty for sin, there is no sacrifice needed any longer.

Neil Lightfoot summarizes this section by saying that Jesus is the real thing. His incarnation is **real** (Hebrews 2:11-17); his suffering is **real** (Hebrews 2:10; 5:8); his offering was made in a **real** place (Hebrews 9:1; 9:11), and his forgiveness is **real** (Hebrews 9:12).¹

The Full Assurance of Faith

(Hebrews 10:19-39)

Hebrews 10:19 marks a major change of direction in the book of Hebrews. Hebrews 10:19 begins with the transitional word “therefore.” Based on what the author has already written he tells the Christian that we now have **confidence** to enter the holy places by the blood of Christ. There is a call to draw near to God through Christ.

7. What is meant by the word “confidence?”

¹ Lightfoot, Neil R. *Everyone’s Guide to Hebrews*. p. 134-135.

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The phrase “**draw near**” is an imperative. We are commanded to draw near to God. In Hebrews 10:22-25 we have the motive, manner, and means of how we approach God.²

8. From verse 19-25, with what motive do we approach God _____ vs. 19, 21);
by what manner do we approach him _____ (vs. 22);
and what is the means of this approach _____
(vs. 22)?

4 Exhortations in Hebrews 10:22-25

1. Let us draw near
2. Let us hold fast
3. Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works
4. Let us not give up meeting together

9. To what is the Hebrew writer referring when he speaks of having our “bodies washed with pure water?”

10. What is the meaning of the word “wavering” in verse 23?

11. What are some ways in which we can fulfill the call to “stir up one another to love and good works?”

12. What purpose is given for meeting together in verse 25?

After this great exhortation, the Hebrew writer moves on to a serious warning. It is possible for someone to come to Christ and then give up their faith. The encouragement to consider others and to meet together is for the purpose of encouraging one another and stirring one another up to good deeds. The one who fails to stay faithful to Christ and who deliberately keeps on sinning puts themselves in a terrible condition.



13. What type of sin is described in verse 26?

² Girdwood and Verkruiyse. *The College Press NIV Commentary on Hebrews*.

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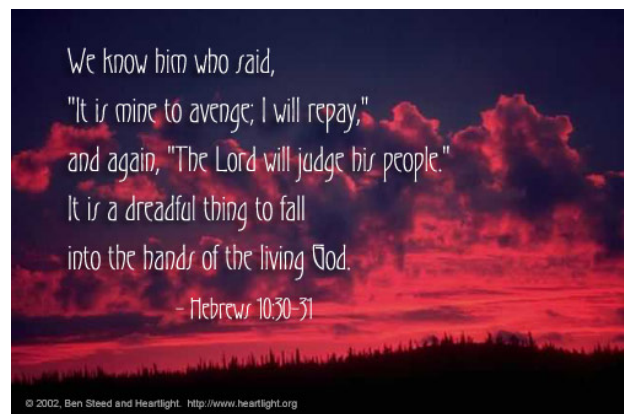
14. Why is there no sacrifice left for those who turn their backs on Christ after coming to Christ? Does this mean there is no means for their restoration?

15. Describe the outcome of those who completely fall away from Christ (vs. 27).

16. What three actions are those who deliberately keep on sinning taking against Christ (vs. 29)?

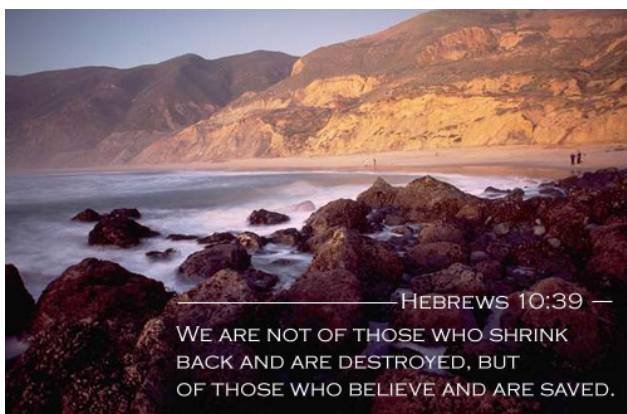
17. What does Hebrews 10:31 teach us?

18. What types of suffering had the first recipients of this letter experienced for Christ (Hebrews 10:32-34?)



There is great reason to listen to the Hebrew writer and to remain faithful to Christ. To remain faithful brings with it a rich reward (vs. 35-36). Though this life can seem hard and difficult, in reality it is not long; especially in comparison with eternity.

The encouragement then for all of us is to be prepared to follow Christ until the end. His forgiveness, love, and blessings are so wonderful and there is no hope outside of Him.



19. Did the Hebrew writer expect that the people would listen to his warning?