

One Sacrifice for Sin

Sunday, march 6th, 1988

Hebrews 10: 1-22

“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices, there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin, thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: For after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness

to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; 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.”

I have a question for you amid all the conflict, confusion, and the customs of religion in our day. Would you be interested? Would you really, seriously be interested in sitting down right now and taking a good hard look at what God has to say in His Word about salvation from sin? This is not about what you think, what I think, or what the old writers used to say. Would you be interested in what God Almighty in His inspired Word has to say about salvation from sin?

Let me ask you another question, would you be interested in really looking today at what God has to say about the putting away of and the forgiveness of sins, past, present and future? Would you be interested in knowing how truthfully a sinner, a bonafide-genuine sinner like you and me can approach a Holy God? I am talking about being honest, not doing what some religionist says, or some denomination advocates. Would you like to know?

I'm not asking for your opinion. I don't expect to give you mine. I'm going to look at the Word of God. We are going to read it together, what God has to say about salvation, about forgiveness of sin, and how a sinner can approach a Holy God.

You see, our faith must not stand in the wisdom of men. We must not be men-followers. God didn't call us to follow men. Our faith must stand in the Word of God. The Word of God is the foundation of faith,

“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” Our confidence and faith has to rest not in the logic, argument, or wisdom of intellectuals, but in the power of God.

Let me say this and I don't mean to be unkind, but I am going to say it; we are not in any financial trouble and I am not here to impress you so that you will help us out of our financial problems because we are not having any. We are not having financial problems.

I'm not here to sell you one thing. I have nothing to sell, and we are not building a building. We are not operating in the red. When we do, we will go off the air. This program has been on this channel for over 14 years and we have never missed one single payment.

I'm not looking for your support. I'm not begging for it, and I'm not going off the air if you don't send it. We will go off the air when God puts us off the air. He has always supplied our needs *“according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus.”* This is without pressuring anyone. This is God's way, whether you believe it or not.

I'm not interested in your silver, your gold, your money, or your support. I am interested in knowing God Almighty. I want to know God. I don't want to know about God; I don't want to know about some god, your god, or my God. I want to know the living God, do you? I want to know the living God. I want to know the living God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent. I want to know the one true and living God.

I'm interested in being redeemed and living forever in God Almighty's kingdom. I want to actually be redeemed. I'm interested in your

spiritual well-being. I don't know whether it has ever dawned on some of you or not, but I am interested in you knowing God.

We are not trying to impress anyone; it is too late for that. We are not putting on a show or entertaining sinners on their road to hell. I'm trying to tell men the truth. Do you recognize the truth when you hear it?

I want to be kind and compassionate. I will tell you this, I don't want to miss Christ, and I don't want you to miss Him. I want us to look seriously at this matter of what God has to say about salvation. If you want to hear some music, you can play your record after awhile. Right now, we need to attend to preaching.

Preaching is the most important part of our ministry. Some folks have relegated it to the scrap heap and spend their time begging, selling, entertaining, and singing. God said, *"Go preach the Gospel. God hath chosen by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe; Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* This is serious business.

Turn to Hebrews 10. Just sit down and open your Bible. A friend of mine use to say, "If you are not in too big of a hurry to go to hell, sit down and listen to the Word of God." Men are not going to tell you the truth, none of them will. It says here in verse 1 of Hebrews 10, *"The Law of God having a shadow of good things to come and not the very image of the things can never with those sacrifices which they offer year by year continually, make men perfect."*

I'm not talking about the Ten Commandments; I am talking about the Levitical Law, the Law that God gave Moses on Mount Sinai

concerning the erecting of the temple, the tabernacle. I'm talking about all the sacrifices, the priesthood, the mercy seat, and all of these things.

The apostle is saying here, that all of these Old Testament sacrifices were God ordained and God designed. God gave them to Moses. They serve a purpose and that purpose is to picture, symbolize, foreshadow, and typify Jesus Christ and His sacrifice and sin offering. That is what they are for.

These Old Testament sacrifices and feast days and holy days, tabernacle and priesthood, sin offerings and burnt offerings were not saviors or sacraments; they were pictures. They were shadows. What is a shadow? It is not the person; it is the image of the person. It is that which you see first, the outline, and not the substance. It is a type of good things.

What are the “*good things?*” The good things are salvation, the putting away of sin, justification, redemption, and righteousness. Those are the good things. They are “*The good things which are to come.*” They are pardon and forgiveness in Christ.

These laws, sacrifices, and ceremonies that Moses passed along to Israel in which they observed and kept for all of these hundreds, and hundreds, and hundreds of years, “*Could never put away sin and could never make the comers thereunto perfect, or holy before God.*” Never, never, never!

The ultra dispensationalist contends that God has had a half a dozen ways of saving sinners and it is not so. Men were never saved any other way, but by the cross (the sacrifice of Christ). They were never

saved by a law, innocence, judges, or anything like that. They were saved by Christ, either looking to the coming Christ, or looking back to the Christ who came.

“These sacrifices can never put away sin.” Do you see it there? It is right in front of your eyes in Hebrews 10:1. It gives us reason why they couldn’t. First, if they could have put away sin, *“they would have ceased to be offered.”* If sin is put away, there is no use for any more sacrifice. If I owe a debt and pay it, I don’t keep coming and making installment payments; it is paid. I don’t have to pay anymore. He is saying, “If these sacrifices offered in the Old Testament could put away sin, we would quit offering them.” Sin that is put away does not require any more sacrifices.

In verse 3, says, *“The very fact that these sacrifices continually year by year were offered, is evidence that sin is still there.”* God still required atonement this year and atonement next year. Why one next year? Sin is still there. Why one the next year again? Sin is still there.

Verse 4 says, *“Besides, it is not possible that the blood of an animal to put away the sin of a man.”* That is not possible; it is ridiculous! Animal blood is a different type blood and a different type nature. An animal cannot die for the sin of a man; man has to die. It is man’s sin and man has to die. The law was given to man and man has to obey it. Do you see that? That is what that says in Hebrews 10, verses 1 through 4.

The Old Testament laws and sacrifices are not sin offerings in the sense that they were effectual; they were only pictures. They were pictures of God’s redemptive work in Christ, which is to come.

Abraham and Moses demonstrated their faith in Christ. *“Abraham saw My day,”* Christ said. Christ said, *“Moses wrote of Me.”*

Isaiah said, *“He was wounded for our transgressions.”* Was? *“He was wounded.”* Isaiah is writing about something that was to happen 700 years later. He uses the past tense, because the promise of God is as effectual as the work of God.

These sacrifices under the Law cannot put away sin. They were not given for that purpose. The blood of an animal cannot atone for the sin of a man. Look at Hebrews 10, verse 5: *“Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.”*

When Christ comes into the world as a man, (as God, He has always been in the world for His presence is everywhere). David said, *“Whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Thou art there. If I make my bed in hell, Thou art there.”* Wherever we are, God is there.

When it says then, *“He came into the world,”* He literally, actually took on Himself a human body and was born of a woman, made under the law, came into this world in the form of a servant in the likeness of human flesh. Jesus Christ, God Almighty, actually came into this world. *“He was in the world, but the world knew Him not. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”*

When He came into the world, *“In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son made of a woman, made under the law: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the*

world. Unto us a child is born, a Son is given. Behold, the Lord Himself shall give you a sign, a virgin shall be with child, and you shall call His name Immanuel,” (God with us). Do you see that man, Jesus of Nazareth? He is God. He that hath seen Christ hath seen God

He said when He came into the world, in verse 5, *“A body hast Thou prepared Me.”* I’m talking about a body, a tabernacle, the true tabernacle. That tabernacle out in the wilderness is a type; it is a picture; it has to come down. The true tabernacle, the tabernacle where God meets men and men meet God is the tabernacle where the true mercy seat is. This true tabernacle is Jesus Christ the Lord; *“He tabernacled among us.”*

When He came into the world, *“A body Thou hast prepared Me; sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not. In burnt offerings and sacrifices Thou hast had no pleasure.”* Do you see that right there in verses 5, 6, and 7? In other words, Christ Himself is saying to the Father, “My Father, in all these rivers of oil, in all of these seas of blood, in all of these sacrifices, holy days and atonements; You have never been pleased; You have never been satisfied for these sacrifices and offerings of animals could never please Your holiness or satisfy Your Justice. *“In these burnt offerings and sacrifices Thou hast had no pleasure.”* You have never been pleased.

But, one day down yonder in the river of Jordan a man stood named Jesus of Nazareth and He was baptized of John in that river. When He came out of the water, the Spirit of God descended upon Him in the form of a dove and a Voice from heaven said; *“This is My only begotten (well beloved) Son in whom I am well pleased.”*

God is well pleased. That is not said anywhere in the Word of God about any creature. God has never been pleased with anything that anyone has ever done. In order to please God it has to be perfect. There is no perfection in any creature, except Christ, and He is not a creature; He is the God-Man. God the Father said, *“I am well pleased.”*

That is what He said, *“When He cometh into the world, He saith; Sacrifice and offering Thou hast had no pleasure. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast had no pleasure.”* He has never been pleased. Now notice verse 7, *“Then said I, lo, (behold), I come.”* The first thing that the Father said when He began His ministry was, *“I am well pleased.”* Then, when He died on that cross, was buried, and rose again, the Father said; *“Sit on My right hand until I make thine enemies Thy footstool.”*

Look at verse 7, *“In the volume of the Book it is written of Me.”* Would you have any idea what that Book is? *“In the volume of the Book it is written of Me; I come.”* It is written of Me concerning My coming, the reason for My coming, what I will do when I come, what I will accomplish and where I will go when I leave. It is all in the Book.

Really, there are two Books. One is the Bible, the Old Testament. *“In the volume of the Book it is written of Him.”* It is written in the Psalms, in the Law of Moses and in the prophets. All the prophets bare witness of Him. All these things are concerning Christ.

Also, in the Revelation, John saw one who sat on the throne and in His hand was a Book. John said, *“I wept much because no one was found worthy to open that Book. One of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed*

to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.” (Rev. 5:4-6).

Then every voice in heaven proclaimed, *“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth” (Rev. 5:9-10).*

What was that Book? That Book is the purposes of God, the mercy of God to sinners. That Book is the redemptive glory of God. All that God planned in the mediatorial kingdom that God will make and all that God will receive in that glorious new heaven and new earth, is in that Book.

Jesus Christ opened that Book. *“For in the volume of that Book it was written of Him.”* It was written about Him, written by Him and He opened it and made it all come to pass. That’s right! He said, *“In the volume of the Book it is written of Me and I come to do Thy will O God.”*

I know that there are a lot of arguments going on about my will, your will, free will, man’s will and God’s will and all of these other kinds of wills. I will tell you this, there is only one free will, and that is God’s will. His will is free. God will do what He will do. That’s right! Christ said, *“My will is to do the will of Him that sent Me. All that My*

Father giveth Me will come to Me: and Him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast him out: For I came down from heaven not to do My will but the will of Him that sent Me and this is the will of Him that sent Me, that of all which He hath given Me; I will lose nothing but raise it up at the last day."

I will tell you this, "As many as received Him to them gave He the right, the privilege to become the Sons of God which were born not of blood, (not of fleshly inheritance), not of the will of man, but of God." We are not born of the will of man. We are not generated by the will of the flesh but we are born, regenerated, and saved by the will of God. That's right! "He worketh all things after the council of His own will. He doeth His will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of this earth and giveth it to whomsoever He will. The Son quickeneth whom He will. The Son maketh alive whom He will. He said, "My Father, lo, in the volume of the Book it is written of Me; I come to do Thy will and Thy will shall be done."

In doing the will of God, watch this next statement in verses 8 and 9; "In doing the will of God, He taketh away the first and establisheth the second." The first what? He taketh away the first covenant of works; "Do this and live." That is gone; nobody can do it. Man failed, and He established the New Covenant.

The New Covenant is the Everlasting Covenant, the Covenant of His grace. David spoke of this when he was dying, he said; "The Lord hath made with me an everlasting Covenant, ordered in all things and sure. This is all my salvation and all my desire."

Then, "He taketh away the first" He taketh away the first Adam, there are two Adam's. "In Adam we die and in Christ we are made alive."

The first Adam is of the earth, earthy. He went back to the dust from whence he came. The second Adam is the Lord from heaven. I plan to go and be with Him.

The first Tabernacle has been done away with. Christ tabernacled among us. Where is the old tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant? Where is the mercy seat? It is gone! Good thing we aren't dependent on it, isn't it? Good thing you don't have to offer a sacrifice.

What are these poor folks without Christ going to do? Where are they going to put their atonement? There is no mercy seat; there is no Ark of the Covenant. Therefore, God said; *"I will dwell between the cherubim's on the mercy seat."* Where is your mercy seat?

You are in trouble! No wonder the raiders looked for the lost Ark. They don't have an Ark and they don't have a mercy seat. I've got one! *"God set forth Christ to be our mercy seat."* God dwells in Christ. That is where you will meet God, in Christ and nowhere else.

"He taketh away" (the first priesthood and the first sacrifice). There is no priesthood today on this earth representing men to God. *"We have a High Priest who is ascended into heaven, Jesus Christ who is at the right hand of God."* He is our Priest.

You don't confess your sins to any man; you confess them to Christ. He is our Great High Priest. That's right! Any man who assumes to take a confession from you and absolve you from sin is an imposter. The first mercy seat and atonement are gone. God gives us a new nature in regeneration. We are going to bury this old sin nature some day, and then the soul goes back to God who gave it.

The first heaven and earth are going to pass away. *“There is going to be a new heaven and a new earth.”* The first of everything will be gone. Christ said, *“Behold; I make all things new.”* Everything will be new in Christ.

Don't put your name on anything here because it is not going to last. Your name needs to be written, Christ said, *“Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”* That is the only place to have a monument, that is the only place to have a rock, that is the only place to have a treasure and your name, and that is in glory.

All right, notice verse 10: He said, *“Lo I come to do Thy will, by the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”* We are sanctified, (set apart), for God. We are sanctified, made holy, and declared holy.

How are we sanctified? Are we sanctified through the Law? Are we sanctified through our works? Oh no! *“We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”* We are not sanctified by a second work of grace. We are not sanctified by a special baptism of the Holy Ghost. We are not sanctified by the eradication of the old nature. The only time it will be eradicated is when you bury it. *“We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”* That is what it says.

“He who knew no sin, was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. He is able to present you faultless, without blame, unblameable, unreprouvable, and perfect in God's sight. In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and you are complete in Him. There is no judgment and there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus.”

Read verse 10 again, Christ said, *“I came to do Thy will O God, by the which will we are sanctified by the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”* Do these words mean anything?

Then, He says in verse 11, *“Every priest (of the Old Testament, of the Old Tabernacle), stands daily offering the same sacrifices which can never take away sin.”* We go through the motions, we go through the rules, and we go through all of these traditions and customs. We walk down the aisle, we dedicate and rededicate. We make professions, go in, and go out. We get hot and we get cold. We quit and we come back. We do all of these things and *“they can never put away sin.”*

They can never give the guilty conscience peace. They can never give a man a new heart and a new life. *“This man after He had offered one sacrifice for sin forever, sat down on the right hand of God. For by one offering, He perfected forever them whom He sanctified.”* Now, read those two verses together; *“By God’s will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

There were many Old Testament priests, but Christ was the only one. They lived and died and *“He ever lives.”* They offered many sacrifices; He offered one. They offered animal blood; He offered His own blood. They ministered in an earthly tabernacle; He ministered in heaven itself.

Their sacrifices could never put away sin; His did. They served in an earthly sanctuary offering animal blood, which could never put away sin, so they never sat down. Do you know why they never sat down? Their work was never finished. When Jesus Christ by one offering,

sanctified through one offering, and by one offering, *“He perfected forever them whom He sanctified.”*

I hear people arguing about eternal security. It is according to who saved you. If you are in Him, you are secure. If not, you are not secure, no matter what you claim. *“He perfected forever them whom He sanctified.”* By one offering, He sanctified us. By that same offering, He perfected us. God says in verse 17, *“Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”*

He said in verses 19-22, *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience.”*

Isn't that beautiful? There is a lot of comfort and help there. The Word of God is the foundation of faith.