

Christ's Sacrifice One and for All

△ Hebrews 10:1-18

Introducing the theme

Today we are continuing with
Hebrews - now Chapter 10

Reminding us again of the Israeli
sacrificial practices in the desert
around the tabernacle (or tent) with
Jesus sacrifice

But to remind us where the
overarching message of the whole
of Chapters 8-10:18, we look at
the next video

 <https://youtu.be/j9LjepIAGKI>

Summary from before

We have sinned and need to pay
for our wrongs

The Atonement for Sin by
sacrifices

Daily sacrifices in the Temple and
one a year on the Day of
Atonement in the Holiest of Holies

The earthy tabernacle is a shadow
of the Heavenly tabernacle

.Jesus's sacrifice

Christ's Sacrifice

1. Christ entered the heavenly sanctuary, the true and perfect tabernacle, into the presence of God
2. Christ entered once and for all.
3. Christ offered his own blood, not that of goats and calves

This section in Hebrews finishes with this look to the future

Picking up where we left off last week

Hebrews carries on with the same theme in this reading

But there are two topics left

Heb 10:1-11 the author carries on with the meaning of Christ Sacrifice

And he looks at the priestly side of Jesus in his concluding remarks of this whole section (Ch8 - 10:18)

Another Shadow

More on the concept of shadow of what happens in the Temple vs what happens in the Heavens

We have seen that the Earthly Tabernacle is a shadow of the Tabernacle in Heaven

This is comparing place to place

But now the focus shifts to before and after - i.e. from place to time

Last sentence from last week

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

^ 9:28

We can see here already the shift from place to time

Now he carries on with helping us to understand what the result of Jesus sacrifice is in time

"The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves."

^ 10:1

The system of daily sacrifices

They do not make those who approach the throne of God perfect

If that was the case then these sacrifices do not need to be repeated

No they atone for the past deeds, but not for how we upset God in the future

So they were reminded of their sin yearly or even daily

And therefore they did not have a clear conscience before God

Conscience

This word conscience in the New Testament time in Greek, refers to "the human capacity for self-knowing, self-accusing and when liberated, self-affirming

Self-accusing

So as we know that we have sinned (self-knowing), we accuse ourselves

And once we realise that we have been forgiven we can also forgive ourselves and affirm ourselves, with who we are in God

But because the sacrificial system was not perfect, neither our conscience was cleared

Quote of Ps 40:6-8

The Author then quotes Ps 40:6-8

- ⁶ Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—
but my ears you have opened—
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.
- ⁷ Then I said, “Here I am, I have come—
it is written about me in the scroll.
- ⁸ I desire to do your will, my God;
your law is within my heart.”

He then makes some changes that we may find difficult to accept.

First of all, he attributes Ps 40:6-8 he attributes to Christ

When Christ came into the world, he said"

[^]v5

But the Psalm clearly says, that it is a Psalm of David

What is going on?

Well, for the Author, every scripture has been breathed by God

cf:all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

[^]2 Tim 3:16

We have seen that before, that the Author takes an Old Testament scripture, by someone else, and the attributes it to God, in this case Jesus

And he takes that very literary

And there seems to be an issue with the timing - when he came into the world

When was that?

When he came as a Human Being - i.e. in the times of the Author

way later after the Psalms were written

Or when he was in the world at the beginning of Creation

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

^ John 1:1

Again much earlier

But the author does not seem to have an issue to do that, changing the author and the time

That may mean that he was already of the understanding that God, and therefore Jesus is outside of time

And now that this in the Bible, we apply the same 2 Tim 3:16, that this also is from God!

Secondly the Author changes some of the wording

There are small details, which can be explained that he used the Greek translation from the Hebrew Old Testament

And we can overlook those

But on one detail is striking

The Psalm says, "You have given me an open ear"

meaning that the psalmist will listen to God

But the Hebrews writer chooses a translation that speaks about "a body you have prepared for me"

Again tying the body of Jesus to the sacrifice that he made

As Jesus became incarnate or human

So with these changes his argument and purpose becomes clearer

That even in the Old Testament, God already indicates that the daily / yearly sacrifices are not enough for God

This then in the OT has been interpreted that the sacrifices do not mean anything, if we do not change our behaviour

But the Author focuses on the necessity of Christ to become the sacrifice

As he knows that our human behaviour will always be lacking in the eyes of God

But also that it is Jesus who says to God the Father: See I have come to do your will

So, that Jesus death on the cross was the will of God, to make all the daily/yearly sacrifices unnecessary

Jesus the High Priest

In the next section vs 11-18 he looks at the priesthood

He compares the human priests offering daily sacrifices that are not enough

With Jesus, who offered himself - and therefore is both the Priest and the Sacrifice

And he offered himself for once for all time

He then seated himself at the Right Hand of God

of Aaron the first High Priest being the right hand of Moses

Hand of Moses

As in indicate that he is now the High Priest

And of course, he needed to raise from the dead for that and ascended into heaven

So the whole Gospel in one small sentence

But this is not just the High Priest

As the Author again quotes Ps 110:1

The Lord says to my lord:

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”

And he is therefore also the High King

And with his body as an offering

The one human who was unblemished

This was the one sacrifice required

Perfecting all those who are sanctified

Meaning, that all those who believe in Christ Jesus as their Lord and Saviour have been made perfect in God's sight and are therefore able to approach the throne of God

Does that mean that we can just go on sinning?

Because if we have been made perfect before God, by Jesus sacrifice, then we are OK sure

First of all, that is a very cynical approach not honouring God

Or what Jesus has done for us.

But also the Author reminds us

with again a quote from Jer 31:31-33

15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

16 “This is the covenant I will make with them

after that time, says the Lord.

I will put my laws in their hearts,

and I will write them on their minds.”

17 Then he adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts

I will remember no more.”

△ v15-17

I will put my law in their hearts, and write it on their minds

So God clearly wants us to behave according to the law

To Love God above everyting

To Love people we deal with as ourselves

And during our Christian life time, we get better at it.

This is called sanctification

And it is the Holy Spirit working us

And He often reminds our conscience whether what we do or don't do is pleasing to God

Forgiveness

But you may, OK I understand that, but why do we need to ask for forgiveness

every time?

Has Christ Sacrifice already made us perfect?

Yes, this is true in the heavenly realm

And when we finally are before God and have to give an account of our lives, we find that we are already forgiven

But in our daily lives, our consciences need to bring these things to Christ

So that we know that we are forgiven

That we then also can forgive ourselves

And that we change our lives accordingly!

Conclusion

Jesus sacrifice on the cross makes us perfect in the sight of God

We therefore do not need to do these sacrifices again

We are set free - hallelujah!

But our consciences still need to help us to become sanctified

So listen to this still small voice in your heart!

Is there something he wants us to change by doing or not doing certain things?

But then we are assured of his forgiveness again

Allowing us forgive ourselves and to

... meaning we forgive ourselves and to
forgive others

And then we amend what was wrong in
our lives

And become further sanctified

Witness to the love of Jesus

And what he has done for the whole of
human kind

Amen