

Hebrews 10:1-18

Week Fifteen

Study written by Holli Worthington



Day 1



Heavenly Father, let your word fall fresh on my heart today. Please help me through your Holy Spirit to understand and treasure what your word is saying and help me to find joy in your presence and be satisfied with all that you are for me in Jesus my Savior.

- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ In the space below, write out a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

Day 2-Hebrews 10:1-4

1. How is the old sacrificial system under the law described in verse 1?

Scholar's Note: *Law* in verse 1 refers to the totality of the Old Covenant.

2. In your own words describe how a shadow compares to reality. What are the elements of each?

For Discussion: How does the fact that the old covenant is a shadow of the new covenant show the continuity of the whole word of God?

3. If the sacrificial system had cleansed sin completely what would have happened and why, according to verse 2?

For Discussion: Verse 3 says that in the sacrifices there is a “reminder of sin”. The Greek word for “reminder” is *anamnesis*, but “...the flavor of the Greek word *anamnesis* is better caught with "remembrance" instead of "reminder"; i.e., "in them is a remembrance of sins."”¹ “Where the Bible has the idea of remembrance... action appears to be involved.”²

With this in mind, what do you think the act of killing an animal meant to show and what action in relation to sin were the sacrifices meant to rouse?

Digging Deeper: “*Anamnesis* is used in the NT only in the accounts of the institution of the Lord's Supper and here [in Hebrews 10].”³ Read the following verses about the institution of The Lord’s Supper and answer the questions:

-What was the action Jesus was calling them to do and what was its’ purpose?

-How does this ritual of remembrance relate to the remembrance of sin in the sacrifices of the Old Covenant?

1 Corinthians 11:23b-26 “...the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which

is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. ²⁵ *In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”* ²⁶ *For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”*



The sacrifices on the Day of Atonement each year reminded people of the fact that something had to be done about sin.⁴ In the sacrifices is the remembrance of sin because the wages of sin is death. Every time an animal was killed it was a reminder that sin brings death. In the remembrance of sin the action that is called for is death and so out of lavish grace and mercy Jesus stepped in as our substitute and died for us. Praise God we have been cleansed from our sin by Jesus’ death!

- ❖ When we remember or come face to face with our sins what actions or choices are before us to take?

- ❖ In your fight against the sin in your life, what do you need to die to?

- ❖ How can we cultivate a hatred of our sin?

- ❖ Grace is a free gift to us, but how does thinking about Jesus coming to be the once and for all sacrifice show us the costliness of grace? How does this affect how you think about your sin? How much more willingly would we turn from sin if every time we sinned we remembered Jesus’ death?

4. What was so needed that was impossible for the blood of animals to do according to verse 4?

Picture and Ponder: “*Take away sins* signifies the complete removal of sin so that it is no longer a factor in the situation.”⁵



Thank you Jesus that when God looks at me he no longer sees my sin, but sees only his redeemed child!

Day 3-Hebrews 10:5-7

5. Verses 5-7 are taken from Psalm 40. Who does the author attribute these words to?

-What was the occasion of him saying this?

6. How does verse 5 give the reason for Jesus' incarnation? (See NLT)



How amazing that we are let in on a conversation between God the Father and Jesus the Son before Jesus took on flesh and came to earth as a baby! As I write this it is four days before Christmas, when we ponder the miracle of the incarnation. And here we have in verse 5, a Christmas verse! Jesus – the Word, who has existed eternally with God – connects Christmas and Easter by declaring that the human body God had prepared for him to take on was so that he could offer that body in willing and perfect sacrificial obedience to God.

- ❖ What does this conversation in verse 5 and 6 tell us about the heart of God?

Critical Connection: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

-Hebrews 10:6 tells us that even though God instituted the sacrificial system, he does not take delight in it. Why is this true? What does God delight in?

1 Samuel 15:22 "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams"

Micah 6:7-8 "Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? ... He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Psalms 51:16-17. "For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. "

Picture and Ponder: "...even though God established the sacrifices of animals, these were not God's true desire. They were not a statement of the solution, but of the problem. What God desires from us is obedience, not sacrifices to cover our disobedience." ⁶

7. What does Jesus say to God in verse 7?

-How do Jesus' words reflect the true essence of the kind of sacrifice God delights in?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the question:

-As Jesus lived out his life on earth how does he echo what he said in heaven before he came to earth?

John 4:34 "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."

Luke 22:42 "...Father if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but your, be done."



We are not orphans who are washing our faces, dressing in our best clothes and behaving ourselves so that God will adopt us. We are grimy, rebellious hoodlums, who God picks up off the street and adopts. He washes us clean and dresses us in sparkling white and we get to spend the rest of our lives in the care of a loving father who we love and delight to obey. As God's beloved child, obeying his will is what will always be the best for us. This is what Jesus has bought for us with his life.

Reflect on these thoughts:

- ❖ Do you see God as your loving Father who delights in you?
- ❖ Do you delight in obeying God?
- ❖ Do you believe obeying God will bring you the most joy?
- ❖ Hughes, in his commentary on Hebrews asks this question: "Is there something you know God wants you to do, but you have been unwilling? Perhaps it is a kindness to perform a confession to make a gift to give a commitment to fulfill a task to perform. If you know what it is, say reverently to him, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God." ⁷



Jesus, thank you for becoming human so that you could die for my sins. Thank you for obeying perfectly—something I can never do. Thank you that your perfect life and sacrifice brought me into your family—into the joy of the Father, the Son and the Spirit. Help me to obey you and to delight in doing it.

Day 4-Hebrews 10:8-14

8. In verse 8-9, what is done away with and what is established or put into effect?

9. What was God's will for us according to verse 10 (See NLT)?

10. Verses 11-14 are a summary of why the Jewish Christians that our Hebrew's author is writing to would be foolish to return to Judaism and the law. What comparisons are being made in verses 11-12 and 14?

priest vs. _____
stands vs. _____
repeatedly offers the same sacrifices vs. _____
can never remove sin vs. _____

Picture and Ponder: "What do verses 11-14 tell us, but that in Christ we have not mere religion, but salvation? We do not have ritual and tradition, but spiritual reality and power. We have not warm sentiments, not moral self-help, but the forgiveness of our sins by the work of the Savior, and power for holiness from a heavenly Lord." ⁸

11. According to verse 14, what has happened in the past?

- What in this verse shows the present and ongoing nature of salvation?

Scholar's Note: *By a single offering he has perfected us*, is written in the perfect tense. The perfect tense signifies a completed past action that has an ongoing effect into the present and future. Something of vital significance has happened, and its effects continue now and forever. Here the effect is that we have been made perfect.”⁹

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse and answer the question:

-Because we have been made perfect by Jesus, what is our present position?

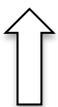
Ephesians 2:6 "[God] raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."



We have been perfected – made holy, set apart by Jesus’ sacrifice, this is the reality that Jesus’ sacrifice achieved for us – this is our status or position; it is accomplished. At present, our ongoing sanctification is to make us fit for our holy position, to conform us to the character of God. Here on earth we are to reflect more and more the reality of what we are in heaven. Salvation is not step one and sanctification the optional step 2. Sanctification is an essential feature of salvation; it is interwoven into salvation as the present and ongoing aspect of those who are being saved (1 Cor. 1:18).

- ❖ If you were to look at your daily struggles and trials, both small and large, through the lens of sanctification – God conforming you to his character and making you perfectly fit for your holy position – how would that change your attitude and thinking?

- ❖ How does obedience to God’s commands play a part in your sanctification?



I love you God. Help me to also love your ways and your commands. Help me to see their beauty because they reflect you. Help me to reflect you more and more through obedience to your will and submission to your ways.

Picture and Ponder: “Holiness is our established destiny, and so it is becoming our present reality. It is the spiritual gravity of every Christian's life to which we are being pulled and shaped and sometimes shoved by the Spirit of God living within us. ..If this cannot be said of us as individuals, our claim to be in Christ at all is challenged.”¹⁰

Day 5-Hebrews 10:15-18

Verses 15-18 are the conclusion of the doctrinal portion of Hebrews. The next chapters will focus on application in light of the marvelous truths that have been put forth in chapters 1-10.

12. The author again quotes from Jeremiah 31, reinforcing to his readers the two jewels of the New Covenant – sanctification and justification. According to verse 16, what gracious thing did God do that empowers his people to obey?

13. Because of the New Covenant in Jesus’ precious blood, what mercy do we receive according to verse 17?

14. How does the truth expressed in verse 18 impact you?

15. Our Hebrew’s author is writing this letter to show his readers the utter folly of turning back to Judaism with its inadequate sacrificial system. Using the amazing truths spelled out in the book of Hebrews,

what would you write to a friend or loved one who was thinking of walking away from Jesus?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

² Bruce as quoted in Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

⁶ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 4291-4293). Kindle Edition.

⁷ Hughes, R. Kent. Hebrews (2 volumes in 1 / ESV Edition) (Preaching the Word) (Kindle Locations 4359-4361). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

⁸ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 4397-4398). Kindle Edition.

⁹ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 4430-4432). Kindle Edition.

¹⁰ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 4447-4448). Kindle Edition.