

The Sacrifice of Our Lord

Hebrews 9: 24-28

The book of Hebrews was written to those Jews who had been converted to faith in Jesus Christ. The influence of Judaism was strong in that day. Many of these new converts were being tempted to revert back to the old ways of living according to the law rather than living in the freedom of salvation in Christ.

The **superiority** of Christ is the major theme of the book. Words like **better** and **perfect** appear frequently. Of the countless ways that Jesus is “better” and “perfect,” His priesthood and sacrifice are dealt with extensively in the book of Hebrews. This stands to reason. If the early Hebrew Christians were being tempted to abandon their faith in Christ for an attempt to keep the law, then they needed to see Jesus as the great High Priest and as the superior Sacrifice. Jesus accomplished what centuries of priests and sacrifices never could.

We are not tempted to look to a priest or to offer sacrifices for our sins because we are confident that Christ settled our sin debt on the cross. It was His sacrifice that secured our atonement. (We would be surprised to know just how many folks today are seeking a means of redemption other than the sacrifice of Jesus.)

It is that sacrifice that we have read about today. I want to take a few moments to consider the foundational **truths** that are revealed in the text as we think on: **The Sacrifice of Our Lord**. Just as the Hebrew readers of old, we too need to be reminded and instructed concerning the sacrifice Jesus made for us and the world. **1 Cor.1:23 – But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; Rom.1:16 – For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.** So let's consider these great truths concerning Our Lord's Sacrifice. It was:

I. A Peculiar Sacrifice (24a) – For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; I do not say that it was a peculiar sacrifice out of disrespect, but rather with all humility and reverence. The text speaks of Jesus' sacrifice being a peculiar sacrifice. It was unlike anything the Jews had ever experienced. They were familiar with the OT Tabernacle, and later the Temple, those holy places ordained of God where His presence dwelt in the Holy of Holies. It was there the high priest would enter once a year, on the Day of Atonement, to offer the sacrifice for his sins as well as the peoples. Down through the ages of time, bullocks and goats would be sacrificed, sprinkling their blood upon the mercy seat.

- The Hebrews were very familiar with the OT ordinances of sacrifice. What they failed to see was the picture that all of that represented. **Which are the figures of the true...** Time will not permit,

but every aspect of the Tabernacle pictured Christ. All of the tapestry, the furniture, the sacrifices, the priests themselves, it all pointed to the great Sacrifice to come. Jesus was unlike any sacrifice that had been offered before. Literally millions of sacrifices had been offered over thousands of years, but none like the sacrifice of the cross. None could ever compare to the atoning blood that was shed for all humanity at Calvary.

II. A Prevailing Sacrifice (24b) – [but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:](#)

As I mentioned, the Holy of Holies was the place where God's presence dwelt. He hovered above the mercy seat between the cherubims. We cannot begin to imagine the holiness that filled the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement. The high priest was allowed in that sacred place but once a year to offer the sacrifice of atonement. The blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat in the presence of holy God.

- The sacrifice Jesus made was much different. He didn't take His precious blood and place it on the mercy seat within the temple. He took it to the mercy seat of heaven, right to the throne of God. Our Lord carried the blood of His sacrifice to the very place where God dwells.
- We find that the priest first had to offer the sacrifice for his own sins. [Heb.7:27 – Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.](#) The priest was one who was appointed and acceptable to enter behind the veil, but he too had sin that must be atoned. Jesus served as High Priest and Sacrifice. He had no sin that must be atoned. He offered Himself as the sacrifice and then took that blood to the Father.
- [He now appears in the presence of God for us.](#) There is no longer a need for man to intercede on our behalf. We can go straight to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Never before had a sacrifice offered what His sacrifice did. He accomplished what man never could.

III. A Perfect Sacrifice (25) – [Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;](#) In the OT economy God had set some very stringent requirements for the sacrifice. Each of these was to be carefully examined and only the best would suffice. They had to be without spot or blemish. As far as the priest could see and discern, the sacrifice was as near perfect as could be.

- Countless animals were sacrificed over thousands of years, but these could never fully atone. The best that man had to offer always came up short when compared to the holy standard of God.

- The same is true today. In himself man is hopeless and condemned before God. Our righteousness is as filthy rags. We can't make it in ourselves or our sacrifice. For us to be redeemed and pardoned of our sin, there had to be a perfect sacrifice, One that was acceptable to God. All that the priest had offered never met that requirement, [Heb.10:4](#). There was no hope of salvation through the sacrifice of animals. Mankind needed a perfect sacrifice for atonement.
- There was only One that was worthy and that was our Lord. Jesus came to provide what man could never achieve, [Heb.9:11-14](#). With the sacrifice of Himself, Jesus fully met the righteous demands of God.

IV. A Permanent Sacrifice (26) – [For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.](#)

This brings to mind the process of the Day of Atonement. This was the day God had ordained for the sins of the people to be atoned. The high priest would put on the special garment and go behind the veil. It was there he would offer the sacrifice in the presence of God and the sins of the people were covered. This brought atonement for that time, but it was limited in its application. That particular sacrifice must be repeated every year.

- It was impossible to offer one animal to cover the multitude of sins. This was only achieved when Christ offered Himself as man's substitute on the cross. He once and for all settled the sin debt that mankind owed. When He cried, It is Finished, He did just that. He forever finished and settled the account of sin with God the Father. As Jesus died and carried His blood to the mercy seat of heaven, God was finally and fully satisfied.
- There would never need to be another sacrifice. There is nothing more needed. Jesus fulfilled what we never could in that He fully met the righteous demands of God. Aren't you glad that we can come to Christ by faith and be fully forgiven? His blood has completely and eternally cleansed me of my sin: past, present, and future! The world is searching for a solution to their need, but it has already been secured if they will only believe. There is nothing that can be added or taken away! It is forever settled in heaven.

V. A Precious Sacrifice (27-28) – In the closing verses, the writer of Hebrews speaks of the benefit of this sacrifice for those who have received it. The sacrifice of Jesus was and remains a precious sacrifice. Notice:

A. The Evaluation (27) – [And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:](#) This is a verse we all know well. We have heard it quoted countless times, but it reveals a profound truth. We all have an appointment with death. This is an appointment we all will keep. There will

be no way of escape. Following our death, we will stand in the presence of God, either to be received or rejected. All will be judged for the deeds done in the body. The saved will be rewarded for their works of faith and the lost will be judged for the evil they have committed.

- Death is something that awaits each of us unless the Lord returns. Here is the point I am making. [Rom.3:10 – As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one](#); [Rom.3:23 – For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God](#); [Rom.6:23a – For the wages of sin is death](#); Man in his natural state is never acceptable to God. There are none righteous. We are all born in sin and guilty before God. If we are to be forgiven and set free of the guilt and condemnation, we must be in Christ Jesus. He is the only way! If you are still in your sin, you are on a journey to an eternal hell.

B. The Substitution (28a) – [So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many](#). He didn't go to Calvary and suffer upon the cross because of His sin; He had none. Jesus lived a perfect, holy life, free of any sin, guilt, or shame. As He hung there upon the cross, God placed the sins of humanity for all time upon Him. Jesus became our substitute as He offered Himself the sacrifice for sin.

- We are sinful in ourselves, but there is hope through Christ the Lord. There isn't a single person here today that has to die lost and go to hell. Jesus already paid the price. He bore the judgment of God for your sins and mine. We can be forgiven and accepted of God because of the sacrifice that Jesus made. If you have never accepted Christ, you remain in sin, but He desires you to come unto Him. [2 Pet.3:9 – The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance](#).

C. The Expectation (28b) – [and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation](#). For those who belong to the Lord, there is hope beyond this life. We live in a time of trouble and despair. Our lives are filled with heartache and pain. But listen, the redeemed of God are going home one day. Jesus is coming again for those who belong to Him.

- I have hope this morning that the world knows nothing of. The Lord is going to come again for His bride and I am a part of that. I have never seen Him with my physical eye, but I met Him as a young child. One day I will behold the One who gave Himself for me.

- The saved have the glorious privilege of living in anticipation of the Lord's soon return. I don't know how bad things will get down here, but this is just a temporary journey. I have made preparations to leave this old world when He comes. I am planning to take a plain air ride one day and meet the Lord in the air!

D. The Transformation (28c) – Jesus is coming for those who belong to Him and He will return [without sin unto salvation](#). If we ever fully get a hold of what we have been promised in the Lord we would rejoice forever more. Jesus is coming for His bride and the sins and difficulties of this life will be left behind and remembered no more. I am going to a place where sin will not be welcome and the devil can't find me. All of the temptation and hindrances that cause us to stumble and fall will no longer be present.

- We will dwell with the Lord in His glorious presence for all eternity in heaven, a place of perfect peace and rest. We will no longer have to deal with the problems and influences of this sinful life. I will receive a new glorified body that will not know sin. We will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. [1 Jn.3:2 – Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.](#)

Conclusion: I don't know about you, but I am thankful for the sacrifice that Jesus made upon the cross. Without it we would still be in our sin and without hope. Jesus offered himself so that all might be saved.

Have you been washed in the blood that was shed on the cross for sinners? Do you know Jesus as the Savior of your soul? If not you can. Jesus died for you just as He did for me. Why not come and be cleansed today?