

LIFE Bible Study: Hebrews 10:1-18

For Discussion: When making a purchase, how desirable is it to receive a lesser item than what was anticipated? What frustrations or difficulties accompany encountering this situation? How might your expectations affect your attitude toward the item you actually receive?

Read Hebrews 10:1-18

For review: In Hebrews 9:15-28, the author focused on the importance of the shedding of blood for the new covenant. Not only was death necessary for Christ to inaugurate the covenant, without it one of the central blessings that was promised would not have been possible because “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” By His one sacrifice, Christ secured both salvation and a share in the eternal inheritance that awaits every member of the covenant. This blessing and deliverance that His followers await will be established to their fullest when He returns. The author then concludes this section with a selected summary of his main arguments along with further elaboration on the significance of Christ’s “once for all” sacrifice.

In verses 5-7, the author attributes to Christ the words of King David from Psalm 40:6-8. Which sacrifices are named in the quote? If God did not desire the sacrifices and offerings of the law, what does He desire (1 Sam. 15:22; Hos. 6:6)? Why did He not take pleasure in the sacrifices that He prescribed in His own law (Isa. 1:10-17; 66:3-4)?

Of all the ways that Christ and His ministry are superior to the old covenant system, the author focuses on how His sacrifice was greater and more sufficient than the sacrificial animals required by the law. How is Christ’s sacrifice superior to those of the earthly priests? Why is it important that Christ’s sacrifice is superior in these areas?

Superiority	Significance
The number of sacrifices (v.10-11)	
The recipients of the sacrifice (v.10, Heb. 9:26)	

The posture of the priests (v.11-12)	
The effectiveness of the sacrifice (v.4, 14)	

In concluding this section, the author again quotes Jeremiah 31:33-34 (first quoted in Heb. 8:10-12), attributing the words to the Holy Spirit (v.15-17). This marks a change in focus from covenant sacrifices to the promises of the new covenant. What is the relationship between Christ's sacrifice and the promises that have been highlighted?

The response that God desires and delights in from us is a living out of His will. He has made it clear that His will for us is our sanctification through Christ (v.10, 1 Thes. 4:3a, John 17:17-19), which is a goal we can pursue even today. What does this look like (Rom. 12:1-2; Psalm 51:16-17)? What resources (E.g., books, articles, sermons, podcasts, music, people/relationships) has God made available to you to facilitate and encourage your spiritual growth and sanctification?

Reflection and application

None of the previous sacrifices, individually or cumulatively, could make right the sins that had been committed. Over the centuries, the weight of the blood that had been spilled according to the law could only testify to the mounting guilt that humanity had accumulated. When Christ came, He demonstrated wholehearted obedience in His life, even to the point of death. His once for all sacrifice was both final and universal. Through His offering of Himself, He secured for all His followers the blessings of forgiveness and God's word within them so that they are enabled to fully do God's will and never again need another sacrifice for sin. Because He surrendered His life to death when He sacrificed His body, the sacrifice of our bodies that we are called to make can remain living (Rom. 12:1). Nonetheless, in our surrender to God we, like Christ, are also to give up our lives in their entirety to Him for His purposes and glory. Ask God to lead you to practical steps you can take to grow in your love for Him and to offer the sacrifices that He both desires and deserves.