

Rejoicing in the Perfect Sacrifice of Christ

July 21, 2019

Open: Have you ever planned something that in the end just fell short of your expectation? Explain.

Read: Hebrews 10:1-25

Discuss:

1. What was the purpose of the Old Testament sacrifices according to verses 1-4? How might you have felt making such a sacrifice, knowing it was not sufficient to take away your sins once and for all?
2. Verse 3 speaks about these sacrifices as being a reminder. How is being reminded of our sin a good thing? How are we reminded of our sin as recipients of the New Covenant?
3. What do verses 5-10 teach us about what God does and does not delight in? How does **Psalm 51:16–19** clarify our interpretation of these verses? How does Christ fulfill this delight of God? How should knowing what God delights in impact our attitude?
4. In light of verses 11-18, how does the sacrifice of Christ contrast with what the author tells us the Old Testament sacrifices were unable to do? What do you believe the author of Hebrews wants us to do with this knowledge? (Note the word “therefore” in verse 19.)
5. What do verses 19-23 teach us about why we can be confident in our ability to “draw near” to God? What does it mean to “hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering” (v. 23)? How does the sacrifice of Christ as described in this chapter enable us to do this?
6. How do you intentionally seek to “stir up” believers to “love and good works” (v. 24)? Why should our confidence in Christ motivate us to obey the instructions in verses 24 and 25? What danger is there in not following the commands of this chapter?

Apply: How might you intentionally delight in the great sacrifice of Jesus this week?

Pray: Pray that God would move us to rejoice in the perfect sacrifice of Jesus. Ask God to help us live lives that reflect the truth and beauty of Jesus’ sacrifice for us.

Hebrews 10:1-25.

¹ For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? ³ But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,

as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

¹⁶ “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws on their hearts and write them on their minds,”

¹⁷ then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (ESV)