**Hebrews 9:15 – 10:18 A Better Sacrifice**

**October 26-27, 2016**

*Since salvation is only through Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12); and the details of Christ’s life death and resurrection were not known in their lifetime how were Old Testament saints saved? The same way believers today are saved- by faith and through the finished work of Christ. The point made in Hebrews is that Christs atoning death was retroactive, so to speak. The Old Testament sacrifices were not a means of salvation but a way of faithful obedience. They were hopeful symbols of the one perfect, future sacrifice that would be the means of salvation. The death of Christ had long been a stumbling block to Jews. A dying Messiah contradicted their deeply held theological presuppositions. Aware of this theological blind spot, the writer of Hebrews proceeded to give 3 reasons it was necessary for the Messiah to die: a testament depands death, forgiveness demands blood, and judgement demands a substitute. These two chapters demonstrate the absolute necessity for a Messiah’s sacrifice and reveal the character of the sacrifice. Christ crucified is the only hope for the people. Here is a record of Jesus’ death from the theological rather than the historical standpoint. We are reminded of the ineffectiveness of the old sacrifices; we are shown the meaning and the depth of his death in all of its riches. IN his death, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin.*

*In Communion or The Lords Supper we remember Christ’s sacrificial death as he commanded us to do so. But he is not re-sacrificed. The Lord commanded his disciples to remember his death, not to try to redo it. The work of sacrifice is done. There will be no more. Forgiveness is already provided for those who trust in this one perfect sacrifice. Why would anyone want to go back to the old sacrifices, which were never finished and never effective? To reject is to have no other hope of forgiveness ever. The Lord is not slow about His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Salvation – glorious and perfect salvation – is promised in the Old Covenant and purchased in the new.*

*Testament: the same Greek word translated “covenant,” but the term takes on a more specialized meaning in this passage. Here the author uses the illustration of the last will and testament to demonstrate the necessity of Christs death. The benefits and provisions of the will are just promises, until the one who wrote the will dies. In other words, death activates the promises into realities.*

*Sacrifices: In the Old Covenant, God prescribed animal sacrifices to be offered for atonement of people’s sins. The Levitical system of sacrifices was not designed by God to remove or forgive sins. It was preparatory for the coming of the Messiah. It revealed the seriousness of their sinful condition, and it revealed the reality of Gods holiness and righteousness by indication that sin had to be covered. The many sacrifices of the Levitical system were to be superseded by the one all-inclusive, perfect sacrifice of Christ. Christ had no sin and needed no sacrifice for himself. Only one sacrifice by him was needed, one time only, for all men, for all time. Unlike the Old Testament priestly sacrifices, the sacrificial work of Christ was never needed to be repeated.*

**Read 9:15 – 10:18**

In God’s plan what must happen in order for sins to be forgiven? *Verses to consider Matthew 26: 27- 28*

Why does the writer introduce the system of a will? How is this helpful in understanding what Christ did?

In what ways is Christ’s death a better sacrifice for sin then the old animal sacrifice?

How does the writer of Hebrews in 9:18 – 23 explain and interpret this event (referenced from Exodus 24: 1-8) in light of Jesus’ better sacrifice?

In what ways was the Old Testament sacrificial system only a copy and shadow of the true heavenly sacrifice?

What is necessary to understand that Christ did not enter the Jewish sanctuary, but instead went into heaven to appear in God’s presence? (v.25) Why is it important that this happened once and for all?

What does this passage teach about death? (v. 9:27) What awaits men after death?

The writer quotes a passage from Psalm 40, what does this passage mean?

What do the promises of vs 10: 15-18 mean to you?

Do you feel fully accepted and forgiven by God? What keeps you from walking in the forgiveness made possible by Christs death?

Jesus’ perfect sacrifice for sin makes you completely accepted in the sight of God. How can this knowledge make a difference in how you relate to other people this week?

*The questions below are general bible study questions that can be asked about any passage, these questions can be asked to help initiate conversation.*

*Paraphrase passage in your own words- what is the main point? What stands out to you personally? How can this be applied in your life?*

*What do these verses tell you about God? How does this change your view of Him or your relationship with Him?*

*In this passage, what is a promise, command, truth, or prayer in this passage?*

References and commentary: Hebrews by John MacArthur, *red ink commentary not ours.*







