

Lesson 20 - Hebrews 10:1-18**Main Idea**

Whereas old covenant sacrifices were unable to completely atone for sin, Jesus' sacrifice puts aside old covenant practices and secures total forgiveness and sanctification for God's people.

Study Questions

1. This section of Scripture deals with how the old covenant points to the new. How would you explain the old covenant? How did the old covenant point to the new? What is the new covenant? What Bible passages are helpful in defining and explaining the two covenants?
2. What are "the good things that are coming" of which the Law is a shadow (see 10:1)?
3. How do we know that the animal sacrifices were unable to make perfect those who worshipped under the old covenant (see 10:2)?
4. Contrast what the sacrificial system under the Law was unable to do (see 10:2) with what Christ's sacrifice was able to do (see 9:14).
5. Hebrews 10:5-7 is a quotation from Psalm 40:6-8, which expresses what Jesus said to his Father when he came into the world. Since the animal sacrifices did not please the Father, what is the Father's will then for the Son?
6. Why does the author note that rather than bringing forgiveness of sin, the sacrificial system actually brought a reminder of sin? What is the conclusion the author draws about the blood of bulls and goats that were sacrificed?
7. In Hebrews 10:11, the author begins to explicitly contrast the sacrifices of the old covenant with the death of Jesus. What exactly does he compare? What about Jesus' sacrifice does he emphasize in contrast to the ancient sacrifices? How do these aspects reflect the insufficiency of old covenant sacrifices and the sufficiency of Christ's?

8. Think of the treadmill routine of the Levitical priests (see 10:11). In contrast to this, what phrases in 10:12-14 emphasize the adequacy and finality of Christ's sacrifice?
- 10:12
 - 10:13
 - 10:14
9. In 10:12-13 the author connects the sacrifice of Christ to his coming judgment. How does he do this and why is this an important connection to make about the role of Jesus in Scripture?
10. Hebrews 10:14 says, "For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy". How are both the perfection and holiness of which he refers to related to the work of Jesus?
11. What does it mean that we *have been* "made perfect forever" yet "*are being* made holy" (10:14)?

Theological Soundings¹

Forgiveness of God. The apostle John proclaimed that if we confess our sin, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). In fact, because of the perfect work of Christ, the promise that God will remember our sins no more is secure (Jer. 31:34); Heb. 10:17). In Christ, our transgressions are removed as far as the east is from the west (Ps. 103:12). Therefore, God sees us not as cursed sinners but as cleansed saints — washed in the blood of the Son.

Personal Reflection

- How does the reality of God's forgiveness affect you personally?
- What might you do this week to get a greater perspective of Christ's work on your behalf?

¹ Capps pg. 64