

More Great Truth about the Superior Sacrifice of Christ

Hebrews 10:11-25

Hebrews 10:11-25 – *“And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. ¹⁵ But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, ¹⁶ “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” ¹⁷ then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” ¹⁸ Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin. ¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled 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 one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

Background Notes

The great theme of the epistle to the Hebrews is **the High Priesthood of Christ**. Hebrews 8:1: *“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.”*

Did you know that Hebrews is the only book in the New Testament that refers to our Lord Jesus as the “Priest” or the “High Priest”? As our High Priest, the Lord represents us in Heaven before the throne of God. As our High Priest, the Lord lives to intercede for us in the presence of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ is a perfect High Priest, because He is God, and He’s Man as well! He has been through the human experience and as a result He can sympathize with us when we experience various kinds of need. So the High Priesthood of Christ is the central theme of the epistle to the Hebrews.

Here’s a little outline of Hebrews to bring us up to date. In Hebrews 1-7, the emphasis was on the superiority of Christ in **His Person** as our High Priest. In chapters 8-10, the emphasis was on the superiority of Christ in **His functions** as our High Priest.

As to His functions as our High Priest: the first half of chapter 8 taught that Christ serves in a **better Sanctuary**. He serves as High Priest in Heaven itself - not in an earthly Tabernacle, as did the priests in the Old Testament. In the second half of chapter 8 we learned that Christ mediated a **better Covenant**. The New Covenant is better than the Old Testament Law given to Moses. Chapter 9 revealed that, as our High priest, Christ has a **better ministry** than that of the Old Testament high priest of the line of Aaron.

In Hebrews 10 the author taught that, as High Priest, Christ offered a **better Sacrifice** – His one Sacrifice was better than all the Old Testament sacrifices put together! The Old Testament sacrifices could never take away a single sin, but the great Sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God - offered once, for all time - was sufficient to take away the sins of the world!

And there's more great truth in Hebrews 10 about the superiority of the sacrifice of Christ.

Doctrinal Points

1. Because of Christ's superior Sacrifice, we are now sanctified.

Verse 14: *"For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."*

Because of Christ's superior Sacrifice, we have not only been saved and our sins have been forgiven, but we've been perfected and sanctified. You may be thinking, "I know I'm saved, but I don't feel very *sanctified* - and I know I'm not perfect!" The idea in verse 14 is not that Christians are sinless or perfect now. We shouldn't expect to be sinless until we get to Heaven and receive our new sinless resurrection bodies. The idea in verse 14 is that we are now *positionally* sanctified – we are set apart for God's holy use. The goal of God's work in us is full sanctification, and that goal will be fully accomplished when we have our sinless bodies in Heaven.

Notice the word "**forever**" in verse 14. We're **saved forever**, we're **sanctified forever**, we're **made holy forever**. Did you ever worry about the possibility of sinning in heaven, like the fallen angels did? Well, worry no longer. You'll be fully sanctified - forever! All these blessings are ours because of Christ's one superior Sacrifice.

Notice the emphasis on the **finished work** of Christ in verses 11-12: *"And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God."* There were no chairs in the Tabernacle, because the work of the Old Testament priests was never finished! The same sacrifices had to be offered over and over again. But Christ is now

seated in Heaven at the right hand of God - because His sacrificial work is finished. He offered **one Sacrifice for sins - forever!**

It's only a matter of time before Christ's one superior Sacrifice will be acknowledged universally. All enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ will be forced to bow the knee to Him, and become His footstool (v13). We, who are *positionally* sanctified now, will be *fully* sanctified then. What a great truth! Because of Christ's superior Sacrifice, we are now sanctified.

2. Because of Christ's superior Sacrifice, we can enter the "Holiest."

The subject of Hebrews 10 is the superior Sacrifice of Christ. In verses 1-10, we saw that His Sacrifice was **the will of God the Father**. In verses 11-14, we saw that His Sacrifice was **the work of God the Son**. Now, in verses 15-18, we see that His Sacrifice was **the witness of God the Holy Spirit**.

The "*witness of the Holy Spirit*" comes from the quote of the prophet Jeremiah. God had already testified in the Old Testament, in Jeremiah 31, that the New Covenant would be based on a superior Sacrifice that would completely take care of the problem of sin forever. This was something the Old Testament sacrifices could never do.

Notice the great proof text of the deity of the Holy Spirit! It was the **Lord God** who spoke those words that were quoted from Jeremiah 31. Hebrews 10 teaches that the God the Holy Spirit spoke those words in Jeremiah 31. Therefore - **the Holy Spirit is God!**

One of the greatest benefits of the superior Sacrifice of Christ is that we now have the right to enter the Holiest Place by the blood of Jesus. No matter what our failures or sins, we now have free access to come at any time before God's throne and talk freely to God Himself. What an amazing blessing! Hebrews 4:16 encouraged us to do so: "*Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace.*"

In the Old Testament Tabernacle, a Jewish person could only go as far as the bronze altar. Only the priests could enter the Holy Place, and only the high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies, once a year. But now **all believers** can enter the Holy of Holies, the very presence of God, **at any time!** All this is now possible because of the superior Sacrifice of Christ and His present High Priestly ministry.

Notice that the "torn veil" (the heavy curtain of separation at the entrance to the Holy of Holies) is a "type" or a picture of the crucified body of Jesus Christ. "*Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh*"(v19).

That heavy curtain of separation in the Temple was torn from top to bottom at the time of our Lord's crucifixion and death, and thus the way was opened into the Holy of Holies. In the same way, our Lord's death opened the way for us to enter the Holiest Place – into the presence of God!

Let me tell you, if this "type" or illustration of the "torn veil" was not written in black-and-white Scripture, and I told you that the curtain in the Temple that was torn apart at Christ's death was a picture of the body of Christ, you would probably say that I was pushing Old Testament types way too far! But the author was an inspired writer of Scripture, and he told us this truth. Because of Christ's superior Sacrifice, the curtain of separation has been removed, and we can enter the Holiest Place!

Practical Application

Let us digest the "*let-us-es*" of Hebrews chapter 10

We're not talking here about salad! We're talking about the three "let-us-es" of a balanced Christian life, in verses 22-25: "**let us draw near**" (v22), "**let us hold fast**" (v23), and "**let us consider one another**" (v24). The Lord's return is approaching!

- "**Let us draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water" (v22).

The Old Testament priests were consecrated by a ritual: by a sprinkling with blood and the washing of water. In a similar fashion, we too have been consecrated by the work of Christ. We can now enter the very presence of God. Let us draw near to God in prayer, and meditation, and worship.

- "**Let us hold fast** the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promises is faithful" (v23). We can be sure that the Lord is faithful to us! Our responsibility is to be faithful to Him – to faithfully persevere in our confession and our walk, without wavering.
- "**Let us consider** one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some but exhorting one another" (v24-25). Don't be a Christian hermit! We all need other Christians! We all need other believers for fellowship, for encouragement, and for comfort. And we need other believers to exhort us when we should get more involved, or to show more Christian love.

All three of these "let-us-es" are necessary for a balanced Christian life. Are we doing them? If not, then we haven't digested the "let us-es" of Hebrews 10.