

Hebrews 10

1-4 Here again is the shadow and reality illustration. What is the reason the sacrifices could not make them perfect?

5 –7 Quoting Psalm 40:6-8 in the Septuagint/ notice the difference in our English version. Instead of ‘a body you prepared for me’ we find ‘but my ears you have pierced (or opened)’ If we use the Septuagint we see Christ body a replacement for the old sacrifices. If we use the NIV, which date back to older Hebrew manuscripts, we could look at it two ways. Piercing the ear was a sign of a bond slave. He served his Master out of love and not wages or duty. This could certainly apply to Jesus’ sacrificial obedience to the death of the cross. Or if you translate it opened, we have the picture behind the piercing, the ear belongs to the Master, to hear is to obey. Is your ear opened to hear His instruction, and your heart surrendered to obedience as the Lamb of God was to the Father?

8- 10 By what ‘will’ are we made holy? The will of the Father in sacrificing His own Son for our redemption. “Once for all”, a great phrase of finality.

11- 14 The writer contrasts the endless repetition of the old priesthood and the one time act of our Savior. Notice He is waiting for his enemies to be made his footstool. Verse 14 tells of the double state of the believer. Jesus sacrifice has made (past tense) perfect forever --- those who are being made (present tense) holy. In Christ we are made perfect forever in God’s sight, but here, in the refining fires of life, we are being made holy in our actions.

15 – 18 He is again quoting Jeremiah 31:33-34 The Law was on tablets of stone, but the prophecy says that one day it will be written on hearts of flesh. What an illustration of the difference between Law and Grace. The cold hard rules of the Law, were overridden by the Spirit putting the Law within our heart and mind. THEN – He will remember our sins no more. Though we are still in the process of being made holy, in the eyes of God the debt is paid and we are perfect in Christ.

19-22 Though this once caused men to faint in fear of judgment, we can now confidently march forward into God’s presence because we have the blood of Jesus- the ultimate perfect sacrifice, as we proceed through the curtain, His body, torn for us to enter. Do you see the parallel between the curtain and Jesus body? In the first century, Christianity was called “The Way”. The writer calls this way into the Holy of Holies the New and Living Way. Not the old dead way of the letter, but a new and living way, the person Jesus Christ, who said I am the Way. Now, since we have such a great high priest – go in! Your conscience should be clean because of His blood – your body ritualistically clean by the water of the word. Ephesians 5:26 Do you use this great privilege on a daily basis? **Let us draw near!**

23- 25 Hold unswervingly to could be translated “tie yourself to your faith.” Why? God is faithful. Soak up 1Corinthians 1:8,9. You can trust God! What are some ways you can spur others toward love and good deeds? What are we suppose to be doing when we get together? What Day is approaching?

Hebrews 10 (part 2)

26 – 27 Here again in Hebrews, we face this sticky issue of losing salvation. One could argue that ‘receiving the knowledge of the truth’ is merely hearing the message. But if we look at it in context it seems to be a warning that we need each other’s encouragement to keep us from turning back. Also note that according to verse 29 the wrath of God is on this one who was sanctified. We need a healthy fear of God’s wrath.

28 – 31 If you were seen worshipping other gods, the community was suppose accept the testimony of two witnesses and stone you. (Deuteronomy 17) I believe verse 29 describes blaspheming the Holy Spirit. Three terrible acts are committed in this description of one who loses salvation – 1. trampled the Son of God underfoot 2. treated the blood of the covenant that sanctified him as unholy 3. insulted the Spirit of grace. The writer is making a case for the justice of hell. Notice that the Lord will judge HIS people, Deuteronomy 32:35-36 Now is the need to stay in fellowship and encourage each other a little clearer?

32 - 34 Apparently this church was really on fire, especially when they were suffering under persecution. They were insulted, stood by others who were persecuted, and had their goods taken, but they knew where their real treasure was. It could not be touched. That treasure is called, “better” and “lasting”. Peter says the elements are going to melt with fervent heat. 2Peter 3:12 I heard of a young man so impressed by this that he bought red sticky circles and wrote on them, “To Be Burned” and stuck it on all his possessions. He now pastors the largest church in the USA.

35 – 36 We come to the end of his arguments to not return to Judaism. Verse 35 sums up his plea to them. If they keep their confidence in Christ and what he has done it will be RICHLY rewarded. But first, the need at hand is perseverance. James 1 says that comes through trials. First we must do the will of God, then we will receive the promise. This is the introduction of the next chapter of people who did persevere and did receive the promises.

37 – 39 This verse is quoted two other times by the Apostle Paul. It is from Habakkuk 2:3-4. It points to faith that is the life of the one God calls ‘righteous’. In other places, Paul uses this verse to show how it is by faith we are saved, but here, verse 4 is also quoted and goes with the rest of the chapter as a warning to those who would forsake faith. In the last verse he speaks faith about them and includes himself with them saying, “we are those who believe and are saved”! Are you ever tempted to shrink back? It sounds like a natural reaction. What happens to those who shrink back? What was taught last week that would help us keep from shrinking back?

The next chapter gives us illustrations of those who pleased God with their faith, helping us understand what real faith looks like. You may want to read the stories of these people in the Old Testament first.