

## CHRIST'S SUPERIOR SACRIFICE

**Introduction:** A contrast is shown between the deficiency of animal sacrifices and the efficiency of Christ's sacrifice.

**Lesson aim:** To esteem Christ's sacrifice as the most valuable gift that we can receive from God.

### I. ANIMAL SACRIFICES – 10:1-10

#### A. They were a shadow of the real sacrifice – 10:1.

A shadow is a dark resemblance of the real object. Animal sacrifices were limited in revealing the truth about the power of Christ's effective sacrifice that would produce eternal blessings. They were not the real sacrifice that could produce satisfactory results that would last forever.

#### B. They were repeated every year – 10:1.

This is referring to the Day of Atonement when the high priest would go into the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle with the blood of animals for himself and the for the people to atone for their sins. However, it did not make the people perfect, or else it would not have to be repeated year after year.

#### C. They were insufficient – 10:2.

If the animal sacrifices had been able to remove their sins, the people would no longer be conscious of their sins, that is, the guilt of their sins, and the sacrifice of animals would no longer be needed. But they continued to offer animal sacrifices in an effort to blot out the guilt of their sins.

#### D. They reminded the people of their sins – 10:3.

When the Day of Atonement was observed each year, the people were made fully aware of their sins and the guilt they carried. The sacrifices of animals could not make them perfect before God.

#### E. They could not remove sins – 10:4.

The blood of animals would cover the sins of sincere worshippers, but it would not remove their sins.

#### F. Christ came into the world to do God's will – 10:5-7.

Psalm 40:6-7 is quoted by Christ. He said, "God did not desire (more animal) sacrifices and (meal and drink) offerings." They were temporary in nature and were typical of Christ's sacrifice. So God prepared a body for Him. In Psalm 40 it says, "My ears have you opened." This is an idiom which the translators of the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) translated it as it is found in the epistle to the Hebrews. Then Christ said, "Lo, I come to do your will, O God."

#### G. These are the accomplishments of Christ when He did God's will – 10:8-10.

First, He removed the first covenant and established the second covenant by the sacrifice of Himself. Second, He sanctified all believers by offering His body as a one-time sacrifice for all sin. "Sanctified" is a participle in the perfect tense. His blood cleansed us from all sin and made us holy when we received His sacrifice for our sins. Our sanctification continues forever so we will always be perfect before God. Sanctification makes us holy in three ways. When we are saved, Christ makes us holy in God's sight. This is our positional sanctification; we are holy, called saints. During our Christian life we should progress in a holy walk. This is our performance sanctification; we become more like Christ. When we see Christ, we will be like Him. This is our permanent sanctification; we will be holy like Christ forever.

### II. CHRIST'S SACRIFICE – 10:11-18

#### A. Christ is compared to priests of the first covenant – 10:11-14.

The priests stand daily offering the same sacrifices which can never take away sins (10:11). After Christ offered one sacrifice for sins forever, He sat down at the right hand of God which perfected those that are sanctified (10:12, 14). Now Christ is waiting for His enemies to be made His footstool (10:13). This is when He will be made King on earth. No priest under the first covenant could become a king.

#### B. The Holy Spirit's witness to us about Christ's work – 10:15-17

Christ's sacrifice made it possible for God to put His laws in our hearts and write them on our minds. Sanctified believers will have an inward desire to love God and obey His laws. Also, God will no longer remember their sins and iniquities. He forgives those who turn from their sins and receive Christ's payment for them and forgets their sins forever.

#### C. Conclusion of offerings – 10:18

There is no need for sacrifices and offerings when sins are permanently forgiven.

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