

### *Hebrews 10:1-10*

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sin? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Ok, so this first part of the text presents a theme—a spiritual truth—that has been repeated many times. The Levitical system provided just a shadow, a picture, a big idiom of the *new covenant*, but it pointed forward to what would be and was not ever meant to be the way, the truth, or the life; that would only be found in Jesus Christ. And this is why keeping or practicing this system did not do

away with the issue of sin which separated man from God. According to this passage, it actually reminded everyone of the hard fast reality of this separation because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Now I do not want you to get so lost in the Old Testament references that you are unable to understand how this truth applies to you and to me in our own “religious” systems. Therefore, I am going to use some examples to help you make the connection since we don’t really connect to well with the use of the blood of animals to deal with our sin, although we have our own way of trying to make ourselves right with God which is just as ineffective and useless.

The examples I am going to use are what we consider to be “bad” things since that is where our “religious” systems tend to show up in the most prolific way. I want you to think about what happens after a person uses pornography, has pre-marital sex, binges, purges, uses drugs, gets 2 sheets to the wind drunk, has an angry or violent outburst, or whatever “horrible” sin in which they might engage. Think about what you do. Everyone handles things a bit different, but when it is all said and done the routines are pretty similar.

First there is this overwhelming sense of guilt which invades the soul and pushes its way up to the mind. You know what you have done, you know it is “bad,” you know you have violated God’s law, and you feel this separation; which you hate. For a child of God, that separation is one of the worse feelings; it tears at your chest and you can literally feel the conflict.

Some try and ignore this sense of guilt and separation by getting really busy and trying to push it down and push it down, but it is usually so loud they cannot totally ignore it. There are those who learn to live with it; but most people start

this extended period of time where they try and make amends. Sometimes it is in sorrowful prayer, sometimes it is in self loathing and intense ruminations over their failure and disappointment. And there are some who are afraid to come to God believing that He is disappointed in them, mad at them, and is ready to thump them hard (especially if they have been doing the same “big” sin over and over again).

So when they do come to God their prayers are filled with all these apologies, pleadings, promises, and commitments to do it better next time, as well as a desperate hope that God will not bring down the judgment and discipline that they know is well deserved. They beg God to be merciful and not punish them. And it’s not so much that they even have an inkling of an understanding about the “fear of the Lord,” they just have a fear of His hand of judgment.

For a while they may be looking over their shoulder waiting for the hammer to fall and they kind of avoid God out of shame and deep ridden guilt; but over time those feelings fade. And when nothing “bad” happens they start feeling like they definitely missed the bullet this time—whew! Then once again they start slowly feeling like they can come to God and engage with Him.

Now if they are really religious, they start looking for a solution to their “problem” of sin and they start finding ways they can be more disciplined, or get a greater level of accountability into their life and they strive for control over what has been an out of control monster.

But time after time it is the same; it is this whole ritual that they do every time they “sin” in the same way that the priests presented offerings for sin year upon year. And by the time they are done with their “religious” ritual, they feel that

they have made the appropriate sacrifices, paid the respectable penance, have beat themselves up enough, and therefore have become once again acceptable to God. How many of you can relate to this type of spiritual sacrifice?

First of all, I want you to know that this whole process is very dark and is actually more twisted and perverted than the pornography, the pre-marital sex, the overeating, the purging, the violence, getting drunk, or any of the other “bad” things. In fact, this process, although it comes across so religious, spiritual, necessary, and appropriate, is based on a lie and is actually a huge ploy of the enemy to keep you from living in the truth about what Christ has done for you.

In the same way that it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins there is nothing you can do, no ceremony you can perform, no amount of penance that you can pay, that will do anything to make you more or less right with God when it comes to the issue of sin.

In fact, your own system of “religious” cleansing just reminds you over and over that you have sinned. For instance, as you dwell on your “mistake,” you relive the sin in your mind and it turns over and over in your conscience. There is no cleansing. It is exactly like the Levitical system, year after year, over and over again, they were reminded of their sin and separation from God and that is all that your own “religious” ritual does for you.

The point of **10:10** is that by the will of the Father we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. In the Greek it reads: “in which will, sanctified we are through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once.” The word “sanctified” is in the perfect passive tense meaning that God did it to us (it was nothing that we did) and it was done in the past and its effects

continue into every moment of our existence. The verb “we are” is in the present active tense which means that right now in every moment of your life you are sanctified. ***In other words, you have been sanctified and you are sanctified!***

With this being your truth, then you have to understand that all this “religious” activity where you attempt to purge your conscience is entirely worthless when it comes to you and God. It may be cathartic to your emotional and psychological well being to punish yourself, but with regard to God and your position with Him it is a non-event. ***You have been sanctified and you are sanctified.*** This means that instead of going through some ridiculous system of sacrifice and cleansing, you can just move forward in the truth of who you are in God and what He has done for you.

Remember **8:12** told us that with regard to the ***new covenant*** He said: “And I will forgive their wrongdoings, and I will never again remember their sins.” If you have been forgiven, if your sins have been removed, if God does not remember them, then what is there to feel remorse over? And in **9:15**, “a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the *first covenant.*” Again, what is there to feel all messed up about if you have been redeemed from every violation of the Law. We have to start letting the Word of God truly be authoritative over our lives and not just suggestive.

I know this truth is hard to process and grasp in your brain since you have been trained ever since you were a little kid to be ruled by guilt and shame. But that is so wrong. Yes, guilt and shame are appropriate when you have not been sanctified, but if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior resulting

in your having been sanctified, it is like going and drinking from a polluted putrid well, which probably is one of the stupidest things you can do.

Let me explain. I said previously that this whole “religious” process that people go through (all their personal rituals of cleansing) is very dark and is actually more twisted and perverted than the act of sin which they did in the first place. That is because people actually believe that this process of penance is somehow godly, righteous and is the pathway for restoration with God. But it is not; it is a dark, dark, dark perversion of the truth.

***Matthew 6:23***

And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, ***how deep that darkness is!***

Consider how dark and twisted we are if we think that our system of “religious” restoration is even remotely acceptable to God or even remotely efficacious to our lives. The “religious” deception here is great and this deception has been a powerful tool in the hands of the enemy; it is a lie wrapped in all the draping of “good religion.” *If you are sanctified, then there is no sacrifice and there is no system that can ever improve on your condition.* According to **9:23**, we were purified by with far better sacrifices. The offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all is the only offering that was needed.

Besides, how arrogant and rebellious can we be to think that if we plead enough, if we feel bad enough, and have enough remorse, that we can work our

way back to God? That kind of “religious” system assumes that we have something to do with our being sanctified; that we can somehow make things better. But we don’t and we can’t. It was the offering of the body of Jesus Christ that made us sanctified and when we put ourselves and what we can do in front of the cross, or better said as a substitution for or as an addition to the cross, we do not believe that only God is good. We somehow believe that we can be like God. But we have been lied to and we have fallen captive to a powerful trap of the enemy.

As I said before, our little rituals of religious cleansing and sacrifice are dark because in following them we listen to and follow the voice of the enemy and not the Word of God. The enemy loves for us to believe that we have to do something—anything—other than believe in our great salvation and choose to live out our salvation by faith.

At least with the “bad” sins we can all be honest and admit that those things are wrong; but we have been deceived by our “religious” rituals of penance to call what is horrifically wrong something that is good and even necessary. In fact the whole notion is unbiblical and blasphemous. Remember, only God is good. This means that everything about you, everything that does not derive directly from God in your ***New Creation***, is sin (including all your acts of religious goodness). And those “bad” behaviors they are just the fruit of this truth. ***If the light that you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!***

Do you understand? The cross is enough. If you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior you have forgiveness of sins (all that ever were and all that ever will be). You are forgiven because of the shedding of Jesus’ perfect blood. So

stop acting as if you have to do something to earn that forgiveness. According to **9:26** He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away or literally cancel out and annul sin by the sacrifice of himself. He did it; you don't need to do anything but let that ***be your truth*** in order that ***you might live*** in that truth.

So if you are going to activate your belief into faith, you must bet your life on the fact that you have been sanctified and you are presently and actively sanctified by the offering of the body of Jesus Christ. Thus, if you sin, if you do something "bad," you can stop right where you are and just move forward in the Spirit setting your eyes, your heart, and your ears on Jesus Christ. There needs to be no time lag or delay in order for you to perform your sacrifices (they will not take away your sin), there needs to be no period of guilt and mourning, there just needs to be your belief that you are sanctified and that He wants you to turn to Him and live like a child of God.

Do you remember in the gospel of John what He told the woman who was caught in adultery: "I do not condemn you...go and from now on sin no more" (**John 8:11**). That is it; that is how He deals with us and how He wants us to deal with our sin. He wants us to go and from now on sin no more.

He also wants us to understand that our sins which we have wrapped in the appearance of light are even darker than the so called "bad" sins; but even then He wants us to simply go and from now on sin no more. Nothing else is required but to live in the truth of what Jesus has done for you. So dismantle your system of religious penance, stop living in guilt and shame, instead consider what Jesus did for you on the cross and choose to live like a son of God who is sanctified; a son of God who is forgiven.



Besides, as the Spirit tells us, if we walk in the Spirit we will not carry out the deeds of the flesh (***Galatians 5:16***)—will not; thus, guilt, duty, penance, punishment, discipline, accountability, and so on is not the Biblical method of dealing with sin. Trusting yourself to Jesus in the deepest areas of your heart is the solution.

How is that for a load that is light and a burden that is easy? See what a great salvation we have been given. It's time we let the Word of God be the authority over how we live. We are the privileged ones; we need to live like it; which is what the remainder of this passage is about. The Spirit will use the example of how Jesus lived on the earth to establish for us the pattern we are to follow.

I have always loved this next passage. When Christ came into the world He said: "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure." This is a quote from ***Psalms 40:6-8***.

First of all, let me eliminate some confusion that might be caused by the translation since it's likely that you are thinking that God did desire "sacrifices and offerings" since He commanded the Jews to offer them up. But the Greek literally says, sacrifices and offerings you have not determined or willed; and we are to understand it in the context of the text in terms of how God planned to deal with sin. "Sacrifices and offerings" would not be the way that the Father would deal with the separation between man and God and the issue of sin. They were just shadows, just types to point to our need for a Savior and to indicate the fact that the Messiah would be the one man who would deal with the issue of sin once and for all.

Thus, in burnt offerings and sin offerings God has taken “no pleasure” or delight. We are to understand to mean that He has not “approved” or authorized burnt offerings and sin offerings as a way for man to be “right” with a holy God. They served a purpose for sure, but they did nothing to cleanse the conscience and they did not result in the sanctification of anyone (**9:9-10**); hence He took no pleasure in them. God wanted a body and He prepared a body for the Son; it is the body of His Son that gave Him delight or pleasure.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (**John 1:14**). Literally, God the Father made God the Son a human. It was only in the incarnation that the prophecy of **Genesis 3:15** could be fulfilled where it said that the seed of a woman would bruise the head of the serpent. Literally, to be understood that it would be a man that would defeat Satan—it would be the Messiah.

Keep in mind that the incarnation was no trivial matter. **Philippians 2:6-7** says: “Although He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.” He did the unthinkable, the unimaginable, just so He could be like you and me and become our faithful High Priest and be for us the source of eternal salvation (**5:9**).

This translation, “a body you have prepared,” is not a direct translation from the Hebrew. When it was translated into Greek it seems they captured the meaning of the Hebrew, as it was commonly understood, as opposed to the literal words. The Hebrew literally says: “my ears you have opened,” which is a reference to a well known custom mentioned in the Old Testament:

***Exodus 21:2-6***

If you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve for six years; but on the seventh he shall go out as a free man without payment. "If he comes alone, he shall go out alone; if he is the husband of a wife, then his wife shall go out with him. "If his master gives him a wife, and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall belong to her master, and he shall go out alone. "But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,' then his master shall bring him to God, then he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently.

This is where in the New Testament we get our concept of “bondservant.” The point of this passage, the main thrust of this argument, is that when Jesus came to the world, He declared that He was the Father’s bondservant and in His body He would serve the Father permanently. He would not seek His own will. He would not make His plans for the day and then expect the Father to bless them. He would not make a strategy for accomplishing His ministry but hold it with an open hand just in case the Spirit wanted to move things around. No Jesus would be His Father’s bondservant and do only what His Father told Him to do, say only what His Father told Him to say, and go only where His Father told Him to go. We see this to be 100% true in how He lived.

**Jesus only did what His Father told Him to do:**

### ***John 5:19-20***

"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

### ***John 5:36***

"But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for ***the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish*** — the very works that I do — testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.

### ***John 10:37-38***

"If I do not do ***the works of My Father***, do not believe Me; but ***if I do them***, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

### ***John 17:1, 4***

Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father,..."I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work ***which You have given Me to do***.

**Jesus only said what the Father told Him to say**

### ***John 12:49-50***

"For I did not speak on My own initiative, ***but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.***" I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, ***I speak just as the Father has told Me.***

### ***John 14:10***

The words that I say to you ***I do not speak on My own initiative***, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

### ***John 17:6-9***

"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; ***... for the words which You gave Me I have given to them***; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

### **Jesus only went where the Father told Him to go**

### ***Luke 19:1-2, 5***

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus...When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I **must** stay at your house."

We also see this truth in the story of the woman at the well. In John **4:4** we are told that Jesus “had” to go to Samaria which meant that He was literally bound by the Father (as in His hands were tied) to go to Samaria as the Father had a very important appointment for Him with the Samaritan woman.

Then again in **John 5:1-17** we see that Jesus walked into Jerusalem stopping at the pool of Bethesda where there was a wide open door for ministry. In this place there was a collection of some of the sickest people in the city. Jesus had the power to heal and the people were all gathered hoping for a miracle of some sort looking to God for healing. But Jesus walked into this place probably stepping over many of the people whose bodies were too crippled to move and He made His way to just one man. He healed this man and then left and He did not heal any other person in that place. He was sent there by His Father for just this one man and then He left. It is really kind of a shocking story from that regard.

Another one of my favorite stories is when Jesus picked the disciples in **Luke 6:12-13**. Jesus left the crowd and went off to the mountain to pray and be alone with God. He spent the whole night praying and when He returned He chose the 12 apostles whom the Father selected for Him. Can you imagine, even Jesus had to pray, even Jesus had to wait until the Father disclosed to Him His will; and in this instance He had to wait all night.

The point is that Jesus did nothing on His own—nothing! He was not a free wheeler. His was a life of total submission to the Father.

### *John 6:38*

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

### *John 4:34*

"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

### *John 5:30*

"I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Jesus was His Father's bondservant and He came to do the Father's will, just as it is written of Him in the scroll of the book. Since this is a quotation from David in the Psalms, the only written text that they had at that time would have been from Genesis to Deuteronomy. Thus, the books of Moses are all about Christ.

We discovered a little bit about that last week as we studied how the tabernacle and the implements used in worship were all symbols of the **new covenant** and our life in Christ. We also found that in Chapters **3** and **4** the whole wilderness journey and the Promised Land are all symbolic of the life of a believer. It's amazing; the books of Moses were all about Jesus and how Jesus would fulfill the Father's will in and through our lives. So next time you read Genesis through Deuteronomy, instead of thinking that it is so boring, ask the

Spirit to show you all the ways it reveals Christ; for the scroll was written about Him.

### ***Hebrews 10:8-10***

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), "then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Jesus came to do the Father's will; specifically that He would be the living sacrifice offered up for our sins.

### ***Philippians 2:8-9***

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

And in His obedience He abolished the first system—the *old covenant* has become obsolete (**8:13**) and therefore is no longer needed. That means you must stop performing your religious duties and rituals as an attempt to find favor with God. You are always accepted ***as you have been sanctified and are sanctified.***

As I said a couple of weeks ago when we studied chapter **8**, this phrase that the He abolished the first system is a bit of a poke in the eye to all those who believe



that in the end times God will re-establish the Levitical sacrificial system with a 3<sup>rd</sup> temple. The word translated “abolishes” (“*anaireo*”) is in the present active tense (meaning that from God’s perspective at the time of the writing of this letter the system had been abolished (which makes sense since the Cross killed it)).

In addition, the word “*anaireo*” is used 24 times in the New Testament and with one exception where it is translated “take up” and this instance where it is translated “abolished” it is translated the other 22 times as to kill, to slay, to consume. So if God killed the *first* system, how likely is it going to be that He will reestablish it? Not likely.

There is another point that I want to extrapolate from this passage and that is that the Father still wants a body—our body; and He wants our ears to be opened. He wants us to have the same attitude that Christ had (***Philippians 2:5***) and not cling to our own life or our own position in this world. He wants us to humble ourselves before Him (declaring that He alone is God) and be obedient to His will.

He wants us to live like Jesus lived where our food is to do the will of the Father; where we do nothing from our own initiative—nothing. How many of us move out in this life in our own directions, our own plans, and never consider that the God we serve is interested in the details of our lives. Consider ***Psalms 37:23***: “The steps of the godly are directed by the Lord. He delights in his way” or “He delights in every detail of their lives.”

Most of us do not believe that God is either interested in our daily routine or that He will speak to us about them. But obviously that is not true. Jesus did not just walk around doing what He wanted; everything He did was by appointment.

For 30-years He had developed such a close relationship with the Father that during His 3-years of ministry, the Father not only revealed His will but Jesus understood it. That is what the Father desires for you and me.

Most of us get way too tripped up about what God is going to do with us; but what He is most concerned with is that you and I get to know Him as a person. He wants us to know Him so well that we are able to actually hear and understand His voice and thereby discern His will; even if that will (like Jesus) is doing *nothing* for 30-years but learning how to be in relationship with the Father.

And don't forget what we studied in ***Ephesians 5:17-20*** (and if you forgot you should go back and listen). When you let the Holy Spirit fill and control you, when you open the doors in the corridor of your soul where for many reasons (most of them painful) you trust yourself and not Jesus and you decide to give Jesus control, then you will know the will of God. For as He fills you more and more, as you know Him, His Spirit will disclose these things to you.

***John 16:13-15***

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

So let the Spirit fill you, let the Lord have your body, let Him open your ears, so that the life of Christ may be made manifest in and through you and like Jesus you will be His bondservant and live to do the will of God and serve Him permanently. When the Father' will is your heart's desire, you will know that you know Him.

Let's Pray