

Before we pick up in **10:11**, I want to wrap back around to a couple of the things we talked about last week. In the first half of the teaching we discovered that the Greek rendering of **10:10** (“in which will, **sanctified we are** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once”) makes the point that **you have been sanctified and you are sanctified!**

With this being our truth, we focused on our need to eliminate all the religious rituals of penance in which we engage whenever we have done what we consider to be a “bad” enough sin. These are rituals driven by shame, guilt, and fear and are part of our way of trying to redeem ourselves or make ourselves once again right with God. However, since **you have been sanctified and you are sanctified**, they have no place in your life! In the same way that it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins, so too your acts of sacrifice and penance are completely worthless.

With that said, I want to clarify something. I did not say that you should not feel bad and all torn up inside or that you should attempt to control those feelings when they arise. Those feelings are a natural consequence of the tearing that happens in your soul when you choose to follow your flesh instead of the Spirit.

It is just that those feelings are not to be the drive or the impetus for those rituals where you try to restore yourself to God through some system of religious penance. Rather, those feelings are to wake you up from your darkness so you can immediately humble yourself before the Lord and choose to move forward in Him as one who has been sanctified and one who is sanctified. James says it this way.

James 4:8-10

Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

The point is that your *feelings* should lead you to humble yourself before the Lord. After all, you are accepted in Jesus and you are able to go behind the veil into the true holy of holies any time you want. It's not a matter of getting "right" or "clean" before the Lord, it's a matter of knowing that you are right and clean (regardless of what you have done), pushing through the feelings, and choosing to live in the truth of what Jesus has done for you.

Besides, humbling yourself before the Lord is the admission that there is nothing you can do, no penance you can pay, and no ritual you can perform to make yourself right with God. Humbling yourself before the Lord is the admission that the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all is all that you need—yesterday, today, and forever. Humbling yourself before the Lord is **choosing** to let this be your truth such that you live in this truth even when you totally blow it.

With that said, let's pick up from where we left off last week

Hebrews 10:11-14

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

This is such an interesting passage. This first part repeats what has already been said; but instead of rolling your eyes, yawning, or tuning out, try to understand that it must be pretty important if the Holy Spirit has repeated it once again. Remember, all your religious rituals and systems of personal penance and sacrifice are as useless as the Levitical system when it comes to cleansing you from sin. If it was up to you to be responsible for your cleansing, your work would never be finished. But Christ made a single sacrifice of His body and as a result ***you have been sanctified and you are sanctified (10:10)!***

The fact that He is sitting down at the right hand of God proves that you are forgiven. It proves that there is nothing that you can do to altar what He has done for you. It proves that there is nothing that you need to do (other than believe) in order to get things right with God. Sure you sin, but He obviously does not seem to be all that worried about it; after all you don't see Him pacing back and forth, biting His nails, white knuckling it, wondering if you are going to sin or not sin. Why should He? His work is done and ***you have been sanctified and you are sanctified***—so He waits.

Every time you are struggling with the myriad of ways you have blown it, you must keep this picture in mind: Jesus sitting down next to His Father just waiting

until the time that the Father lets Him gather us unto Himself (**9:28**). And when He gathers us, it will not be to deal with our sins but to bring salvation (**9:26-28**).

Keep this picture clear in your head. You are ok, He loves you, He has cleansed you and forgiven you, He has made you holy and acceptable to the Father; which is why He can just sit and wait. So cease from your striving, cease from your religious rituals and, like Jesus before His Father, enter into His rest (**4:10**).

Have you ever thought about the fact that Jesus does not know the day or the hour of His return but He sits and waits for the Father to release Him into action? In referencing His return Jesus said:

Matthew 24:36

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

Jesus does not know when He can come and gather us together to Him or when He will be coming back to rule and reign on this earth. He only knows that He was given a promise; and so He waits. And since we have been made in His image, I am sure that like us He is longing for the Father to fulfill this promise. After all, I know He wants us to be with Him; we are His prize.

But He is waiting patiently for the Father to bring it all about in His perfect timing. He is waiting for the day when the Father will make His enemies a footstool for His feet; in other words, the time when they will all be practically and physically submitted to Jesus.

In **2:14-17** we were told that Jesus shared with us in flesh and blood and that it was necessary for Jesus to be, in every respect, like us so He could be merciful to us in our difficulties. See, even now, even though He is in heaven, His experiences are not unlike those you and I must endure; He can still relate to us.

How many of you have been given a promise and you feel like you have been waiting forever for God to come through with it and right now you see no way possible for it to happen absent a bloody miracle? That is me! That is exactly how I feel. He told me a long while back that “soon” the storm He placed over my life would come to a completion. Soon?

I know that the Father always does what He says, for it is impossible for Him to lie, it’s just that His idea of “soon” is quite a bit different than mine; which has been a source of ongoing pain in my life. However, since Jesus also waits, I know He is able to help me (if I let Him) when I am tempted to focus inward and waste time lamenting my life. So I take comfort in knowing that this is an experience and an emotion that we share; and I know He understands my pain.

Let’s consider that “time when Jesus’ enemies will be made a footstool for His feet” (which is a quote from **Psalm 110:1**). This is talking about the wrapping up of all the events that will lead to Jesus’ Second Coming. You can read about this in the book of **Revelation**. There is “soon” coming a time of judgment on this earth (cleansing if you will), unlike any time before it or after it, when God will demonstrate to all of creation that He alone is God. And after this time of cleansing; Jesus will physically return to the earth and for 1,000 years He will reign over all of humanity; until all authorities are submitted to His rule. We call this the Millennium. Paul speaks about it in his 1st letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 15:21-28

So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. For the Scriptures say, "God has put all things under his authority." (Of course, when it says "all things are under his authority," that does not include God himself, who gave Christ his authority.) Then, when all things are under his authority, the Son will put himself under God's authority, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere.

You see Jesus' rule over all things is part of our great hope and security. What a peace there will be when every single enemy is physically and practically subjected to the authority of Christ—I love the great ending to our story! Too many of us think that what we are going through now is our story; not even close. There is so much more to come and the rest of the story is nothing short of epic and glorious. I can't wait; but I guess I have to.

Now finishing our thoughts on this notion of waiting, Jesus has been waiting for close to 2,000 years for the Father to fulfill His promise. So please keep that in mind when you start to whine and cry about your own dreadful time of waiting. With Jesus it is always the same; no matter how bad you have it, your experiences never match anything close to what He has endured. It kind of pops the bubble on our self-centered perspective of life doesn't it?

Hebrews 10:14-18

For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Here we go again. The Spirit knows that we have thick skulls and so He repeats this truth once again. Jesus has perfected us for all time. The word perfected ("teleioo"), which means to complete, to accomplish, and to consummate is from the same root of the word "tetelesai," which means it is finished. "It is finished" were the final words that Jesus uttered on the cross before He gave up His spirit and died indicating that He had finished dealing with the issue of sin.

"Perfected" is also in the perfect active indicative. The *perfect* means that He previously accomplished it (on the cross). The *active* means that it is still applicable to our now (in every moment of our now), and since it is in the

indicative, the action is stated as certain or realized—it's a done deal. Then the Spirit adds "for all time" or "forever." This is just to make sure that those of us who are not up on our Greek tenses can still understand in no uncertain terms what He means. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, ***you have been perfected and you are perfected*** in the same way that ***you have been sanctified and you are sanctified***.

Wow, these are powerful truths. Are they starting to sink into your body yet? Have they started to penetrate your soul? They need to. There is great freedom, peace, comfort and rest when you truly own these unbelievable truths; besides, they define who you are in Christ Jesus.

For by a single offering He has perfected forever you and me who are being sanctified. The Greek literally says: "are sanctified" but the word is in the present passive tense which is why they have rendered it as "being sanctified." In other words, God is the one who is actively sanctifying us every moment of our lives.

I know this might be a bit confusing since I just got through explaining that we have been sanctified and are sanctified. So how are we being sanctified?

We have to go back to a few familiar charts which are my attempt to depict the internal spiritual structure of a believer. Before we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are comprised of our *Old Sinful Nature* which directs the thoughts and intentions of our mind/soul which in turn directs the behaviors of our body. But when we accept Christ He gives us a ***new nature***—His nature. Paul calls this the ***New Creation (Galatians 6:15; 2 Corinthians 5:17)***.

The ***New Creation*** is righteous, holy, and true (***Ephesians 4:24***) and is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit; it is the Holy of Holies. As such, God can look at

us and say that we are sanctified and have been sanctified and that He remembers our sins no more because our **New Creation** is going to follow us through eternity whereas our *Old Sinful Nature* will die with this body.

Now the problem is that we don't always believe this to be true. We still, far too often, choose to listen to the counsel of our *Old Sinful Nature* and not the Spirit in our **New Creation**, which is why we still struggle with sin. So the Lord is busy at work convincing us of the truths that pertain to our great salvation. He is cleansing and renewing our minds so that in our practical, physical, and spiritual reality we agree 100% with His reality.

You see, the problem is that our mind/soul has been conditioned for far too long to believe what we think is true based on the physical realities and practicalities of this world and the lustful and evil desires of our *Old Sinful Nature*. But God wants to renew our mind/soul so that moment by moment we are fully convinced both about how big, massive and amazing Jesus is and who we are in Christ Jesus. For if we come to believe that what He says is true, we should then start to activate that belief and live as if it is true.

And that is why Jesus is so busy in your life bringing you through all sorts of difficulties. Too often you think your troubles are just a form of needless torture or mistreatment, but in reality God is teaching you to disconnect from this world, disconnect from your flesh, and trust in Him so you can live as a spiritual man or woman who has been sent into this world by the Father to fulfill the Father's will and not your own. Our Father wants us to literally follow His desires for our life and not our own; regardless of what our desires are or how "normal" they may be

to others who live in this world. Remember, we are no more a part of this world than Jesus is a part of this world (**John 17:14**). Let's look quickly at Romans.

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

The words “conformed” and “transformed” are both in the present passive tense. This means that **if** you present yourself to your *Old Sinful Nature* (whose values have been defined by the world and by Satan), you will be conformed or molded into its image; it will happen to you and you will not be able to stop it. Your mind/soul will only know as its truth the falsities of this world.

However, **if** you present yourself to your **New Creation**, seeking God's wisdom for your life, God will transform you into His image so that your mind/soul will know as its truth the truth of who Jesus is and who you are in Him. The result being that your mind will be renewed and your life will prove out the will of God—that which is good, acceptable and perfect.

So getting back to **10:14**, you have been perfected is a reference to your **New Creation** which is perfect and is the permanent dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Yet, God is also sanctifying your mind/soul. He is transforming you into His image so that every part of you reflects His nature in you. He is renewing your mind by replacing the world's truths with His truths. And He does this by using life

circumstances to teach you ***why you can trust yourself to Him and how to trust yourself to Him***. That is what all those confusing, difficult, and annoying circumstances in your life are all about; it is Jesus giving you opportunities to believe in Him, trust in Him, and let Him be your God. It is Jesus giving you opportunities to let Him prove Himself to you.

I love the fact that the Holy Spirit bears witness to the truth that in God's eyes we are perfect. Let's look at ***10:15-18***

Hebrews 10:15-18

And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

He says: "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." The verb "remember" is in the indicative tense which, as we said before, means that this statement is to be understood as a certain and realized fact. God does not remember our sins or lawless deeds. How can He if He threw them as far as the East is from the West (***Psalm 103:12***)?

What a blessing; not only does He not remember our sins (which that idea alone should completely blow your minds), but as He said, He puts His law on our

hearts and writes them on our minds. This is another way of expressing the fact that He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified (**10:14**).

Let me explain how **10:16** is a restatement of **10:14**. First, “He has perfected” us. In **Romans 8:4**, the Spirit explained that Jesus fulfilled the Law in us which is another way of speaking about the perfection that He has imparted to us in our **New Creation**. He has put the Law in us; therefore, we stand clean and exist in complete compliance with His perfect Law. This is portrayed in **9:4** with the description of the Ark of the Covenant which was covered with gold on all sides and inside was the tablets of the Covenant with the Ten Commandments written on them. In the same way, the Law of God has been fulfilled in us.

Second, we are being sanctified. Jesus writes His law on our mind/soul, which is this process of renewing our mind so that His truths become our truths. It is intentional that the passage does not say that He puts His law on our mind; rather that He writes them on our minds. In other words, unlike the Law which has been placed in our hearts, this is a process, a re-write, or re-programming of our brain to know the truth and choose the truth; and it takes **rain** and **time** for it to be completed in us.

After all, many of us know these truths, but we have not personalized them, we have not internalized them, we have not let them be our truths. But God is always actively involved in our lives so that we will learn to let these truths have a voice of authority in our lives—a voice which is louder than our own voice, the voice of the world, or the voice of the devil. And the Lord will continue to renew our minds until we practically and physically live out the will of God for our lives—the will that is good, acceptable and perfect.

This statement in **10:18**: “Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin” is a set up to another very difficult passage in **10:26-31** which we will get to next week. So hold on to and don’t forget this truth: since we are forgiven for all time by the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, all other offerings and sacrifices for sins have been abolished. Thus, going back to the Levitical system (or our own religious system) is futile, meaningless, and entirely pointless. It will do nothing for you no matter how sincere you are in offering your sacrifices. But again, we will get to that in detail next week.

Hebrews 10:19-23

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

A little note, “brothers” is once again emphasized as it is in the Vocative. So far throughout this letter, anytime the Spirit uses the phrase “brothers” He emphasizes it. I do not think this is random. I believe it is so that we can know He is talking not just about Jews in general but, specifically in this context, believing Jews—true brethren.

What I want to communicate about this next phrase is that for all its poetic words please do not miss that it is a powerful restatement of our critical truths; truths which the Spirit wants to be permanently embedded into our souls. The only verbs in these few verses are “have confidence,” “draw near,” and “hold fast,” which are all in the *present* tense. We are to always “have confidence” that we can come before the presence of our Father any time we want through Jesus Christ; therefore, we are to always “draw near.”

After all, we have been sprinkled clean and our bodies have been washed by Jesus Himself. It is through His greatness and through His blood that we have our certain and guaranteed access to the Lord God Himself. Tying this all back to the issue of sin, do you understand that if you have confidence in these truths then you will not need any of those little religious rituals of penance to try and get yourself “right” with God after you sin? As I said before, they are unnecessary, useless, and completely ineffective. We are to always draw near.

“Have confidence” and “draw near”—these words speak to me in a very personal and intimate way. Jesus wants me to know what He did, to know who He is, and because of my confidence in His character and nature, be willing to draw near to His Dad. It is a beautiful plea for relationship.

It’s a bit like Andrea and Jessica’s relationship with Sarah. They know her so well and have such confidence in her character that anytime that they need her they just call her, or else they come barging through her door. Either way, they know that she loves them and that they are accepted with her. So they come.

Jesus wants us to come. He wants us to know that if we draw near to God He will draw near to us; He promises it (***James 4:8; Malachi 3:7; Zechariah 1:3; 2***

Chronicles 15:2). The Father wants us to know and experience Jesus and Jesus wants us to know and experience His Father and it is all always available for us. We just need to have confidence and draw near.

Every promise that is given to us in the Bible is realized in relationship. That is why this letter has focused our attention so much on how big, great, amazing, and better Jesus is than anything else out there. The Spirit wants us to have confidence in the character and nature of Jesus Christ—to know Him for real—as a person—and then to always draw near. The Spirit wants us to know that we are safe and secure with Jesus and to know that He is always for us (regardless of what we might think or feel about our circumstances).

Why do you think we are exhorted to hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering? Well, most likely it is because we will be tempted to freak-out in our moments of struggle and not hold on; in fact, that is usually our first reaction. But the Spirit wants us to grow into maturity and be so convinced of who we are in Jesus and in the depth and nature of His character that we are immovable and never waiver in our faith. He wants our first reaction in difficulty to be to stand on what we know is true—the confession of our hope; that Jesus is our I Am. Jesus is God, we are not God, He is madly in love with us, and we belong to Him; what a great confession. It's all about knowing Him and trusting Him!

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

This passage brings us back around to our needing each other. Remember, I said that all the promises of God are fulfilled in relationship: well it is first experienced between you and God and then between you and your brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are to not to neglect meeting together (as some do) for it is impossible to know someone well enough to encourage them in the Lord if you are not spending time with them in relationship. I know we all love Sunday and Thursday nights at prayer as it gives us the opportunity to stop all of our running around and be together; however, our time of collective gathering is to be the cherry and the whip cream on top of all the other deliciousness that we experience throughout the week. That is why so many of us meet and spend time together. It is the only way that we can really know each other and know what is going on in each other's lives.

I am sure that some of you who have been reluctant to engage, and who may be a bit timid, think that all the time we spend together is a little too much and quite possibly weird. But when you consider what this passage is demanding of us, you will understand that it is more than necessary and it is to be the natural way for a gathering of believers.

The word translated "consider" ("katanoeo") means that we must observe carefully, fully perceive, and discover. It is a very living and active term. If you do not get together with others as a normal part of your life, how will you ever be able to carefully consider how to stir them up? In addition, if you do meet with others, this word assumes that you are not so hyper-focused on yourself that you

are not able to discern what is going on with others. You have to discover; you have to search things out. You have to ask questions and really care about the answers.

The main thrust of this verse is that you should know each other so well that if someone walks in here and is not at peace you are able pick up on it instantly. And more than that, if you are in that kind of a deep and intimate relationship, you will have the place in their lives to speak to them about what is going on and why they may be struggling. You will have an open door to care for them because you will have proved yourself trustworthy and you will have proved yourself faithful by having previously spent the time getting to know them. After all, few things are more annoying than someone who comes and tries to instruct you or “encourage” you when they don’t know anything about you and have never taken the time to get to know you.

Moreover, because you have “considered” them, you will know what they need from you; you will know how to love them. That is when relationships get **good**, **the best**, and cross over into the supernatural. That is when relationships endure and remain thick and consistent throughout your life.

I also want you to note that our relationships are to be intentionally centered on trusting Jesus Christ; and this is what separates our relationships from those in the world. You see we are to stir up one another to love and good works—and that refers to God’s agape love and all that flows from His love (all that is good).

Remember, God’s agape love comes with Him and only with Him—it is part and parcel of His character and nature. In addition, “good” works of agape love is the fruit that results from abiding in Christ.

This clearly means that we must be actively encouraging one another to trust Jesus in the innermost parts of our soul and to cling to Him for everything; and if you have actively “considered” your friend, you will most likely know the places where they do not yet consistently trust themselves to Jesus.

You see, it is our job to help our brothers and sisters know **why** they can trust Jesus and know **how** to trust Jesus, however, we can only do this if we are in relationship with them—which means time. There is no way around it. Please don’t be afraid of it; embrace it. Believe me, over time you will love knowing how to love, you will love being loved, and you will love the time that you spend with your good, safe and trustworthy friends.

And we are to do this, and so much more, as we see the day drawing near. Being in relationship and encouraging each other to trust Jesus is just the beginning; eventually we will be doing so much more. I don’t know what “so much more” is referring to; but I like the sound of it.

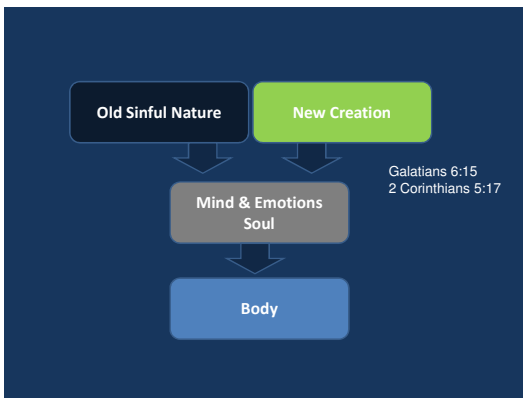
By the way, the “day” is a reference back to the time when Jesus’ enemies will be made a footstool for His feet. The practical truth is that His return is closer every day so let’s get our eyes off of ourselves and let’s truly consider one another. It’s the pathway to God’s agape love (**Galatians 5:6**) evidenced by the fact that we have been transformed into a **New Creation (Galatians 6:15)**.

Let’s Pray

Before we accept Jesus:



When we accept Jesus:



The New Creation:

New Creation

- Righteous, Holy, and true – *Ephesians 4:24*
- Dwelling place of the Holy Spirit
- The Holy of Holies

Listening to the voice of our Old Sinful Nature:



A renewed mind that listens to the voice of the Holy Spirit:

