

10:1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.

10:3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

10:5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.

10:7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come - In the volume of the book it is written of Me - To do Your will, O God.' "

10:8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law),

10:9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

10:10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

10:11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

10:12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

10:13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

10:15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,

10:16 "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,"

10:17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

10:18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

10:19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

10:20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

10:21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,

10:22 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.

10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is

faithful.

10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

10:25 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.

10:26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

10:27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

10:28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

10:29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

10:30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people."

10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

10:32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:

10:33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;

10:34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

10:37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

10:38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

10:39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. Good morning everyone.

I hope you have been well during these hot days.

Finally, August has arrived. The heat will be with us for another month and a half or so. Please be careful to drink plenty of water and avoid heat stroke.

We are now nearing the end of the book of Hebrews.

Carefully and carefully, we are told about Jesus and His new covenant, the light that comes after the shadow, to complete the Old Testament.

10:1 For the law is but a shadow of the good things to come, and has not the true form of the things to come; therefore the same sacrifices which are offered year after year shall not fulfill them that come near unto Him.

Following the previous chapter, the word conscience ("consciousness" of sin) appears in verse 2. In this chapter, it appears further in verse 22. ("The heart is soothed, and the reproach of conscience is removed.")

In the previous chapter, we had this.

9:14 Shall not the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Holy Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, moreover quicken our conscience and remove the dead works, and make us servants of the living God?

The "conscience" of man is the deepest part of his heart. There are many who cover it up and pretend that they do not see it, but they cannot escape the remorse of their sins. The Law makes people aware of their sins. It makes people feel remorse in their conscience. And that is where redemption through life comes in.

1 For the law is but a shadow of the good things to come, and has not the true form of the things to come, so that the same sacrifices which are offered year after year cannot fulfill those who come near to Him.

The law, which condemns man and tells him to repent because of his imperfection, is most beneficial because it reveals the man before God and lets him know that he must return to God, but the book of Hebrews tells us that it was lacking in saving man. And in this chapter, it tells us that the law is only a shadow of the good things to come.

2 If it were possible, would not the ritualists have ceased to offer sacrifices, since, once cleansed, they would no longer be conscious of their sins?

If the Law is perfect, and if man was cleansed by animal sacrifices according to the Law, why does he become unclean again? The Bible tells us that the reason why we continue to be conscious of our sins is because we could not make ourselves perfectly clean.

10:2 If this were possible, would not the ritualists have stopped offering sacrifices, since, once cleansed, they would no longer be conscious of their sins?

10:3 But the fact is that year by year the memory of sin comes back to life through the sacrifices.

10:4 For the blood of bulls and goats cannot remove sins.

The blood of animals cannot remove sins. What then is to be done?

5 Therefore when Christ came into the world, He said, "You did not desire sacrifices and offerings, but prepared a body for me.

6 Thou hast not loved burnt offerings and sin offerings: but Thou hast prepared a body for me, that I might live.

7 Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do thy will, O God, as it is written in the book of the scroll, concerning me.

8 Here in the beginning it is said, "Thou hast neither desired nor favored sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings (i.e., those offered according to the law),

9 Then it says, "Behold, I have come to do Thy will. He abolished the first in order to establish the second.

You did not desire sacrifices and offerings, but prepared a body for me."

This refers to the fact that it is not the external offerings of sacrifices and offerings, but our bodies themselves, our repentant and honest hearts, that are pleasing to God. God prepared Jesus for us, not as an animal sacrifice, but His body. God does not like man's burnt offerings and sin offerings, and seeing man's return to the same sin over and over again, He abolished the first and carried out the new will of God.

10 For by this purpose we have been cleansed through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This was not an animal cleansing, but an offering for man by God that makes us whole.

11 Thus all the priests stand and perform their daily ordinances, offering the same sacrifices again and again, but they can never remove sin.

12 But Christ, after He had offered one eternal sacrifice for many sins, sat down at the right hand of God,

13 Then He waits until He has made His enemies His footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

One eternal sacrifice.

Compared to the animal sacrifices that must be offered year after year, the word "eternal" appears many times in this chapter.

As verse 1 says, "By the same sacrifices which are offered year after year," so the ancient sacrifices continued forever.

Verse 12: "Christ offered one eternal sacrifice for many sins."

Verse 14: "He hath made them that are cleansed whole for ever."

But this is the eternal salvation through Christ Jesus.

15 The Holy Spirit also testified to us,

16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord. I will give my law in their hearts, and write it in their thoughts,

17 And again, "I will remember their sins and their iniquities no more.

18 Since there is forgiveness for these things, there can be no longer any offering for sins.

Because of this atonement of Jesus, there is no longer any need for an animal offering for sin.

19 Brethren. Therefore, by the blood of Jesus we may enter the sanctuary without any barriers, and we may enter the temple of the Lord,

20 Through the curtain of his flesh, through the new and living way which he has opened for us, we may enter,

21 Moreover, we have a great priest to rule over the house of God,

22 Let us draw near to Him with our hearts purified and our consciences blameless, our bodies washed with pure water, and our minds filled with the confidence of faith.

Verse 2 says, "Since those who perform the ordinances are no longer conscious of their sins once they have been cleansed, should they not have ceased to offer sacrifices? The awareness of sin and, as verse 22 says, the condemnation of conscience, were major problems for people.

However, in spite of this, God has done what people were no longer able to do.

19 Brethren. Therefore, through the blood of Jesus, we are able to enter the sanctuary without shame, without flinching. With an open heart, with a frank and open mind, we can go into the sanctuary, into the throne of grace, into the presence of God. This word open heart is repeated in verse 35.

35 Therefore do not give up the confidence that you have (your open, forgiven, and liberated state). With that conviction comes great reward.

If such is the reason, if such is the grace, if the Holy Spirit has been poured out on us, if through the blood of Jesus we can enter without barriers into the sanctuary, through the curtain of his flesh, through the new and living way he has opened for us, and if there is a great priest who rules in the house of God, we are not How can we continue to be troubled by the pangs of conscience? Why do we still have unresolved issues of forgiveness within us? We have been brought into the light.

22 Let us draw near to Him with our hearts soaked and our consciences blotted out, our bodies washed with pure water, and our minds filled with the assurance of faith.

23 And since it is the faithful who have made us a promise, let us hold fast the hope we confess, and not be moved,

24 And let us mutually endeavor to love one another and to do good deeds,

25 And let us not cease from meeting together, as some have always done, but let us encourage one another, and let us do so more and more, seeing that the day of his coming is near.

If so, let us go on with our lives in the light. Let us live by the faith of this grace, and hold fast, without moving, to the hope which we confess, and let us not be moved by it, but let us be moved by it, and let us be moved by it,

24 Let us strive one with another in love and good works; let us continually attend the meetings of the Church, exhorting and encouraging one another, looking forward to the coming time of the consummation of our salvation.

10:26 For if after we have received the knowledge of the truth we still persist in sin, there can be no more sacrifice for sins.

10:27 Only that we wait in fear for judgment and for the fierce fire that consumes those who transgress.

10:28 If those who disregard the Law of Moses are put to death on the testimony of two or three men, without receiving mercy,

10:29 How much more shall he who tramples on the Son of God, and makes unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was cleansed, and who insults the Spirit of grace, deserve the heaviest punishment!

10:30 "Vengeance is what I will do. And we know Him who said, "I myself will take vengeance," and, "The Lord will judge His people.

10:31 It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The individual passages are terrifying passages. Is it possible to be brought into salvation, to have the knowledge of it, to have our hearts cleansed from the torments of conscience, to have our bodies washed with pure water, to be filled with the conviction of sincere faith, and yet to fall back into the old life that once again causes us to have scruples of conscience? But if we regress, there is nothing there to fill us.

10:32 Remember the days of your beginning, when you endured great and bitter battles well after you were illuminated by the light.

10:33 And there were times when we were scorned and tormented and made an example of, and there were times when we were made to be among those who had suffered such things.

10:34 And he had compassion on those who were thrown into prison, and knowing that he had a more excellent and eternal treasure, he was willing to endure it even though his property was taken from him.

10:35 Therefore, do not give up the confidence that you have, for you will not be deprived of it.

Even those who have advanced so far in the faith, how strong is the power to push them back again and again to the old place! No matter how great a person's deeds may be, he or she cannot be saved by them. No matter how great one's deeds may be, they are not one's own works, but God's works of grace. Apart from God, we cannot do anything good. Therefore, the most important thing for us is to keep abiding in God.

10:36 All you need is patience in order to do God's will and receive what He has promised.

10:37 "In a little while, / the One who is to come will appear. And it will not be too late.

10:38 My righteous shall live by faith. If he forsakes faith, my soul will not rejoice in it.

10:39 But we are not those who forsake the faith and perish, but stand on the faith, and we shall have life.

But we are not those who, by God's sufficient grace, have received perfect cleansing through his salvation, and will not forsake the faith, nor cease to attend the meetings, but "stand in the faith and obtain life" rather than those who forsake the faith and perish.

With perseverance, while truly savoring that there is only One who is worthy of our faith, we ask the Lord to enter our hearts at any time, to cleanse us, to heal us, to strengthen us, to bury our guilty conscience, and to go on with God.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. Where is there any sin that cannot be saved in the atonement of the precious life of Jesus? Sin works against us even in our good walk, and the awareness of sin and the pangs of conscience sometimes torment us, but we are deeply grateful for your words, "But we are not those who flinch and perish, but those who secure our life through faith. Let us go forward this week, "exhorting and encouraging one another to love one another and do good works." Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.