

58-10-04.wpd --Christ, the Remover of Sins  
 law, sacrifices, atonement, the Cross, forgiveness, holiness  
 Hebrews 10:1-18  
 God loves finds its fulfillment in liberating us entirely from sin.

### **INTRODUCTION: (text as the Scripture reading)**

--[Everyone making important decisions does so with *motives*, whether it's to buy a car, or to take a trip, or to write a letter. A choice about almost anything has reasons or motives behind it. This is not only a human phenomenon, but it is true of One in whose image humans are made.]

--The last few chapters of Hebrews have basically dealt with one idea: that Christ's sacrifice on the Cross fulfilled the OT sacrifices. **Jewish Christians**, by a lifetime of upbringing prior to conversion, were still attached to practicing the OT rituals. The main message in Hebrews is that *Believers must take 100% of their trust in OT rituals and relocate it, placing all 100% of their trust in what Jesus did on the Cross.*

--When **we** come to Christ, we've spent a lifetime hearing *homemade doctrines about salvation* and *socially acceptable ideas about God*. To embrace divine truth, we must let go of worldly misconceptions and put 100% of our trust in Scripture. When we are convinced that God's dealings with humanity are motivated totally by love, this is easy to do. The Bible teaches that **HOM.idea**.

### **I. The Story of Salvation is about "good things to come," v.1**

- A. OT sacrifices were not pretty [No "*Be kind to animals*" week in the OT. Once, at recess in elementary school, I killed a gopher on the playground. The students swarmed on me to drag me to the principal's office because I had killed an animal during "*Be kind to animals*" week.] God created animals for His glory, not for sacrifice. But when Adam and Eve fell into sin and fell under sin's death-penalty, God sacrificed animals *to cover up* their guilt. The skins they wore, as they left Eden, reminded them of their guilt. This is what the OT sacrifices in the law of Moses did for Israel-- **v.3-4**, *But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*
- B. But God had "*good things to come*," because He loved humanity:
  1. He knew that humanity + guilt are an unhealthy combination. Guilt brings emotional strain, which affects our physical body, and it separates us from a free and open relationship with God.
  2. God loved the animals, but He loved us more, and that His love

motivated Him to cover over sins with the animal blood, until He could fully remove sins and the guilt that accompanies them.

3. The "*good things to come*" came at a high price to God: the cost of *human incarnation and human death*-- **v.5-7**, *Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.'" God's "will" for us was purchased at the cost of what happened on the Cross, and it came from a heart motivated by love to solve the plight of human guilt.*

### **TRANS: God loves finds its fulfillment in liberating us entirely**

**from sin.** [*Your God is Too Small* by J. B. Phillips discusses common conceptions of God that keep us from trusting in the real God: a *Resident Policeman*, a *Parental Hangover*, a *Grand Old Man*, a *Heavenly Bosom*, a *Managing Director*. None of these adequately depict the God who "*so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" ] This is the God we can trust, leaving all other ideas of Him behind.

### **II. The Story of Salvation is about God's will for our Holiness, v.10**

- A. Love motivated God to desire and make it possible for us to have a true relationship with Him (not one based on our misconceptions).
  1. To be real, this relationship had to be open and honest, so, from the very beginning, God has always been honest about Himself by revealing *His holiness* [which means "*apartness*" or "*separation*" ]
  2. We learned earlier in Hebrews that God's Word strips us naked. [Adam and Eve had an open relationship with God before they sinned. After sinning, they hid behind bushes and excuses, showing their alienation from each other and from God. God stripped them naked again from the fig-leaf clothing they'd made for themselves, to clothe them with skins that He took from innocent animals who died on the day they should have died.]
- a. The 1<sup>st</sup> step in salvation is honesty about our sin [When we need a bath, we can try to *cover up* with perfume or with fresh clothing, but to get clean we need take off our clothing and get into the water.] (We get honest with God by confessing our sin, exposing it to the light.)
- b. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> step of salvation, 2 things happen that come directly from God through Christ's work on the Cross-- **v.11-12, 14**, *Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down*

at the right hand of God... because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. (#1, in Christ, our sins are entirely removed; and #2, we are clothed no longer in the blood of animal sacrifices, but in the holiness of Christ.)

- B. God's work of giving us holiness in salvation is not on the outside, like the sacrificial skins in the garden of Eden, but on the inside--
- v.16, "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."
1. Society is still into covering up [It says, "clothing makes the man." No matter what lives beneath a uniform, we "respect the uniform."] But God is "no respecter of persons" or their uniforms. He sees us naked, and He knows what's in the mind under our hat and in the heart under our clothes. We cannot hide from the God who seeks to save us.
  2. God's gift of holiness is not an external covering; it is Christ Himself.-- Gal 3:27, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. God has not given us a "theological outfit" to wear as a sign of membership in a special spiritual club. In His magnificent love, He has offered us His very Self.
  3. God's love motivated Him not just to free us from the guilt of sin, but to free us from sin's power, by coming to live inside us through the Holy Spirit. Visible holiness is not our own work, but allowing the life of Christ within us to be lived out everyday.

### CONCLUSION:

--**God loves finds its fulfillment in liberating us entirely from sin.**

The kind of God that would give us His very Self in order to have a relationship with us, is not going to leave us feeling guilty for our sins. This kind of loving God will not stop at taking sins away, but by giving us His own holiness, so that we can have a relationship with Him.

--Listen to how this passage ends... v.17-18, Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

"Jesus paid it all. / All to Him I owe. / Sin had left its crimson stain. / He washed it white as snow."

Heb 10:1-18 (NIV) The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. {2} If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. {3} But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, {4} because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. {5} Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; {6} with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. {7} Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.'" {8} First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). {9} Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. {10} And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. {11} Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. {12} But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. {13} Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, {14} because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. {15} The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: {16} "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." {17} Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." {18} And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.