

## 30. Encouragement for the Journey

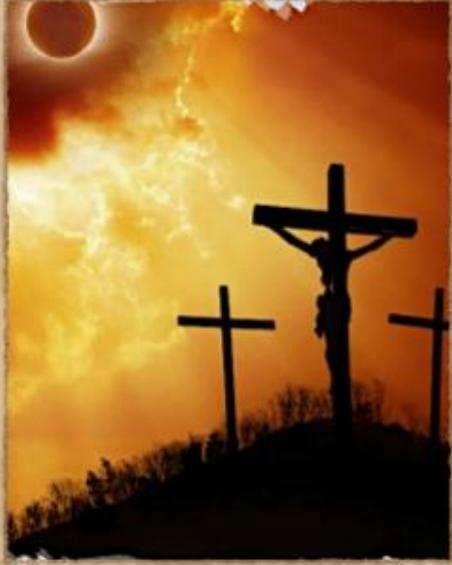
### Sermon



Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – Glenda Bolitho

# The Sacrifice of Jesus

- ◆ Jesus was the perfect sinless Son of God.
- ◆ Jesus was the substitute Who dies in our place.
- ◆ Jesus shed His Blood and died in our place to atone for our sin.



***“Jesus The Perfect Sacrifice***

**Bible Readings:**                      **Hebrews 10:1-18**

### Greeting

Greetings and a very warm welcome to our service here at St Luke’s Anglican Church Concord and to those who may be following us on line. I’m Glenda Bolitho a member of the ministry team here at St Luke’s and we gather together today to hear God’s word, to pray with one another, and to share our time together.

**Before I commence let me pray.**

*“May the words of my mouth and the  
Meditation of my heart  
Be pleasing in your sight  
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”*

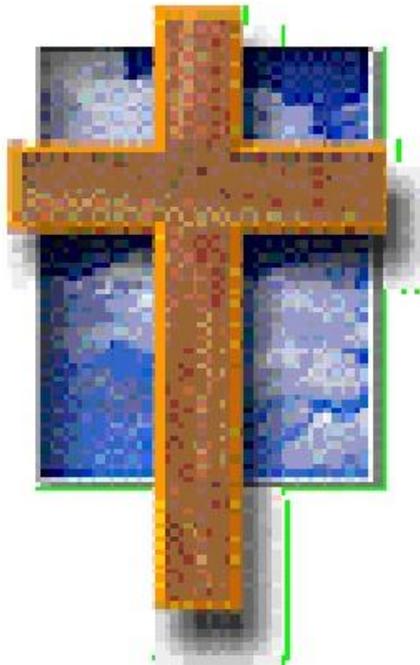
**Amen**

# THE LAW AND THE LORD

## Hebrews 10:1-18



Our text in three parts – each with a relevant quote from the OT



- The Perfect Sacrifice of Christ
  - *Hebrews 10:1-10*
  - *Psalms 40:6-8*
- The Perfect Ministry of Christ
  - *Hebrews 10:11-14*
  - *Psalms 110:1*
- The Perfect Covenant of Christ
  - *Hebrews 10:15-18*
  - *Jeremiah 31:33-34*

## Introduction

This is our third talk in a series from the Book of Hebrews, the first two were during the Season of Lent, and today's is on the Wednesday immediately following Easter. Before we begin, I'd like to set the verses of today's Bible Reading of Hebrews 10:1-18 in context.

In our first week, we said the author of Hebrews was writing to a group of Hebrew Christians. It appeared that this group of Hebrew Christians was beginning to drift back towards Jewish ritualism. They were afraid that in turning to Christ and adopting Christianity, they were losing too much, particularly the pageantry and ceremony of their Hebrew past. But the writer reminds them that in Christ they have far more than they have lost and that Christianity is the perfect and final religion.

In this reading we see the writer going back and forth between the old practices of the Levitical Cultus of the Old Covenant and the superior and once and for all sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross of the New Covenant.

## The Perfect Sacrifice of Christ

In the reading we hear the writer of the letter contrasting the finality of Christ's sacrifice for sin with the lack of finality found in the sacrifices of the Old Testament. One unchanging message sounded forth on almost every page of the Old Testament. Every animal sacrifice declared it, every offering portrayed the same truth, it was emphasized in each drop of blood, and rose to the skies in the ascending smoke of every burnt offering.

The message was this - in order for a life to be saved, a life had to be given. It was only a shadow, however, for such a system was incapable of perfecting any worshipper through the sacrifices.

No worshipper was ever brought to what someone has described as a “*real and enduring fellowship with God*”. For none ever lost the feelings of guilt that sin inevitably brings.



## The Perfect Ministry of Christ

To the writer of Hebrews, the very fact that the sin offerings of the Old Covenant were made continually, year after year, was proof that the old institutions, although divinely appointed, were not the final answer. God never really cared for all the rivers of blood that flowed from Jewish altars. His only interest was that they were like signposts pointing to something and that something was the perfect sacrifice and offering made in the body of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Throughout every moment of His life on earth, Jesus maintained a complete dependence on the Father who indwelt Him. That is the principle that God longed to see in the universe – the principle of trust and confidence in the Father’s purposes.

So, from the writer of the letter came the warning to this group of Hebrew Christians anxious to return to their old practices, those who put their faith in the religious rituals and ceremonies of the Levitical

Cultus and Temple Worship, should realize those things are of no real interest to God.

What God looks for is what He saw perfectly in Jesus – a heart that is His, a life that is His, and a human will and a human frame demonstrating absolute trust in Him.

One peculiarity of the ancient Tabernacle in the Wilderness was that among its several articles of furniture, there were no chairs (Exodus 25 & 26). It had a table, a candlestick and so on, but nowhere for a priest to sit down. The reason was that the priests were required to minister continually before the Lord.

A Psalm of David.  
The LORD says to my Lord:  
“Sit at My right hand  
Until I make Your enemies a footstool  
for Your feet.” (Psalm 110:1).

But when Christ offered Himself as a single sacrifice, says the writer of Hebrews, He sat down at the right hand of God to await the time when His enemies would be made His footstool. Christ’s work was completed.

We see here the principle of trust and confidence in the Father’s purposes coming into its own. That principle once begun and adhered to in human history will inevitably result in God’s will being done and all Christ’s enemies becoming His footstool.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us again that *“by one sacrifice Jesus has made perfect forever those who are being made holy”* (v 14). Our Lord’s one final act of redemption clears our conscience of guilt and enables us to enter into true worship.

## The Perfect Covenant of Christ

This is proved by the Holy Spirit who speaking through Jeremiah (Jer 31:31-45) in the Old Testament, promised all believers: *“I will put my laws in their hearts .....I will write them in their minds..... their sins and lawless acts I remember no more”*. These verses from Jeremiah are quoted in verses 16 and 17 of our passage for this morning.

**"And I will forgive their wickedness, and  
I will never again remember their sins."**

- Jeremiah 31:33-34 NLT -



Just think of it – through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, our sins and wrong doings are remembered no more. Sometimes we may be tempted to bring up those old and reprehensible acts which have been forgiven and say to the Lord, *“Don’t you remember what I did and those things I was guilty of?”* He simply shakes His head, looks at us and says, *“No, I’m sorry, I can’t remember that.”* As the psalm says, *“As far as the East is from the West, so far has He removed our transgressions from us”* (Ps 103:12).

## Reflections on Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday

The words of verses 9 & 10, where the writer is explaining Jesus sacrifice on the cross for us, are so appropriate for us to dwell and reflect upon this week as we remember back to commemorating Christ's death on the Cross on Good Friday at the end of last week, and of celebrating His wonderful Resurrection on Easter Day this last Sunday. Verses 9 & 10 in to-day's reading say, *"Then He said, 'Here I am. I have come to do your will.' And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all."* [These words originally from the Psalm of David (40:6-8) express Christ's obedient submission to the Father in coming to earth. The writer of Hebrew's applies these to Christ.]

What does this mean? Well, it means that by his perfect sacrifice, offered in complete submission, Jesus supersedes and therefore replaces all sacrifices. Because of His substitutionary death for us, as believers we are declared holy in the sight of God, in that we are justified, set aside in consecration to God, and we are now experiencing the process of continuing sanctification because of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

We have been made perfect, yet we are still being made holy. Through His death and resurrection, Christ, once for all, made us His new creation, whom God sees as holy. At the same time, He progressively cleanses and sets us apart for His special use in our daily pilgrimage here. We should not be surprised, ashamed, or shocked that we still have room to grow. God is not finished with us. We can encourage this growth process by deliberately applying Scripture to all areas of our lives, by accepting the discipline and guidance Christ provides, and by giving Him control of our desires and goals.

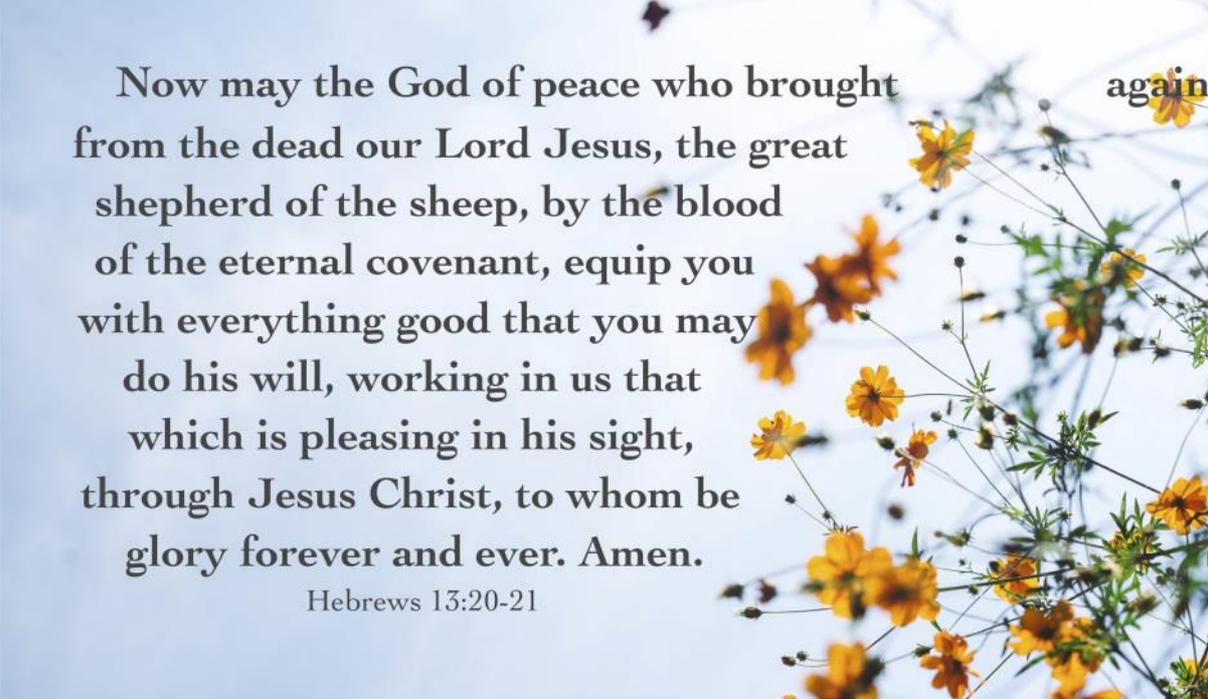
By Christ's sacrifice alone are we forgiven, made holy, accepted by God and by that sacrifice alone can we gain access to God. But the readers of Hebrews, from the original recipients of the letter right

through the ages to us as present day Christians, are not left as passive observers of these works of God and the third and final section of the letter from chapters 10 – 13, which we are not pursuing at this point in time, is a great encouragement to us:- to our steadfastness, patience, faith, obedience, and suffering, as we continue our Christian walk remembering that *“what God looks for is what He saw perfectly in Jesus – a heart that is , a life that is His, and a human will in a human frame demonstrating absolute trust in Him.”*

### Encouragement to Read Further

Could I encourage you to read chapters 10-13 of Hebrews in your own personal Bible reading, over the next few weeks, as I also plan to do myself, God willing, so that we may all be strengthened in our Christian walk.

### The Benediction



Now may the God of peace who brought  
from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great  
shepherd of the sheep, by the blood  
of the eternal covenant, equip you  
with everything good that you may  
do his will, working in us that  
which is pleasing in his sight,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be  
glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

At almost the very end of this letter, in Hebrews 13:20-21, the writer adds one of the most beautiful benedictions of the Bible. I thought it

would be most appropriate to again close today's talk with his words, as not only do they encompass some of what we've been saying these past three weeks, but, they are also a Godly encouragement to us in our Christian walk, particularly as we remember the Crucifixion of our Lord on Good Friday and then the celebration of His Resurrection on Easter Day.

### Let us pray:

*“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the Sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing in him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever,”* **Amen.**

#### Reference Material

Tyndale New Testament Commentaries “Hebrews”-Donald Guthrie  
The Majestic Son - Reading Hebrews Today- Peter Adam  
Hebrews – God’s Last Word – Selwyn Hughes  
Zondervan 2020 Pastor’s Annual – T T Crabtree  
Believer’s Bible Commentary – William MacDonald  
Tyndale Life Application Study Bible (NIV)

## Bible Reading Hebrews 10:1-18

### Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

**10** 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** Otherwise, 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** 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, my God.’”<sup>[a]</sup>

**8** First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. **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** and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. **14** For 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.”<sup>[a]</sup>

**17** Then he adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts  
I will remember no more.”<sup>[a]</sup>

**18** And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

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