

Christian Study

Lesson 263

Be Light

Focusing on Church beyond Sunday

A Closer Look at the New Covenant

A Better Sacrifice

In the last Lesson, we learned why Jesus, our High Priest was superior to the Levitical priest. One of the most important jobs of those priests was to lead the Temple sacrifices. The Day of Atonement was the most important and significant of the sacrificial celebrations. As we learn, the sacrifices these priests made year after year did not remove the stain of sin from the people. If we needed a new High priest, one who was perfect and lives forever, it makes sense that He also would provide a different and better sacrifice. Understanding His sacrifice is critical to understanding the New Covenant.

THINK ABOUT THIS...

"If the offering is a burnt offering from the flock, from either the sheep or the goats, he is to offer a male without defect. **11** He is to slaughter it at the north side of the altar before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle its blood against the altar on all sides. **12** He is to cut it into pieces, and the priest shall arrange them, including the head and the fat, on the burning wood that is on the altar. **13** He is to wash the inner parts and the legs with water, and the priest is to bring all of it and burn it on the altar. It is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the LORD" **Leviticus 1:10-13**

This is what was done by the priests in the Old Covenant and the following key verses is what the New Covenant is today

Key Verse: John 1:29-30

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'

John described Jesus as the lamb who would take away the sins of the world and not just cover them as the Levites did in the temple sacrifice. We just have to receive it by faith. He was not a prototype. This was the real thing, the once for all sacrifice.

The Shadow Knows

"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."**Hebrews 10:1-4**

God was not been unfair to the Israelites. When a person offered one of the daily sin offerings; that person's sin was transferred by faith symbolically from him to the temple, through the blood of the sacrifice, and he was reconciled to God. On the Day of Atonement, all the sins accumulated, symbolically, in the temple were transferred to the scapegoat, which was then released into the wilderness never to be seen again. At that moment, all Israel knew, by faith, that they were reconciled to God. In this way, God was painting a picture of what would happen when the Messiah came—our sins would be transferred to Him. He would become sin for us and those sins would never be seen by God again. The difference is that the blood of a lamb could only apply to one moment in time. The blood of the lamb applied eternally. Therefore the Israelite atonement could cover sin one year at a time, but Jesus took it (sins) completely and forever..

Atonement Covered Sins

Christ Took Our Sins Away

"When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. **12** He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. **13** The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those

who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. **14** How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" **Hebrews 9:11-14**

A Body, Like no Other

"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" **Hebrews 10:5-10**

God does not desire sacrifice, burnt offering or sin offering because a body was prepared to do the will of God. Jesus offered to die in our place for our sins. Through the second will, and the acceptance of it, we have been made holy and because of that God accepts us children who should not be afraid but approach His throne boldly.

"It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. **24** For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. **25** Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. **26** Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. **27** Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, **28** so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." **Hebrews 9:23-28**

THINK ABOUT THIS...

Will our sin ever separate us from God?

Why not?

John 19:30 "When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

As a result of His finished work here on earth, Jesus' last three words before His death was "It Is Finish" He finished all that He was sent to do on earth by His Father and fulfilled all of the old law. There is nothing left to do concerning the sin issue between God and man. There is nothing any man can add to what Christ accomplished for us. our response is to believe by faith, because without faith it is impossible to please God. Are you willing from this day forward to thank Jesus for the sacrifice He made to take away your sins from the eyes of God once and for all?

Conclusion

"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. **22** But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- **23** if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant." **Colossians 1:21-23**

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace **8** that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. **9** And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, **10** to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ." **Ephesians 1:7-10**

It is no secret, what God can do. What He's done for others, He'll do for you.

Our mission is to help people find strength and security on the foundation that can never be shaken, cracked or shattered. This foundation is the remarkable truth of God's unconditional love and His indisputable grace experienced in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The critics of Christianity have launched a full attack to discredit the person and works of Jesus Christ and the reliability of His word. We cannot be silent anymore. Let us as children of light, stand firm in the faith, because He who has taken us this far will never forsake us. You are called Christians, be careful of that name. Let not our Lord Jesus Christ be blasphemed on your account

Believe this, "Jesus did not come to make bad people good, He came to make dead people live."

Keep It Simple

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

If you have any questions, comments or you know anybody else who will benefit from this study please feel free to give us their email address and they will be added to our mailing list to receive weekly lessons. The email address is santigiemando1@yahoo.com,

Remember: A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle (Ephesians 5:8)

Let's go light another candle!