

**I. Introduction and review.**

**II. The sacrifices of the Law provided a reminder, but not a removal of sins. v. 1-4**

**A. The Law cannot perfect you. v. 1 7:19 9:9**

1. The sacrifices of the law could not make you fit to worship in God's presence.
2. The Law is only a shadow of the better blessings of the New Covenant. 8:5 9:23
3. People today are still attracted to outward religious ritual.
4. That which seems to have substance (reality), actually has none. 11:1

**B. If the Law-sacrifices were effectual, they wouldn't have to be repeated. v. 2-3 7:27**

1. Repetition conflicts with finality. v. 2a
2. The repeated sacrifices, instead of cleansing your conscience of sin, actually remind you of your guilt. v. 2b-3 9:9 Num. 5:15
3. Many professing Christians still rely on repeated sacrifices, rather than the completed sacrifice of Christ.
4. The Lord's Supper brings to remembrance the finished sacrificial work of Christ by which we have been cleansed. 9:14 Luke 22:19 I Co. 11:24f Jo. 13:10 Acts 15:9

**C. The blood of animals cannot take away the defilement of sin. v. 4**

1. This is why the Old Covenant sacrifices were ineffective in taking away sin.
2. A brute beast is by its very nature unqualified to serve as a substitute for a man.
3. Why then did God establish the old sacrificial system? 9:22
4. If sin is forgiven through the shedding of blood, and the blood of animals does not remove sin, then what blood is needed? 9:22 2:9,14

**III. The one sacrifice of Christ supercedes the Old Covenant sacrifices. v. 5-10**

**A. Again our author turns to the Old Testament to prove his point. v. 5a Psalm. 40:6-8**

1. David praises God for a great deliverance. Ps. 40:1-5
2. What can David do to express his thanks? Ps. 40:6-8
  - a. Mere outward sacrifices do not please God. v. 6
  - b. Instead, the sacrifice God seeks is wholehearted obedience. v. 7-8
3. Our author puts David's words into the mouth of our Lord Jesus Christ at his incarnation. v. 5a 1:5f 7:17 Ps. 2 110:1
4. This is the "Christmas section" in Hebrews. 2:14 5:7 John 1:9 6:14,38,41 11:27
5. We also get a glimpse into the union of the Father and the Son (and the Spirit) in our salvation: The Covenant of Redemption. v. 5,7,10 1:5-6

**B. Sacrifice and burnt offering for sin will not satisfy God. v. 5b, 6a, 8**

1. The inadequacy of animal sacrifice to truly atone for sin is repeatedly taught in the Old Testament. I Sam. 15:22 Ps. 40:6 50:8-10 51:16-17 Is. 1:10-13 66:2-4 Jer. 7:21-24 Hos. 6:6 Amos 5:21-27
2. Someone has to accomplish what the sacrifices were powerless to do.

**C. Instead, a (human) body has been prepared so that the divine will could be accomplished. v. 5c,10**

1. How can our author translate *my ears you have dug* from Psalm 40:6b to *a body you have prepared for me* in Hebrews 10:5c? Ex. 21:5-6 Isa. 50:5-6
2. Psalm 40 reveals that God will give consideration to a human body as the

- instrument for accomplishing His will (to perfect His people).
3. Who prepared (provided) the body?
  4. It was necessary that God the Son take our flesh upon Himself. 2:14,17
  5. While the death of animals cannot remove sin, the death of Jesus Christ can.
- D. The Son perfectly and obediently performs the will of God the Father (by coming into the world and going to the cross). v. 7,9a John 5:30 6:38 10:11,15,17-18 14:31
1. The Father sent the Son into the world to die for His people.
  2. The Son willingly accomplished all that was written of Him. v. 7b Luke 24:25-27
- E. In doing God's will, the Son: v. 9b-10
1. Abrogates the Old Covenant with its sacrifices. v. 9b 8:7,13
  2. Establishes the New Covenant. v. 9c
  3. Sanctifies us once for all by His one sacrifice for sin. v. 10 9:12,14
  4. Enables us to approach, serve, and obey God. I Cor. 6:20 Rom. 12:1-2

#### IV. Concluding applications.

- A. Upon what are you relying to forgive your sins and to get you to heaven?
- B. Sin has been decisively dealt with by Christ. 10:10

#### Discussion questions

1. In what sense must we be "perfected" before we can draw near to God? v. 1
2. In what sense is the law a shadow of the good things to come? v. 1
3. What about the repetition of the Old Testament sacrifices made them ineffectual? v. 2-3
4. Why couldn't animal sacrifices remove sin? v. 4  
What sacrifice then will remove sin?
5. How does Psalm 40 speak of Christ?
6. What is the "Covenant of Redemption"?  
Where can the Covenant of Redemption be seen in this passage?
7. How does verse 9 summarize this section of Hebrews?
8. In what sense have we been sanctified through the offering of the body of Christ? v. 10
9. How do people today go back to the shadows and foolishly rely upon repeated rituals?