

Hebrews Book Study
Lesson Thirty-Three
Hebrews 10:5-12

Introduction/Review

By offering Himself as the sacrifice for sin, Jesus made possible what no prior sacrifice could ever do; abolish the sacrificial system forever! The author has made it very clear that "...it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." (vs. 4) If it were possible for the blood of bulls and goats to purge sin and to clear the guilt of the sinner, there would have been no need for the annual offering on the day of atonement. The work for the priest could not cease but the finished work of Christ brought an end to the sacrifices requirement.

Vss. 5-10 The words of Ps. 40:6–8 are attributed to Christ when he came into the world because they find absolute fulfilment in his life. David the psalmist went further than many other OT writers in emphasizing the powerlessness of sacrifices in themselves to please God. The four technical terms that he uses—sacrifice, offering, burnt offerings and sin offerings—describe the different types of sacrifice commanded by the law. But the whole system was designed to encourage and make possible the willing self-offering of the people to God, as indicated by the words I have come to do your will, O God.

In the body that was prepared for the Son of God, he lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father, culminating in his death as an unblemished sacrifice. He came to set aside the ancient sacrificial system and bring about the obedience to God which was always the intention behind the rituals. He found the Father's will expressed in Scripture (it is written about me in the volume of the book), and by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. His once-for-all sacrifice (10) brings the once-for-all cleansing from sin that the law could not provide (2).

Such cleansing makes possible a definitive consecration or sanctification of believers to God, which is the meaning of the expression "we are sanctified." In this way the writer suggests the fulfilment of the promise that God would write his laws in their hearts and on their minds (16; Je. 31:33). Such dedication to God and his service is achieved for us by Jesus Christ, in whom heart-obedience was perfectly expressed.

Vs. 11-12 Some of the ideas expressed in 9:25–28 and 10:1–4 are again restated. The priests of Judaism were involved in daily religious duties, involving the repeated offering of the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. However, Jesus offered one sacrifice for sins, which is effective for all time. This contrast is reinforced by the picture of the Levitical priest who stands at the altar, offering repeated sacrifices, and Jesus who sat down at the right hand of God, because his sacrificial work was completed.