

Hebrews 10:1–14 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

INTRO: Hebrews 10:1-14 is the climax of biblical theology. This is the summit of the highest mountain in covenant theology.

All throughout this Book, God is gradually revealing the mystery of Christ, His covenant, and Kingdom.

- Here Christ says, “Behold, I have come...”

All throughout this Book we see the failure of God’s people to stand by the terms of the Old Covenant.

- Here Christ does away with it in order to establish a new and better covenant.

Q. So what is this new covenant?

1. ***It is a covenant between God, the God-man (Jesus Christ), and His seed (the elect).*** Christ stands as a covenant head over those who are born again of His Spirit (the elect).
 1. **Hebrews 2:13-14** “Behold, I and the children God has given me.” Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things...
 2. **John 3:3** Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
 3. **Galatians 4:4-7** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.
 4. **Romans 5:17** For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.
 5. **1 Corinthians 15:22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
2. ***It is a covenant requiring perfect righteousness.*** Christ stands as a mediator, mediating the blessings of a fulfilled covenant of works to all who are united to Him by faith. Christ lived to fulfill the terms of perfect righteousness, imputed to believers through faith. Christ died to atone for the guilt of believers who are united to Him through faith.
 1. **Matthew 3:15** for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.
 2. **Matthew 5:20** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
 3. **2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
3. ***It is a covenant promising eternal life.*** Christ lived, died, and He rose again. So that we who are united to Him through faith might have life in Him.

1. **Matthew 25:46** And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
2. **John 3:15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
3. **Hebrews 8:6** But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.
4. **1 John 2:25** And this is the promise that he made to us— eternal life.
4. **It is a covenant marked by visible signs.** Baptism is the visible display of who is thus united to Christ. The Lord’s Supper is the visible display of who Christ died for, and the believer’s free willingness to stand with Christ in this covenant.
 1. **Romans 6:4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
 2. **1 Corinthians 11:24-25** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

CHILDREN: You need to come into this new covenant under Christ. You were born in sin outside of this covenant. And it is by faith in Christ that you receive the rights as adopted sons. It is by faith in Christ that your sins are forgiven. It is by faith in Christ that His righteousness is counted in place of yours. It is by faith in Christ alone that you will receive eternal life. And baptism and the Lord’s Supper serve as perpetual reminders to you whether you are in this covenant with Christ or not.

Hebrews 10:1-14 does not show us every facet of this. But what it does is lay the foundation by showing...

DOCTRINE: *What the Old Covenant could not do, Christ has done, ratifying a New Covenant by the sacrifice of Himself for the removal of His people’s sin.*

2 Main Points.

With 4 corresponding sub-points under each.

I. THE OLD COVENANT COULD NOT TAKE AWAY SINS (vv1-6)

I) THE OLD COVENANT COULD NOT TAKE AWAY SINS BECAUSE IT CONTAINED ONLY SHADOWS

[1a] For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities,

II) THE OLD COVENANT COULD NOT TAKE AWAY SINS EVIDENCED BY THE REPETITION OF ITS SACRIFICES

[1b-3] it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

III) THE OLD COVENANT COULD NOT TAKE AWAY SINS BECAUSE IT OFFERED AN UNQUALIFIED SUBSTITUTE

[4] For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

IV) THE OLD COVENANT COULD NOT TAKE AWAY SINS BECAUSE GOD TOOK NO PLEASURE IN THE SACRIFICES THEMSELVES

[5] Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

[6] in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

He is quoting Psalm 40:6-8

USE 1: WARNING Do you see the vanity of establishing your standing with God by outward things? If your worship and obedience does not flow out of faith and joy in Christ, then the Lord takes no pleasure in it.

USE 2: COMFORT The opposite then is also true. If the source and spring of your worship and obedience is your faith and joy in Jesus, then however incomplete, however mixed with corruptions, the Lord takes great delight in it.

CHILDREN: Have you ever seen a shadow?

The Old Covenant could not take away sins. It’s stipulations pertained to the blessing of living securely in the land. And like a shadow it further pointed to Christ, and what He would accomplish.

II. SIN IS ONLY FORGIVEN BY VIRTUE OF THE NEW COVENANT (vv5-14)

I) THE NEW COVENANT TAKES AWAY SINS BECAUSE IT OFFERS THE SUBSTANCE TO WHICH ALL OF THE SHADOWS POINTED

[5-10] Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

USE 3: INSTRUCTION Christ does away with the Old Covenant to establish a New Covenant. When the substance comes, there is no more need of shadows. Read and teach your families this from every page of the Bible!

II) THE NEW COVENANT TAKES AWAY SINS EVIDENCED BY A SACRIFICE BEING MADE ONCE FOR ALL

[11-12] And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

USE 4: EXAMINATION Do you rest in Christ’s sacrifice like He does? Jesus is not supplementing his sacrifice with anything. Once offered, He sits down.

III) THE NEW COVENANT TAKES AWAY SINS BECAUSE IT OFFERS A QUALIFIED SUBSTITUTE

[5c] but a body have you prepared for me;

[10] And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Would you delight in all that we can infer from this!

- (i) **The Father prepared Jesus such a body that He might share in our human nature.** And this was necessary, so that He might act on our behalf, and suffer in our place.

Isaiah 53:11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

- (ii) **The Father prepared Jesus such a body that it would not be subject to the pollution of sin that has affected our whole nature since the fall.** And this was necessary, so that He might have a perfect righteousness to impute to us, and that He might be a sacrifice without blemish or spot.

1 Peter 1:18-19 you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

- (iii) **The Father prepared Jesus such a body as possessed a real and reasonable soul.** And this was necessary, so that Jesus was able to willingly make an offering of Himself.

John 10:18 No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.

- (iv) **The Father prepared Jesus such a body as made him exposed to all of the infirmities and outward temptations of our human nature.** And this was necessary, so that Jesus is truly able to sympathize with us in our weakness.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- (v) **The Father prepared Jesus such a body as was liable to pain and death.** And this was necessary, so that His blood might be shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

Hebrews 9:22 without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

- (vi) **The Father prepared Jesus such a body as might be raised and glorified.** And this was necessary, for our hope, that we might be raised and glorified with Him.

Romans 6:5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

USE 5: COMFORT Behold the steadfast love of our Lord! Your bodies are wasting away, some of you faster than others. Because Christ Jesus truly took upon Himself our nature, He knows what you are enduring. Because Christ Jesus took upon Himself our nature, you who are in Christ shall know what a resurrected and glorified body is like.

IV) THE NEW COVENANT TAKES AWAY SINS BECAUSE GOD WAS PLEASED TO ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE OF HIS SON

[13-14] waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Psalms 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

USE 6: INSTRUCTION/EXHORTATION It is impossible for the blood of goats and bulls to take away sins. And it is impossible for the blood of Christ Jesus to fail to take away the sin of this world. The shedding of Jesus' blood was an eviction notice to sin. Sin cannot remain in this world under His dominion.

- **Therefore, to the unbeliever:** Forsake your sin today and be united to Christ by faith. You have no hope apart from this covenant. Cast off the burden you carry. Receive Christ as He is offered to you, and rest upon Him alone for the forgiveness of your sins.
- **To the believer:** Press on in putting your own sin to death. Press on in taking the thoughts of sinful men captive and bringing them to the obedience of Christ. Press on, and do not despair when the nations rage in vain. Christ wins. And all of His enemies will be conquered by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony (Revelation 12:11).