

While I was on vacation last week, I read a book about climbing Mt. Everest, we've been climbing mountains around here. As you know, the tallest mountain in the world is Everest. It was gut-wrenching book about the catastrophe that happened on Everest in May of 1996. A total of 12 people died that year along with two of best climbing guides in the world. Scott Fischer and Rob Hall.



How did this happen? How could this happen?

Well, here's what I've learned in the book about those who risk their lives to climb Everest. Going up it's not the hardest part. It's getting down alive that's the trick. You see, by the time you arrive to the top, you are half-dead and you can barely put one foot in front of the other. You've been on the mountain for a month so that your body can acclimatize to the thin air, so that you can even attempt to summit the 29,029 feet. Again, the trick is to make it back down out of the Death Zone (which is getting below) 26,000 feet, because the majority of climbers who die on Everest die coming down, NOT going up!

You see church family, the death of Jesus Christ had to happen in order for humanity to have the opportunity to believe on Him...but, that was only half the job. He had to get up to finish the work! It's the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ that had to be accomplished to buy our pardon. Jesus' death alone wouldn't have been enough... He had to rise from the dead to prove that He had the power over Satan, death, Hell and the grave! And it's that truth which seals what we know of as today as the New Covenant. And it's the New Covenant that the book of Hebrews is all about.

You'll remember the entire book Hebrews was written primarily to former Jews who had accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior and to those who were still on the edge, who hadn't you summited the mountain of belief. Hebrews lays out a magnificent case to the Jew that Jesus is better than the Old Testament priesthood of Aaron. Jesus is better than Moses, Abraham, and all of the animal sacrifices that were offered under the Old Covenant, because Jesus is the LIVING SACRIFICE. He is the way up to God...and He came down the mountain of life to offer us a trip up to the Father.

Hebrews Chapter 10 is a summary of what we've seen thus far in the first 9 chapters... Follow along with me now, as we see the Apostle Paul lay out this summary for us. Verse 1...

## Hebrews 10:1-18

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? <sup>3</sup>But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. <sup>4</sup>For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. <sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>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.'" <sup>8</sup>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), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. <sup>11</sup>And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup>waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. <sup>15</sup>And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, <sup>16</sup>"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," <sup>17</sup>then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." <sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

What is this?



That's a man's shadow. And that shadow is a representation of the Old Testament law and that man...the reality the New covenant that was brought to us through Jesus Christ. In essence, that picture is an explanation of the first 9 chapters of Hebrews.

Listen carefully church family, the Old agreement that we see pictured in the Old Testament Law could never do what Jesus did on the cross. The blood of animals could never erase sin. Only Jesus could do that. Remember, without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin. And you remember that the first bloodshed on earth was when God covered Adam and Eve's disobedience...



But the killing of that animal was just a shadow...a picture of Jesus who would come and shed His own blood. Listen, Genesis 3:6 records the Fall of Adam and Eve and Genesis 3:15 records the first promise of the coming of Jesus, when God said to Satan, "He (that's Jesus) will crush your head!" And Jesus did when He got up from the dead. And all of that happened by way of bloodshed. **You see "forgiveness" in God's economy demands bloodshed and salvation in God's economy requires substitution and animals could never do either!** And that's verse 4...

**Hebrews 10:4**

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

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No! An animal could never be my substitute or yours...it had to be one of us...a human. And that's why Jesus came...Emmanuel...God with us-when Jesus came through womb of Mary to Bethlehem.



And Jesus would grow and become a man, and when Jesus reached the age of 30, John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin would say, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." **And Church Family, let me tell you something**, when you and I surrender our lives to Jesus, not only does He take away our sin...He erases our guilt...

**Hebrews 10:2**

**2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins?**

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When a priest would sacrifice a lamb for someone...see this picture...see the man with the green head covering around his neck...



He's the one who brought that lamb to priest. He's the one who needs forgiveness. But, the problem was...even after that lamb was killed and his blood shed...the man still walked away with his shame and regret. The blood of animals under the old covenant only covered the sin...it could never remove it...and therefore, the guilt remained.

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Think about it...every time you brought a lamb to the priest, it was only a reminder of the fact that your guilt would remain... That's verse 3...

**Hebrews 10:3**

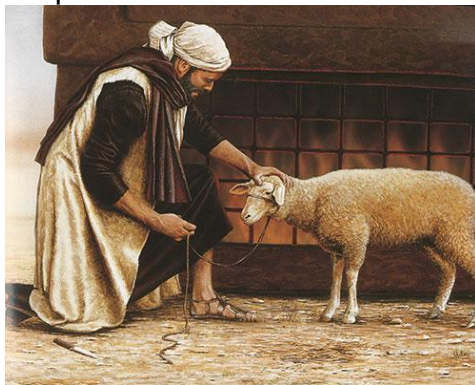
**<sup>3</sup>But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.**

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That was the Day of Atonement...Yom Kippur. Take a look at this. Do you know what this is?



That's an insulin pump...and every time that lady checks that pump, it's a reminder that she's a diabetic. Do you see? That insulin pump drums into the brain of the diabetic: YOU'RE A DIABETIC. And so, every time a person made that walk to the Temple with a lamb on a rope



they were reminded of their sin and they'd be coming back again...and again, and again...because their guilt remained... But, not when He came...

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Everything changed. When He came...He would remove sin and the guilt that came with it... Hallelujah! You see, when Jesus came, He would reach down and He say...



Like he did Mary Magdalene: "I forgive you..." No High Priest could ever say that. He wasn't qualified... He couldn't pay the price. Those Hebrews that Apostle Paul was writing to looked at lambs all of their lives and they were reminded, like a diabetic, that they could never be cured...Oh, but, when Jesus came...it was then they could look upon Him and be cured of their sin sickness and the guilt and the pain and the shame. Aren't you glad! That's the book of Hebrews in nutshell!

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Listen Christian...once you and I surrender to Jesus...not only is our guilt and shame removed when we confess our sins to Him...oh it's then that Jesus, has an expectation for our lives. AND I WANT TO SHOW THIS TO YOU. I want to show you a conversation Jesus had with His Father in heaven. It's recorded in vs 5-10...which is a quote from Psalm 40. Watch it...Jesus speaking to His Father...

#### **Hebrews 10:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup> 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.'" <sup>8</sup> 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), <sup>9</sup> then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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I want you to get this and I need you to do double work... **Turn to 1 Thessalonians 4**, while you listen. Let's get this...this is kind of deep...but, we can get this...when Jesus died, once and for all...He gave to us the ability to **live this life for Him and His glory**. How? Through the process of being sanctified. Did you see that word in verse 10? What does that mean? Sanctified. It means to be made like Jesus. And what was Jesus like? Holy... Did you hear that... Jesus was holy and because He cleanses from sin, guilt and shame...we can live holy lives. Now that doesn't mean we'll be perfect...but, let us never excuse sin based on that fact... May we never be heard saying,

“Oh well...no one’s perfect,” as we excuse our sin. When we do that...it’s a slap in the face to Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit living within us. Jesus died so that we might be saved from the penalty of sin...the grip of sin...the guilt of sin...the consequences of sin...and from the power of sin.

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### **1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. <sup>2</sup> For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

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And so Church family , as we turn back to Hebrews 10, verse 1, we’ll see this clearly...

### **Hebrews 10:1**

<sup>1</sup>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.

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*“What does it mean to be MADE PERFECT?” It means to be complete, to bring to fulfillment.*

So how goes it? How goes what? How goes what Jesus is wanting to help you become? Have you surrendered your life to Him so that He can sanctify you? Make you like Himself? Help you to break the chains that brings condemnation, pain and shame? Oh...listen, it’s so easy to try to be religious...just like the folks in the first century...they came to the Temple with a lamb...went through the routines and the rituals...and so can we! We can come here to church and sit in a chair for an hour and 15 minutes...go through the rituals...the routines. Oh...but’s in another thing when we walk out those doors and we are behind the doors of our homes, behind the doors of the schools and the offices? That’s when people see what He’s really going in our lives and who we’re really living for.

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Do you know what the Lord wants? David figured it out, as he was confessing his sin with Bathsheba:

### **Psalms 51:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. <sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

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And He won’t...He stands with open arms to receive all who will come to Him. No...wait a minute...Jesus isn’t standing right now is He... What’s Jesus doing right now? He’s seated, isn’t He? See this picture of the inside of the Temple and the priest...



Do you see a chair anywhere? Hmm? There isn't a chair in the Holy Place or the Holy of Holies for the priest to sit down? Why? Because his work was never done. But listen, in the real Holy of Holies...the throne room of heaven...Jesus, the Great High Priest is seated...because the work is finished! That's verse 12...

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**Hebrews 10:12** But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

Right now Jesus is heaven, seated. Hey...what if we imagined ourselves standing outside the throne room of heaven right now. Imagine that and we're waiting our turn to see Him. We're waiting to hear: "Next!" How do you think you'd feel? And then you hear: "Next!" And they point: "You come...it's your turn!" What would you say? Do you know how Jesus wants you to come? Relieved. Because the sin has been removed and so has the guilt, the pain and the shame... And so, He says, "Come to me."