

## **Hebrews 10:1-18**

### *The Superior Results of the New Priesthood*

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22 December 2019

**The Big Idea:** The results of the new priesthood are superior because it perfects its worshippers.

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## Hebrews 10:1-18 Supplemental Notes

### *The Superior Results of the New Priesthood*

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**Hook:** Adam and Eve walked closely with God in His garden...

**The Big Idea:** The results of the new priesthood are superior because it perfects its worshippers.

### III. **10:1-18** The Superior Effect of the New Priesthood

#### a. **10:1-4** The Old Covenant Could Not Perfect Its Worshippers

##### i. **10:1.** What was the shadow that the law (O.C.) had?

1. The shadow the law had were the animal sacrifices that pointed to the N.C. that Christ brought in by His sacrifice to take away sins, for this is the **very image** of the things the law pointed to.

- a. This shadow of the law also includes **the world to come** (9:11; cf. 1:14; 2:5; 6:5; 11:8, 20; 13:14) of which Jesus came as High Priest to deal with sin once for all (9:12), to offer the sanctified the eternal inheritance through obedience (9:15) which will be given as a possession for those who inherit it through obedience when He returns, without regard for sin, for the messianic salvation (9:28). He is currently waiting to bring in this messianic salvation which involves making His enemies His footstool upon His Second Advent (10:13).

##### ii. **10:1.** What does the verb to *make perfect* mean?

1. It means “to reach a goal.” God’s goal for the O.C. shadow sacrifices was never to take away sins, but to point to the ultimate sacrifice which was the **very image** of the goal to take away sins i.e. to cleanse the inward man/conscience (9:9; 10:2) allowing the worshipper access into God’s presence (9:8).

- iii. **10:2.** The repetitive nature of the animal sacrifices show its true function as a shadow of the good things to come pointing to the Lamb of God. The author is

simply reminding them of the purpose of the Law. Perhaps his audience misunderstood or was being deceived about the function of the Law.

1. The Law and the Prophets testified about the righteousness of God being revealed in the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:21; John 5:39; Luke 24:27 et al.)
  - iv. **10:3.** The animal sacrifices served as a reminder that their sins have not been dealt with once and for all. Hence, they are offered every year on the Day of Atonement.
  - v. **10:4.** The O.C. sacrifices did not take away sins, rather God tolerated their sins because of their obedience in offering these animal sacrifices knowing that He would provide Christ as the ultimate solution to take away sins once and for all (Rom. 3:21-26).
- b. **10:5-18** Christ has Perfected New Covenant Worshippers by His Perfect Sacrifice
- i. **10:5-10** The fulfillment of God's will in the death of Christ
    1. **10:5-7** Psalm 40:6-8 is quoted to prove that God's will was fulfilled
      - a. This Psalm is a song of sacrificial service – dedication to do the will of God. The Lord has delivered the psalmist from trouble and in return the psalmist dedicates himself to the service of the Lord.
      - b. **10:5.** The phrase “a body You have prepared for Me” is a quote from the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, the phrase is rendered as “**ears you have dug for me.**” A simple explanation for such variance is that the Greek translators understood the Hebraic figure of speech known as synecdoche where a part is made to represent the whole as in counting heads which means counting the number of people present.
      - c. Three helpful principles for dedication are presented:
        - i. God is pleased with the dedication of believers, not empty ritual

1. Jesus is the fullest expression of this truth in that He was the only One who could ever say that He always did the will of the Father (John 8:29)

ii. God has prepared every person for His service

1. If the Lord has the ear of the worshipper, then the worshipper is listening to God's instructions
2. The Lord made man to do His will and gave him everything needed for His service. Therefore, everything that man has is to be dedicated for God's service
3. Even the priests in their ordination were reminded of this fact when Moses placed blood on the ear, the thumb, and the toe of each of them (Lev. 8:23).
4. The author of Hebrews realizes these words find their fullest expression in **the incarnation of Christ**

iii. God gives direction for doing His will

1. The holy Scriptures were written for and prescribed for believers to obey
2. However, the author of Hebrews realizes the greater meaning of this Psalm when applied to Jesus – the Scriptures not only instruct believers, but it also reveals through prophecies and types the person and work of the Messiah (John 5:39).

2. **10:8-9** The author's exposition of Psalm 40:6-8

- a. The "first" that is taken away refers to the old system of animal sacrifices.

- b. The “second” that is established refers to the New Covenant, specifically the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

3. **10:10** The application to the death of Christ

- a. God’s will that is established is the sanctification of His people once for all.
- b. Christ’s sacrifice on the cross makes His people holy forever
- c. The author uses the term to sanctify not as a process, but as an event that takes place once someone believes in Christ for everlasting life and is declared holy. This usage is equivalent to Paul’s usage of being justified.
- d. Verse 10 is a strong statement about the **eternal security** of the believer and the sufficiency of the cross to make one holy forever.

ii. **10:11-14** A Finished Work of Sacrifice, Sanctifies

- 1. **10:11-12.** A new idea emerges – one that contrasts the Jewish priests standing and Christ sitting. The former indicates that the Jewish priests’ work was never finished as opposed to Christ’s finished work.
  - a. The author has made a return to the idea found in 1:3 of Christ sitting down after making purification of sins.
- 2. **10:13.** Why does the author make mention of Christ waiting for His enemies to be made His footstool? Because He has dealt with the sins of the world, He is now waiting to return, apart from sin, for the deliverance of His people who have been sanctified by His blood from their enemies and to reward the faithful for their service to Him (9:15, 28).
- 3. **10:11-13.** This small passage summarizes the entire book swimmingly inasmuch that vv. 11-12 say Christ is seated in heaven as our **High Priest** and in v. 13 He is seated as our coming **King**.

4. **10:14.** This verse reaffirms to the readership the sufficiency of the cross i.e. it cleanses the readership of their sin and provides full access to God.

a. Therefore, they should have confidence in drawing near (10:19-22) to God with Christ as their representative so that they can hold fast to their Christian confession and remain faithful to the Lord so that they will inherit salvation when the Lord returns as their King to deliver them from their oppressors.

b. If we don't have an **assurance** of God's perfect acceptance of us on the basis of the blood of Christ, our motivation will be severely hampered in serving Him. **PERSEVERANCE IS THE FRUIT OF ASSURANCE NOT VICE VERSA. IT IS NOT IN THE THINGS WE SEE IN OURSELVES.**

iii. **10:15-18** Conclusion – Stresses the O.T. Witness to This Truth

1. **10:18.** This verse serves as a consolation for the readership that their sins have been dealt with completely. But it also contains an implicit warning (10:26-29) and therefore the author in the next section will exhort his audience to not despise the blood by which they have been sanctified.

#### IV. **Application:**

a. **Put on the Helmet of Salvation – Be Assured of Your Salvation in Order to Grow Spiritually.** God's perfect acceptance of us on the basis of Christ's blood serves as a profound motivator for perseverance in godly Christian living. Only when we are accepted as we are can we begin to grow and become like Christ. Assurance of one's child-of-God-status before God is the only way to serve God effectively, vibrantly, and joyously.

b. The Tractor Accident

i. **Extend God's Forgiveness to Other Believers for the sake of Discipleship.**

Jim modeled to me the forgiveness of God in Christ when he forgave me for scratching up his truck and allowed for me to continue to learn how to drive the tractor. I not only learned how to drive the tractor better as a result, I also received an object lesson for how to extend forgiveness in a visceral way to others (cf. Eph. 4:32).

c. The Unconditional Handshake

i. **Extend God's Forgiveness to Unbelievers for the Sake of Evangelism.** If I

refused to offer my handshake of greeting to Aiden after his outburst of anger against me, my sharing of the Gospel of Christ with him two weeks later would have been naked and alone without good works to adorn my message. How can a believer share the Gospel of Christ effectively and compassionately without first showing it?