

The Midweek Podcast:

Heaven and Earth: Hebrews 10:5-10 | August 11, 2025 | Mark Watkins + Michael Carter

Mark Watkins

Good morning, Westover or should I say good afternoon, not sure when you're listening to this podcast, but my name is Mark and I'm one of the pastors here at Westover Church, and I have the privilege of talking through Hebrews 10: 5-10 this morning, and us just looking at this passage. You know, I hate to wash my car. And I've come to realize part of the reason why I hate it is because it is just so routine and it's a never-ending task. Each time I take my car to get it washed, I'm reminded that it's just gonna be another couple of days before I'm gonna be back washing it again, especially this time of year with the pollen. And it's just a never ending task and it actually gets harder each time because your car tends to get dirtier and you find scratches and things like that But it's just a never-ending struggle that I almost a routine that I'm always having to address and I think there's a lot of things in life that are very, that we struggle with that are great routines are important routines in life. There's some that are just they have to occur. I mean we get up in the mornings. We make our beds at least most of us do, we brush our teeth. We go to work. We exercise. We eat. I mean some tasks are easier to bring about that occur than others. Eating certainly is easier. For me, working out is harder. It's one of those tasks that ultimately I have to put some focus on to make it come about. And of course there's tasks that we do each day, routine tasks that have gotten easier just because of technology or because of machines that help us and make it easier. I think about washing, washing clothes. I was talking to my in-laws when I was in seeing them a couple of months ago and for a long period of time growing up and my wife had five brothers they didn't have a washer or dryer so washing occurred in over the course of 12 to 14 hours in one day and it was something that took a lot of time and of course now we can wash a load of clothes and dry them in 60 90 minutes so. There's a lot of things have changed, but repetition and routine are definitely very much a part of our lives. When we look at this passage, it's important to recognize and realize just what this routine and repetition, how that affected the Israelites. Let's talk about, well first of let me read our passages. Hebrews 10:5- 10.

“Consequently, when Christ[a] 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."

Sacrifice, sacrifice, sacrifice. I mean, that was a big, big part of what went on for thousands of years in the temple. I mean, you look at the typical year during Old Testament times, there was somewhere between 1300 and 1500 sacrifices made at the temple. There were daily lamb sacrifices in the morning and the evening. There were weekly sacrifices on the Sabbath. There were personal sacrifices, and sacrifices made at different feasts, sometimes lasting for days at a time. There were sin offerings. There were peace offerings. And it was a tremendous, important part of ultimately what occurred during Old Testament times.

Hebrews 10:8 says "Sacrificing offerings you were not pleased with." So all of this occurred, all this came about ultimately to bring about atonement for our sins. But what this passage is telling us in 10:9-10, it says "once for all", ultimately Christ changed what occurred with this routine, this repetition of continual sacrifice.

I love the fact that in Hebrews 10:9 he says, "here I am." I mean, he's here to bring about an end to this daily, weekly, continuous process that had to occur to bring about atonement for sins. And it's just beautiful to think that once for all, this was ended. Christ was the one supreme sacrifice. Ultimately, today we do not make daily, weekly, and continuous sacrifices, no more, because what Christ has done, He did it once for all. And so when we look at this, I mean it's so important to recognize and first by faith we trust in what Christ did once for all, that one sacrifice once for all.

I love what Tim Keller has to say when he talks about being a follower of Christ, he says "it all comes down to personal pronouns. Jesus was born, he died, he rose, he's coming again, that's one thing. But when we say Jesus was born for me, died for me, rose for me, coming

again for me, that is ultimately what we look to when we say and recognize that what Christ did, he did once for all for me. Christ is my once for all supreme sacrifice.” And it's easy to forget how that completely changed, so much changed our relationship and our access to God.

Now I was in Romania back during the early 90s. I went on a missions trip there and it was right after the revolution and we were speaking in some high schools and I was sharing my testimony. I shared my testimony in a high school. And after that, one of the students came up to me and he had this look on his face of just confusion. And the first thing he said to me is he looked at me and says, you mean I don't need a priest? And I asked him, what do you mean? What are you asking? What do mean you don't need a priest? He says, I've always understood I don't have access to God. Only the priest does. And it's only through the priest can I have access to God. And when I explained to him what Christ had done and what it brought about for him to have full and complete access, you could just see his eyes open up with this incredible surprise that ultimately he does, yes he does have access to Christ.

I love the passage Hebrews 4:16, it says, “Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence”, and because of what Christ has done that's what we should be able to do. We should be able to approach, we can, we do, approach the throne of grace with confidence. And it's just at any point in time, we don't have a need for a sacrifice. We don't have the needs to go through what the Israelites went through. You know, for me, there's times in life when I looked at this passage and I think, you know, I didn't really live that out. Ultimately, I didn't live out the access that I have to the throne of grace. I mean, my life would, it could probably be described as I'd mess up, I'd build up, and then I would confess up. And ultimately, what Christ wants us to do is when we do mess up, we confess up. We immediately come to the throne of grace acknowledging that He wants us to have full and complete access and by and through what Christ has done, we do. I mean, it's the difference in when something bad happens, do we run to Father? Or do we run from Father?

You know, my daughter had a little bit of a bump up, a car accident a couple of months ago, and she immediately got on the phone and called me. And when I answered the phone, of course, the first thing I did is I asked her, she okay? And she was fine. It was just a little bit of a fender bender between her and another lady. But I took such great comfort in the fact that she first came to me. I mean, she could have easily been upset about the fact that the accident occurred and thought that I might get upset with her and she could just, you know, exchange information with the lady and then leave the accident and then ultimately try to

find some way to cover it up and not for me to not be aware of it. But no, she ran to me during a time when she could have easily ran from me.

And ultimately that's what Christ desires. He desires that we see and fully understand what it means that he was the one sacrifice for all times, that we have full and complete access to the throne of grace. And that's what this passage is telling us. It's no more the the sin offerings and the sacrifices that were were done for many, many years, but now it's the Christ the ultimate sacrifice once for all. And by that once for all we are completely forgiven totally accept, deeply love, and absolutely complete. I mean, that is truly something to celebrate. And I pray that through this passage and through maybe you taking some time to hear this podcast and looking further into this passage, you're reminded of the full and complete access we have to the throne of grace. Thank you for joining us.

Discussion between Mark Watkins and Michael Carter

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