



HEBREWS 10 PART 1

The Exhaustion of the Shadows

Imagine being trapped in an endless loop, performing the exact same exhausting task day after day, year after year, knowing deep down that it will never actually solve your problem. For hundreds of years, this was the spiritual reality under the Old Covenant. The blood of bulls and goats flowed endlessly, but the sacrifices could never make a single worshipper perfect, nor could they clear a guilty conscience. As Pastor Steve highlighted from Hebrews 10:1-18, the old system was merely a shadow—a temporary, inferior system designed to expose our desperate need for the true substance.

That true substance is Jesus Christ. He didn't come to offer another temporary covering; He came to do the will of the Father by offering His own body as the perfect sacrifice *once for all*. The endless repetition of the Old Covenant proved its failure, but the fact that Jesus offered one sacrifice and then *sat down* proves His absolute victory. Through Christ, we have moved from the exhausting treadmill of religious shadows into the liberating reality of a permanent, finished salvation.

Study Questions

1. In Hebrews 10:1-2, the author argues that if the animal sacrifices actually worked to clear the conscience, they would have stopped being offered. How does the endless repetition of religious works (even today) prove that a person is still trying to "cure" themselves rather than trusting the finished work of Christ? *(OT: Isaiah 1:11 | NT: Hebrews 10:1-2)
2. Hebrews 10:18 states that where there is remission (forgiveness) of sins, "there is no longer an offering for sin." If the final offering has already been made, why is it a direct insult to the cross when modern churches teach that communion (the Eucharist) is a literal, recurring re-sacrifice of Christ? *(OT: Micah 7:18-19 | NT: Hebrews 10:18)
3. Instead of clearing the conscience, the Day of Atonement served as an annual reminder that sin was still present (Hebrews 10:3). Are there religious traditions or habits in your life that you use to simply "manage" your guilt rather than fully receiving God's pardon? *(OT: Leviticus 16:34 | NT: Hebrews 10:3)
4. Unlike the animals that were dragged unwillingly to the altar, Jesus deliberately declared, "I have come to do Your will, O God" (Hebrews 10:9). How does the voluntary, eager submission of Jesus to the cross amplify the magnitude of His love for you? *(OT: Isaiah 50:7 | NT: John 10:17-18)
5. Pastor Steve noted that everyone looks great showing up to church on Sunday in a tie, but God only cares about the heart. What are some specific ways that we modify our behavior just to look good to others, and where in your own life are you currently settling for outward religious conformity rather than true heart transformation? *(OT: 1 Samuel 16:7 | NT: Matthew 23:27-28)