

Title: Sanctified Through Death

Text: Hebrews 10:1-10

We are studying the Book of Hebrews. And I would certainly encourage you to pull out the notes that are in your bulletin. Also, turn in your Bibles to Hebrews chapter 10. Now, remember that Hebrews was written to Christian Jews. We are in Hebrews chapter 10 Vs 1. We are coming to the concluding portion of this section which deals with the Atonment of Christ. We have been talking about the death of Christ, now, from chapter 8 verse 1 up till now. So, we are in the concluding part of this section dealing with the atonment of Christ.

We have studied several things. In chapter 8 we noticed that there was a PREDICTION OF A NEW COVENANT. It was predicted in the book of Jerimah. A day would come when God would completely take away sin. That covenant was in the Old Covenant. Even though the Old covenant had animal sacrifices which could never take away sin.

In Chapter 9, we studied a little bit about the purpose of the Old Covenant. How it pictured and looked forward to the new covenant.

In Vs 11 through the end of chapter 9, we studied the matter of the PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW COVENANT. And all these principles dealt with the POWER OF THE BLOOD. With out the blood of Christ there is no forgiveness of sins. And we also looked at the fact that everthing that God intends to do for you and for me is based on what Jesus has already done. And that includes his second coming. That includes everything the Bible predicts will happen in the future. Everything is related to a passed fact of history where Jesus died.

Now, in chapter 10 verses 1 to 18, we are going to examine THE PROBLEM OF THE OLD COVENANT, which he has been dealing with throught these last couple of chapters. But now he summarizes. And then we will come to a wonderful conclusion as to what his point has been throughout this entire section.

Chapter 10..please..We are going to deal with just the first ten verses.

(Read 10:1-10)

PRAYER

We can see the problem of the old covenant in these verses in several ways.

(1 )And in the first three verses we see it in the remembrance of sin. There is one clear way of seeing the difference between the old and the new covenant. And that is under the old covenant there was continuance remembrance of sins. Now, in a practical way that means a lot to me now.

For a long time in my christian life I did not fully understand. That all the sins that I have ever committed or ever will commit in the future, were already dealt with at the cross by Jesus Christ. I have been thankful to God to be able to teach Hebrew. Because it has reminded me of this fact that is often ignored amongst us. We try to perform for God. We try to do things that we think He will be pleased with. We try to be what we think a christian should be. And in our effort to do that, we are destroying the facts of the cross of Christ without realizing it. I don't have to perform or prove anything to gain God's approval or favor in my life. Not one thing.

Everything that God has accomplished for me and is accomplishing and will accomplish is based on my faith in what Jesus did over 19 hundred years ago.

Under the old covenant it was not the same. There was a continually remembrance of sins. Why? Because there was continual sacrifices being made.

Let me share with you four things in these first three verses, dealing with this matter of the remembrance of sins.

(1 )First of all, in Vs 1 the importance of the Law. It says "that the law only has A SHADOW OF THE GOOD THINGS TO COME."

Now, a lot of people read that and say that a shadow is nothing. No...The law was good. It was perfect. It was moral. It had in it all that you needed to know about what God was going to do. A shadow merely indicates that something is ahead of it. The substance is there. The shadow is merely reflecting what the real is.

The law was important. The old covenant was important. Because it was picturing to them everything that God was going to do.

Literally, a shadow means a "mere outline was seen. Now, the outline is not the real thing. A lot of people will follow the law of the Old Testament thinking that that is the real thing. No, it is not. It was a shadow of that which was coming. Which basically was referring to Jesus.

All of the law was a mere outline. But, it was important. And it made you realize that the real was coming. And that in itself was exciting. It was like prophecy. The shadow was promising the substance. It was coming.

In Galatians 3:24 the Bible says that the law was a school master to bring us to Christ. That we might be justified by faith.

Not only was it a shadow, but that shadow had tremendous implications on the person's life. A school master in Biblical times was not only someone who taught you something, but he also was someone who disciplined you. Something that is not to often seen in our educational system today. But, years ago that school master not only taught you, but he disciplined you. He applied the rod to you. And the point is that the law was like a disciplin, keeping man in check and in line. Leading towards what Jesus Christ was going to do.

It was important to the O.T. Jew because everything that God was going to do was pictured there. It was a shadow.

(2 )The second thing in Vs 1 that I want you to notice is the image of that which is real. The Bible says that "the law was a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form or image of things."

Now, sometimes you can emphasize a word in a verse so much in detail that you lose sight of where you are. But, this is one of those verse where you really need to see something about the difference in a very small word.

For example the little word "things". When it says that the law was a shadow of "good things to come" there really isn't any word "things" in the Greek text. It is added based on the word "good". and the understanding is "good things."

But, the second word "things" comes from a word in the Greek text which is translated "things." From this Greek word we get our English word "pragmatic." Something that is "pragmatic" means "it works." So, what he said is that the law was not a shadow of the good things to come, but the image or form of the very thing that works

And right away I see the problem of the old covenant. The old covenant never had anything in and of itself that worked. It was only a picture and a shadow. It was looking forward that that which was coming which would work. And a person had to continue day after day the sacrifices that pictured the coming of the Messiah. But, those sacrifices in and of themselves did not work. Which is what Vs 4 clearly states.. "they could never take away sin."