

Jesus Came to do God's Will - Hebrews

10:1-18

Introduction

- We're continuing through Hebrews, which is a book focused entirely on Jesus Christ, and has a specific focus on showing how Jesus is the ultimate answer to our problem of sin, and the coming of Christ is the culmination of God's plan for us. Everything in Scripture and the Old Testament ultimately pointed forward to him.

The beauty of the God's Law is that it shows our need for a saviour

- The first few verses of this passage don't seem to give us a very hopeful outlook on life at first glance. Look what it's saying from V. 1-4

"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. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." - Heb. 10:1-4 (ESV)

- The author is describing the sacrificial system that was in place in the time of the Old Testament, and its inability to completely take away the sins of the people.
- The law required that sacrifices be made frequently for forgiveness of sins, but the author makes clear here that that system which was put in place was only a shadow of the "true form of these realities".
- He also makes the important point that if these sacrifices were enough to fully deal with sin, they would not have needed to be offered so often, they could have been offered once and that would be enough. But that was not the case.
- He sums this up so well in verse 3 & 4,

"But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." - Heb. 10:3-4 (ESV)

- These sacrifices were a reminder of the sin of the people and their inability to live in perfect obedience to God.

- The law was such a key pillar of Jewish society, and most Jews were incredibly devoted to the law, following every part of it to the best of their ability, making all the necessary sacrifices, and doing everything they could to keep from becoming unclean. These sacrifices, however, could easily become something of a legal or religious ritual and duty that they carried out, rather than something that they were doing with a heart of true obedience to God. So hearing these words would have been incredibly difficult for the Jews who would have put all their trust in their ability to deal with their own sin through this sacrificial system. This was not just talking about the religion of the people, but their very culture, and everything their life was built on. The author continues, however, and gives such incredible hope in the next verses.

The beauty of Christ is that he accomplishes what the law could not

- While the sacrifices of the people were insufficient to fully deal with their sin, the author makes clear in verse 1 that those sacrifices were meant to point to a greater reality, and he shows what that greater reality is in verses 5-14:

"Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body have you prepared for me;

6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

7 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.' "

8 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), 9 then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified." - Heb. 10:5-14 (ESV)

- God never wanted a system in which his people were repeatedly offering sacrifices over and over again to try to attain forgiveness for their sins. He never wanted his relationship with his people to be built on ritual obligation, but rather true heartfelt obedience and love.
- The author has made clear that this sacrificial system was meant to point to some thing greater, and what it was pointing to was Jesus. Darryl took some time with us on Christmas Eve to explain how Jesus came to offer himself as a sacrifice in our place, taking the death that we deserved, and allowing us to receive full forgiveness for sins in a way that the sacrificial system never could. This is hi-lighted so well in V. 14 which says,

“For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” - Heb. 10:14 (ESV)

- So there was no longer any need for sacrifices to be offered again and again and again to gain forgiveness, as Jesus provided himself as the perfect sacrifice, offering full forgiveness for sins and taking our punishment on himself, in an act of true and perfect obedience to God.

The beauty of the Gospel is that it is God’s will for this world

- This is truly what God wanted. This great sacrifice from Christ, his act of perfect obedience, offering himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the people.
- This is the entire great story of the Bible. From the first moment, everything was building towards this, and when Christ came, it was to fulfil the will of God on earth in providing himself as this perfect sacrifice for sins, making a way for the people to find salvation and relationship with God in a way that was never possible under the law of the Old Testament or through the sacrificial system.
- So often throughout Jesus’ ministry he talks about the fact that he came to do the *“will of the Father”* or the *“will of the One who sent me”*.
- Even at the end of his life, before he was crucified, we read of Jesus praying to God in the garden of Gethsemane, and these are the words that he says in Luke 22:42,

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” - Luke 22:42 (ESV)

- Jesus’ coming was an act of perfect obedience to God, and gave us a picture of what that kind of perfect obedience looks like, which was truly the will of God.
- So now we’ve come to the end of our “Why Christmas” series, spending four weeks looking through the book of Hebrews to understand more of why Jesus came at Christmas, and why that’s so significant.

- Honestly, in this series we've only really scratched the surface of all that the book of Hebrews has to offer, and I would really encourage you to take some time and read through this incredibly rich book on your own!
- Now, as we end this series, I want to take a moment to tie it all together.
- This Sunday between Christmas and New Years is personally one that I've always loved. This is a Sunday where we've just come through a season of focusing entirely on Christ's coming, and the great gift that was given for us in Jesus, and we're leading in to the New Year, a time where we'll all be making our resolutions, and setting goals for what we want to do in the coming year, and what we want 2021 to look like.
- So we've just come from this four week series of looking at why Christ came, and what he accomplished in his coming, so how does this hit home for us as we're heading into the New Year?
- Well as you're looking ahead to the year 2021 and making your goals and resolutions I want you to consider this. We've looked at Christ in the book of Hebrews and we've seen
- He came as the embodiment of the Word of God, speaking a message of hope and salvation from sins.
- He came and experienced life as a human being, allowing him to understand and sympathize with all of our struggles and suffering.
- He came to be our representative before God and offer himself as a sacrifice on our behalf
- And finally, he came as an act of perfect obedience to the will of God, giving us a picture of what this kind of true devotion and obedience to God looks like.
- So with those in mind, I want to give you four things to be thinking about as we head into this new year:
- Remember that the Bible is God's powerful Word. Spend time this year reading and studying it, learning more of who God is, allowing him to change you through it, and growing in your relationship with him.
- Remember that no matter what comes in the year 2021, we have a saviour who can sympathize with every struggle that we have. Trust in Christ, praise him in the good times of this year, and lean on him in whatever struggles you face.
- Remember that Christ has made himself a sacrifice in your place, and now stands as your representative before God. If you've never put your faith in Jesus, or accepted the gift that he offers, I invite you to do that tonight. And if you have, be reminded of what's been done for you and begin this year with a renewed commitment to live for him.
- And finally, remember the example that Christ has given us of perfect obedience to the will of the Father, and strive to follow that example. Not out of fear or obligation, but from the love

of our God, and our desire to see his will done in our lives. Let the year 2021 be defined by the powerful prayer of Jesus, “Not my will, but yours be done”.