

The Promise: Perfect...Forever (Pt.1)
 Hebrews 10:1-18

INTRODUCTION:

I. Perfect Sacrifice (vv.1-4)

A. The Law as Shadow

1. The original intent unchanged (**Hebrews 7-9**)
2. The complete incapability of the Law
 - a) Continual sacrifice meant continual reminder of sin, which meant an unclean conscience
 - b) The Law does not produce true worshipers

B. Pointing to True Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness forever (no more regular, annual reminders)
2. Cleansed conscience of the worshiper
 - a) Through His own blood, not the blood of goats and bulls
 - b) **Hebrews 9:9,21**
 - c) This is God's work -- cleanse the worshiper so that the worshiper may worship

II. The Perfect Obedience (vv.5-10)

A. Psalm 40:6-8

1. Revealing original intent

- a) God's desire is for obedience, not sacrifice
 - b) God's intention is be delighted in (marked by obedience), not sacrificed to
 - c) The use of 4 words for various Levitical sacrifices shows both the insufficiency (in total) of the Law to forgive forever, as well as the sole sufficiency of Christ's atoning work to cleanse the worshiper forever
2. Reveals the false thinking of the Jewish believer
 - a) The temptation to revert to a sacrificial system makes no sense in light of the fact that even the original system was meaningless apart from faith and repentance
 - b) Reverting to the sacrificial system of the Law would place sacrifice over obedience, perfectly met and satisfied in Christ
 - c) Our need to press through to a larger, redemptive story / narrative -- that the entirety of Scripture points to Jesus
 - (1) God's sovereign will
 - (2) Protects against falsehood
 - (3) Promotes delight in God

B. Perfection & pleasure is tied to obedience

1. The Will of God
 - a) This Psalm shows that God has always demanded and desired faithful hearths - only Christ could

- satisfy this in His perfect obedience
- (1) The Law exposed the inability of men to keep God's commands, thereby exposing their inability to delight in Him or give Him lasting pleasure
 - (2) Only in Christ can we delight in God, because only in Christ will we find our righteous requirements for obedience satisfied
- b) **John 6:37-40**
- (1) Saving His Own
 - (2) Keeping His Own
2. The Accomplishment of Christ
- a) Sanctification (purified, set apart, made holy)
 - b) Through His body
 - c) Once for all
- C. The Perfections of Christ make Perfect the Sanctified**
- 1. Exclusively through the substitutionary work of Christ
 - 2. Evidenced in obedience in pursuit of pleasure
 - a) Obedience to repent of dead works, trusting Christ alone
 - b) Obedience in faithful living
 - (1) Use of "sanctified" (hagiazō) allows for both complete work and the process to that end (**v. 14**)
- (a) Propositionally (the statement is true, regardless)
- (b) Positionally (His presence)
- (c) Practically (our process)
- (2) **F.F. Bruce**, *"The sanctification which his people receive in consequence is their inward cleansing from sin and their being made fit for the presence of God, so that henceforth they can offer him acceptable worship."*