

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



10. Jesus offers himself as a Sacrifice

(Leader's Notes)

Introduction

People quickly become religious! They will follow the outward rituals thinking that this is what Christianity means. In this study we will see that God is not satisfied with mere religiosity. He is looking for those who choose to do his will. This is something Jesus did when he offered himself as a sacrifice for us.

Scripture Reading: **Hebrews 10:1-18**

In the earlier chapters of Hebrews the author compares the old covenant with the new, the old priesthood with the priesthood of Jesus, the blood of animals with the blood of Jesus, and now he compares the sacrifice of animals with the sacrifice of Jesus himself.

- ❖ Compare the way in which the animal sacrifices were given with the sacrifice which was given by Jesus. Look at verses 1-4, 10-12.

(The sacrifice of animals

- *Had to be repeated year after year. v1*
- *Same sacrifices were made again & again. v11*

The sacrifice of Jesus

- *Sacrifice was made once for all. v10*
- *Jesus offered himself for all time. v12)*

- ❖ Give three reasons why the sacrifice of animals was inadequate in verses 1 to 4.

(v1 – They could not make the worshippers perfect.

v2 – They could not cleanse the guilt of sin.

v4 – They could not take away sins.)

- ❖ The sacrifice of animals could never meet man's need and so Christ came into the world. How do the verses quoted from verse 5 to 7 show what God really means?

(God was looking for someone to do his will.)

- ❖ These verses we have looked at come from Psalm 40:6-8. Read this now and also Psalm 51:16-17, Hosea 6:6 and 1 Samuel 15:22-23. According to these verses what is God's will?

(What God is looking for are those who choose to be obedient to him and have broken and contrite hearts.)

Discuss

No doubt when people came with their animal sacrifices it seemed they were doing God's will, but they were only following the outward form of religion. We still face this danger. In what ways do Christians fall into this trap of being religious? How can we avoid that? Discuss.

- ❖ There was one person who never fell into the trap of being religious and that was Jesus. How did he fulfil God's will in his life? V6-7, 10

(Jesus perfectly obeyed the father in every way throughout his life, and ultimately by giving his life as a sacrifice for sins.)

- ❖ What has Jesus' sacrifice done for us? V10, 12, 14
(v10 – *We are made holy by his sacrifice.*
V12 – *Our sins are forgiven.*
V14 – *We are made perfect.*)
- ❖ The last few verses of this passage are a quote from the prophet Jeremiah. What encouragement do you get from these verses? V16-17

Conclusion

This study brings us to the end of the section in the Book of Hebrews that teaches about Jesus as our High Priest. What a wonderful High Priest he is! He is far superior to the priests in the Old Testament, and the promises he makes are far greater. In the last few chapters of the book we will discover how these truths about Jesus encourage, challenge and motivate us to live the Christian life.