

HEBREWS — PART 6

JESUS' BLOOD IS BETTER

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Last week we covered Hebrews Chapters 8 and 9. **Jesus is High Priest ... following His Resurrection ... ascension into Heaven — taking HIS “BETTER BLOOD” into the Heavenly Holy of Holies — to be accepted by His Father.**

Think of the Levitical sacrifices. **An animal may be killed. But it's just a “dead animal”. It only becomes an offering to God when a priest collects its blood and applies it to the altar. At that point ... God receives it — the life of the animal — a spiritual cleansing agent — that washes away sin and ritual impurity.**

So Jesus' death was not an offering. **Only when Jesus — as Resurrected High Priest — carried His blood into the Holy of Holies — at the altar — was He officially “accepted” by The Father.**

This is what the Book of Hebrews is revealing.

THE CROSS WAS NOT AN ALTAR!

HEBREWS CHAPTER 10 — A BETTER SACRIFICE

Hebrews 10:1-4

1 **For the law, (of the Levitical Priesthood) having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.**

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? **For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.**

3 **But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.**

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

The Levitical system reminded people of their sinful nature. A sacrifice “showed willing” — better than nothing — but couldn’t transform the mind or conscience. The Levitical system was very limited. It couldn’t produce any real intimacy with The Father.

Hebrews 10:5-7 — quoted from Psa 40:6–8

5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:

“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,

But a body You have prepared for Me.

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin

You had no pleasure.

7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—

In the volume of the book it is written of Me—

To do Your will, O God.’ ”

God has always preferred an obedient heart to bloody sacrifices. (And thankfully Jesus was obedient — even to death on the cross).

1 Samuel 15:22-23

22 So Samuel said:

“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,

As in obeying the voice of the LORD?

Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice,**

And to heed (GOD) than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,

And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,

He also has rejected you from being king.”

To obey is better than sacrifice.

Micah 6:6-8

6 With what shall I come before the LORD,

And bow myself before the High God?

Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,

With calves a year old?
7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
Ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
8 **He has shown you, O man, what is good;**
And **what does the LORD require of you**
But **to do justly,**
To love mercy,
And **to walk humbly with your God?**

God has always wanted loyal hearts and minds. The Levitical Priesthood and Old Covenant were too limited. But Jesus as our High Priest in Heaven can bring us to maturity (many sons to glory!)

Hebrews 10:8-10

8 Previously saying, **“Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them”** (which are offered according to the law),
9 then **He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.”**
He takes away the first that He may establish the second.
10 **By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

Jesus is a BETTER SACRIFICE. HIGH PRIEST OF A BETTER SYSTEM. God isn't so much demanding an offering — AS GIVING ONE (HIS SON)!

Hebrews 10:11-18

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.
12 **But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,**
13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.
14 **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**
15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,

16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,**”

17 then He adds, “**Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.**”

18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

JESUS ONLY DIES ONCE!

Jeremiah 31:33 is quoted ... but confirmed to be inspired by the Holy Spirit.

God no longer remembers our sins. Neither should we! (Though the Devil will keep “reminding us” — to weaken our faith?)

And no further sacrifices are necessary — especially Levitical ones!

Hebrews 10:19-22

19 Therefore, brethren, **having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,**

20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, **that is, His flesh,**

21 **and having a High Priest over the house of God,**

22 **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**

We can enter the Holy of Holies — where we meet The Father Himself. **AND CAN ENTER BOLDLY!** Not by our personal merit — but because Jesus has opened the way. **We are cleansed — spiritually “disinfected” by being sprinkled with His blood.**

COMPARE:

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 **Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.**

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Hebrews 4:16 (AMP)

16 **Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace** (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), **that we may receive mercy** [for our failures] **and find grace to help in good time for every need** [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].

WE CAN COME BOLDLY TO THE PLACE OF GRACE — THE THRONE IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES!

Hebrews 10:23-25

23 **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.**

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

HOLD FAST — TAKE HEED — DON'T DRIFT AWAY!

(Perhaps some converts were having doubts? Be ready to endure!)

MAJOR WARNING NUMBER 5

Hebrews 10:26-31

26 For **if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,**

27 **but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.**

28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, **will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?**

30 For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The LORD will judge His people.”

31 **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

To sin willfully is in the present tense. It’s an ongoing state — **NOT A ONE-OFF “SLIP”!**

Hebrews 10:26 (NASB)

26 For **if we go on sinning willfully** ...

Hebrews 10:26 (AMP)

26 For **if we go on deliberately and willingly sinning** ...

I assume some people have done this — chosen this lifestyle? In which case — NO FURTHER SACRIFICE IS AVAILABLE — only fearful judgment.

Hebrews 10:32-34

32 But **recall the former days** in which, after you were illuminated, **you endured a great struggle with sufferings:**

33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;

34 **for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.**

The theme of endurance — against hardship and opposition — will continue through Chapter 11.

Reference to the author being “in chains” could be a reference to Paul? But some others were imprisoned too — Timothy ... for instance.

Hebrews 10:35-39

35 **Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.**

36 **For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:**

37 “For yet a little while,
And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

38 Now **the just shall live by faith;**

But **if anyone draws back,**
My soul has no pleasure in him.”

39 **But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.**

Don’t cast away your “confidence”. Same Greek word as “boldness” in Hebrews 4:16 and 10:19.

Don’t draw back or turn back. Keep going forward to maturity! Endure!

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH. Quoted from Habakkuk 2:4.

(Very “popular” verse — also quoted in Romans 1:17 ... Galatians 3:11 — plus here in Hebrews 10:38 and Habakkuk 2:4)

We’ll see more about those who lived by faith — and endured — in Hebrews Chapter 11.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 11 — A BETTER WAY

Often called “THE FAITH CHAPTER”. But could as easily be called “THE ENDURANCE CHAPTER”?

Hebrews 11:1-3

1 Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

3 **By faith** we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

A DEFINITION OF FAITH? “FAITH IS ...”

Hebrews 11:1 (AMP)

1 **NOW FAITH is** the assurance (the confirmation, **the title deed**) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

GEORGE MÜLLER (THE “APOSTLE OF FAITH”)

Faith is the assurance that the thing which God has said in His Word is true, and that God will act according to what He has said in His Word. This assurance, this reliance on God's Word, this confidence is faith.

Hebrews 11:4-7

4 **By faith Abel** offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

5 **By faith Enoch** was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But **without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

7 **By faith Noah**, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

FAITH IS PLEASING TO GOD. IT SHOWS THAT WE TRUST HIS FAITHFULNESS!

Enoch had been prophesying of judgment against the wicked (Jude 14–15). Evil people were searching for Him? So God took him (he was “not found”).

Hebrews 11:7-12

8 **By faith Abraham** obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And **he went out, not knowing where he was going.**

9 **By faith** he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

10 for **he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**

11 **By faith Sarah** herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

Abraham wasn't motivated by some land in Canaan ... or lots of sheep and camels. **He looked for an eternal city (“whose architect and builder is God”) where he would live in glory.**

Hebrews 11:13-16

13 **These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**

14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 **But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.**

THE SAINTS LOOK FOR A “BETTER COUNTRY”

Hebrews 11:17-29

- 17 **By faith Abraham**, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,
18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"
19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.
- 20 **By faith Isaac** blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.
- 21 **By faith Jacob**, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.
- 22 **By faith Joseph**, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.
- 23 **By faith Moses**, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.
- 24 **By faith Moses**, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
25 **choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin**,
26 **esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward**.
- 27 **By faith** he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.
- 28 **By faith** he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.
- 29 **By faith** they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

Verse 25: Enjoying the "PASSING PLEASURES OF SIN". Temporary! Forfeiting eternity.

Hebrews 11:25 (NET)

25 choosing rather to be ill-treated with the people of God than to enjoy **sin's fleeting pleasure**.

Hebrews 11:30-35

30 **By faith** the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

31 **By faith** the harlot **Rahab** did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of **Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: (*Samson is among the heroes of Faith — despite his human weakness.*)**

33 **who through faith** subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35 Women received their dead raised to life again. **Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.**

Verse 35: A BETTER RESURRECTION? The First Resurrection — including the 1,000 year Millennium with Jesus ... setting the world aright.

Hebrews 11:36-40

36 **Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.**

37 They were **stoned**, they were **sawn in two**, were **tempted**, were **slain with the sword**. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being **destitute, afflicted, tormented—**

38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

39 **And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, (YET!)**

40 **God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.**

Lots of heroes whose names we do not even know. But God knows their names! **They'll be in a BETTER RESURRECTION!**

Just 2 more chapters to go!

