

28 AUGUST 2020

HEBREWS 10:1-19

I just love the book of Hebrews. The book of Hebrews is totally about Jesus and His work of Salvation by Grace and not by Law. The writer of Hebrews is writing to the Jews, the Hebrews, and does an awesome job of stating Truth. What spoke to me so clearly in this **CHAPTER 10** is the fact that salvation is absolutely not by good works of any kind, or as is defined here by doing the Law. Salvation is absolutely and unequivocally by Grace alone. The Law here is of course referring to the 10 Commandments and would include by default all the rules and regulations from the Book of Leviticus and the hundreds of "dos" and "don'ts" that the Pharisees had placed upon the Jewish Nation. To be acceptable to God, a person had to obey and fulfill all the Law. To be guilty of breaking one law meant you were guilty of breaking all the law. James 2:10 teaches us that whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point he has become guilty of all. Every religion in the world is a religion of good works. You must perform to be pleasing to God. Don't think for a minute that we Baptists are any better. How many sermons have you heard throw it right out there or imply very strongly that if you don't do all the Baptist stuff like going to church every Sunday and Wednesday and reading the Bible and praying and giving your money and and and, that you probably aren't really saved and certainly not pleasing to God at all. Let's look at the Truth:

Verse **ONE** declares that the Law (performing all the good works you can come up with) can never make perfect those who are seeking to draw near to God. I think that is stated clear enough.

Verse **FOUR** goes on to declare that it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. We can never be pleasing and acceptable to the Father by performing any kind of work or sacrifice or good deed, etc.

Verse **FIVE** clearly explains that the Father does not desire sacrifices and offerings of any type regardless of the nature of the activity.

Verses **SIX - NINE** identify the only sacrifice that would ever be acceptable and pleasing to the Father; the sacrifice of His only Begotten Son on the cross for all mankind.

Verse **TEN** states it very plainly that we have been sanctified or separated or made Holy before the Father by this sacrifice of Jesus, not by anything whatsoever we could have done or will do or might do in any form or fashion, etc. Not one single act performed with all the best intentions can make us Holy before the Father except the sacrifice of Jesus.

Verse **ELEVEN** again emphasizes this point that sacrifices or works of any kind can never take away sins. Only a Person could do that, and that person was God Himself in Jesus.

Verse **FOURTEEN** is so awesome: "For by one offering (Jesus) He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified (made Holy)." We are perfect before the Father, set apart to Him (sanctified) solely by the work of Jesus on the cross.

Verse **NINETEEN** describes our great privilege as a perfect and holy and sanctified child of God in Jesus. We have complete freedom to enter into the Holy of Holies, the Father's Presence now, because of Grace and not by any Law or work or good deed or Baptist tradition, etc. Remember, according to Ephesians 2:6 we are seated with the Father and Jesus in the Throne Room right now for ever and ever!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yes, you may think I am coming down hard on us Baptists. I am because we talk like it is all Grace and then we load folks down with all the "works" they need to be doing and all our expectations that we put on them so that they can make the Father happy. What we are really saying is that all those "works" are stuff that they can do to make ME happy! When the Father looks at a believer, that believer is totally acceptable to Him because the Father does not see his sinful nature but the Righteousness of Jesus that became real to him by faith when he became a true believer. The Word is crystal clear that **WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD** - Hebrews 11:6. It does not say "without works or sacrifices or offerings, it is impossible to please God. Without faith it is impossible to please God and that Faith is only in Jesus alone.

What about all the stuff we do after becoming a believer, etc.? That discussion is for another time.

BLESSINGS