

The Shadow of Reality and the Perfect Sacrifice

HEBREWS 10: 1-10

Hebrews 10: 1-4

- 10 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Foreshadow

- V. 1 “For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.”

Forshadow

- Shadow means *skia* in Greek
- It is used here and in Col. 2:16-17
 - ¹⁶ “Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— ¹⁷ things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.”
- A “pale shadow,” a silhouette or an outline, a form without substance, or a form without reality.
- Not “copy” -- “foreshadowing.”

Shadow Not Image

- *Skia* is “only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form (“image” – eikon) of things.
- An “image” (*eikōn*) especially “the very Image” is an exact replica, “not an imperfect, partial reproduction, but a manifestation adequate to the reality itself.”
- Superior to the “copies” or “patterns.”
- The foreshadowing is not the reality.
- The reality can never come in the sacrifices and the Law.

Full Access to God

- The completed goal of God is that man might come into a full relationship with full access to Him. This is only possible through Jesus Christ and not through the Old Covenant.

What Was the Point of The Sacrificial System?

- 1. It was a foreshadowing of the coming of the reality of Christ.
- 2. It provided the constant, vivid reminder of the price of sin.
- 3. The sacrifices did not remove sin, but they “covered” it temporarily, so that the Israelites could have an external relationship with God.

The Sacrifices Did Not Remove Sin

- V. 2 "Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?"
- The sacrifices constantly reminded them that they were sinful and that the sacrifices did not remove their sin.
- V. 3 "But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. Their sins were covered temporarily, until they sinned again."

After the Cross

- We are delivered from the **fear** of judgment (our conscience) and **real judgment** for our sins (judicial declaration).
- With our transgressions now, we confess our sins. (I John 1:9)
- “He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.” (Proverbs 28:13)

Continual Crucifixion and the Catholic Doctrine

- The problem of repeating Christ's crucifixion.
- “And what does Christ do in the Holy Mass? He offers himself for us, as he offered himself on the Cross. He sacrifices himself for us. That is why we say that the Mass is the same Sacrifice as that of the Cross renewed in an un-bloody manner on the altar.” From CERC (Catholic Education Resource Center – “The Mass Explained”)
- The same mistake that the author here is revealing about the sacrifice of the regular sacrifice of animals
- Christ only needs to be crucified once.

Sacrifice of Animals Ineffective to Remove Sin

- The sacrifice of animals could not remove the underlying sin.
- The sacrifices worked only superficially not within a person's human spirit.

The Problems with the Old Covenant Sacrifices

- 1. It was only a ritual.
- 2. God was displeased with the way the sacrificial system was being observed.
- God wants obedience – not sacrifice.

Obedience Not Sacrifice

- v,. 5 “Sacrifice and offering You have not desired,
But a body You have prepared for Me;
⁶ In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You
have taken no pleasure.”

Obedience Not Sacrifice

- “Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. (1 Samuel 15:22)
- For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering.
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. (Psalm 51:16-17)

Obedience Not Sacrifice

- Isaiah 1:10
- “What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?”
Says the Lord.
“I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
And the fat of fed cattle;
And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats.
- ***
- “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight.
Cease to do evil,¹⁷ Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan,
Plead for the widow.

The Failure of the Sacrificial System

- The old sacrificial system was ineffective because it could not:
 - 1. Bring access to God;
 - 2. It couldn't remove sin;
 - 3. It couldn't renew the inner person, it was all external display

Sacrificial System Compared to the Sacrifice of Christ

- Christ's sacrifice was effective because:
- 1. It was God's will all along.
- Psalm 40:6-8
 - Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired;
My ears You have opened;
Burnt offering and sin offering You have not
required.
7 Then I said, "Behold, I come;
In the scroll of the book it is written of me.
8 I delight to do Your will, O my God;
Your Law is within my heart."

Sacrificial System Compared to the Sacrifice of Christ

- Therefore, when He comes into the world He says,
- “Sacrifice and offering You have not desired,
- But a body You have prepared for Me; [My ears you have dug.]
- 6 In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure.
- 7 “Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come
- (In the scroll of the book it is written of Me)
- To do Your will, O God.’”
- 8 After saying above, “Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have not desired, nor have You taken pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the Law),

A Body Was Formed by God

- A body was made for this purpose of eternal sacrifice.
- The ear was opened or my ears were dug out?
- What does this mean?

Sacrificial System Compared to the Sacrifice of Christ

- Christ's sacrifice was effective:
- 2. ...because it replaced the old system. God takes away the first so that He may establish the second.
- V. 9 "then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second." [the pronouns here now refer to Jesus Christ].

Sacrificial System Compared to the Sacrifice of Christ

- 3. The new sacrifice is better because it sanctifies the believer. The old sacrificial system could not make a person Holy.
- Verse 10: "By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."