

THE BETTER SACRIFICE III

VERSES 10:11-14 PERFECTED FOREVER BY ONE OFFERING

1. **Verse 12**—the priests stand daily offering the same sacrifices which could not take away sin in contrast with Jesus who sat down at the right hand of God after offering Himself only once
 - a. On the surface this passage gives the impression that everything was done at the cross
 - b. Jesus is merely idly waiting for the fulfillment of some future event—His enemies becoming His footstool
2. This passage is used to teach that Jesus finished the work of redemption at the cross
3. The truth is, the work is completed only in the sense that Jesus does not have to offer Himself again and again in contrast with the animal sacrifices (**Heb 10:18**)
 - a. Jesus finished His work at the cross; He will have to die again; but, His work in human hearts is not yet finished; it is ongoing
4. Jesus is not at sitting at the right hand of God doing nothing:
 - a. **Heb 2:17**—He is making atonement for the sins of the people
 - b. **Heb 7:25**—ever liveth to make intercession
 - c. **Heb 8:6**—Mediating the blessings of the new covenant
 - d. **Rom 8:31-14**—justifies believers through His atoning work
 - e. **Rev 5:8; Rev 8:3-4**—He is assisted by the heavenly agencies in His intercessory work
5. **Every high priest standeth. . . sat down**—the completeness of Christ's sacrifice is contrasted with the incomplete work of the priests in this expression
 - a. The completeness of the sacrifice of Christ and His High Priestly intercession will one day result in the final downfall of all those who are opposed to His rule (**Rev 11:15; 1 Cor 15:23-26; Dan 7:23-26**)
6. Therefore, sitting at the right hand of God does not mean idle inactivity, but merely to highlight His completed work
7. Jesus attained His goal of sanctifying and perfecting the worshippers with just one act of sacrificing Himself

A DONE DEAL?

8. Christ's complete sacrifice accomplished two great things:
 - a. Perfected forever them that are sanctified (**Heb 10:14**)
 - b. Partial fulfilment of the new covenant promise (**Heb 10:15-17**)
9. These two great accomplishments are expressed in the **past tense** giving the impression that they have already been achieved and completed
10. These are only achieved and completed in the same sense that we are already sitting with God in heavenly places today (**Eph 2:5-6**)—an objective, not subjective experience at this point in time
 - a. In **Heb 12:22-23**—we are come to Mount Zion by faith, not yet a real experience
 - b. In Himself, Christ has achieved the sanctification and the perfection of the believers today; this is an objective experience (an experience outside of the believer)

- c. Objectively, the believer is already sitting with Christ in heavenly places (**Eph 2:4-6**)
- d. Subjectively, the process of sanctifying and perfecting are still going on; it is a lifetime process (**Phil 3:12; Phil 1:6**)

Are we seeking for His fullness, ever pressing toward the mark set before us—the perfection of His character? When the Lord’s people reach this mark, they will be sealed in their foreheads. Filled with the Spirit, they will be complete in Christ, and the recording angel will declare, “It is finished” (The Review and Herald, June 10, 1902). **6BC 1118.**

- e. **IMPORTANT:** In the immediate context of **Hebrews 10**, perfection in the complete sense is defined as having no more remembrance or consciousness of sin; subjectively, this is not yet true in the believer’s experience

True sanctification means perfect love, perfect obedience, perfect conformity to the will of God. We are to be sanctified to God through obedience to the truth. Our conscience must be purged from dead works to serve the living God. **We are not yet perfect; but it is our privilege to cut away from the entanglements of self and sin, and advance to perfection.** Great possibilities, high and holy attainments, are placed within the reach of all. **AA 565.**

- 11. The death of Jesus on the cross is vital; His death is central; but Jesus ascended to heaven and as High Priest, He continues the work of redeeming through His ministration in the heavenly sanctuary; this work continues until sin is eradicated in the lives of men and man is restored to the image of God

VERSES 15-17 THE NEW COVENANT PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- 12. Likewise, the new covenant promises have not yet been completed fulfilled, although Paul quoted them
- 13. Paul quotes the new covenant promises in connection with the sanctification and perfection of the worshippers
 - a. Pardon and forgiveness in justification—the result of the new covenant promise “I will be merciful to their iniquities and forgive their sins”
 - b. Sanctification and perfection are the result of God writing the Law in human hearts and minds
 - c. Blotting out of sin—is the result of the God remembering their sins no more

VERSE 18

- 14. Animal sacrifices are no longer needed because the will of God has been achieved through Christ’s complete sacrifice
- 15. **Heb 8:13**—these, being part of the old covenant, are ready to vanish away

VERSES 19-20

- 16. **Boldness to enter**--Through faith in the offering of the body of Christ, believers boldly (with the assurance of faith) enter the heavenly sanctuary and follow Jesus in His work of atonement; they can boldly claim the new covenant promises through faith in that work of ministration
 - a. “Boldness” repeated in Hebrews three times:
 - i. **Heb 4:16**—“Come boldly to the throne of grace. . .”

- ii. **Heb 10:19**—“Having. . .boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus”
- iii. **Heb 10:35**—“Cast not away your confidence (boldness) which has great recompense of reward”
- iv. It is this boldness that gives us the assurance of favor in the hour of judgment (**Rev 14:7; 1 John 4:17**); “boldness” as in assurance of divine favor on account of faith and not of presumption
- v. Faith in the ability of Christ as High Priest, to present us perfect, without spot or wrinkle when we come up to the judgment, is what gives us assurance and hope now

17. **The new and living way**—faith in the offering of the flesh and blood of Jesus; the old way was through the old dispensation, through the offering of animal sacrifices

18. This appeal is parallel to the one found in **Heb 4:16**—come boldly to the throne of grace. . .

VERSES 21-25

19. **“Full assurance of faith. . .hold fast the profession of our hope. . .provoke unto love”**—those who through faith in Christ as High Priest, have been sanctified and perfected as a result of deriving benefit from the work of atonement going forward in the heavenly sanctuary, are to manifest the benefits they have received through

20. what is this profession of hope?

- a. the hope of righteousness (**Gal 5:5**)
- b. Christ formed within the hope of glory (**Col 1:28**)

21. An interesting observation:

- a. **verse 22** talks about **faith**--full assurance of faith
- b. **verse 23** talks about **hope**--holding fast to the hope without wavering
- c. **verse 24** talks about **love**--provoking unto love

22. Those who possess these attributes show they are in possession of them by not forsaking the assembling of themselves together

23. Compare this with **1 Cor 13:9-13**

- a. When that which is perfection or maturity of character comes as a result of receiving the benefit of the new covenant promise
 - i. That which is childish are put away
 - ii. One understands as he is understood

From the Holy of Holies, there goes on the grand work of instruction. The angels of God are communicating to men. Christ officiates in the Sanctuary. We do not follow Him into the Sanctuary as we should. Christ and angels work in the hearts of the children of men. The church above united with the church below is warring the good warfare upon the earth. There must be a purifying of the soul here upon the earth, in harmony with Christ’s cleansing of the Sanctuary in heaven. **There we shall see more clearly as we are seen. We shall know as we are known. 6MR 316.**

iii. The attributes of faith, hope and love are manifested in the life

- 1. Love is the greatest of the three because it includes the other two

24. Christian perfection has indeed come through the offering of the body of Christ once and for all (Verse 14) and through His ministration as High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary (**Verse 21**)

“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:” Col 1:28

“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power” Col 2:10

*“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, **make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” 1 Pet 5:10***

*“Let us therefore, **as many as be perfect**, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you” Phil 3:15*

VERSES 26-31 WARNING AGAINST REJECTING LIGHT

25. “If we sin willfully after that we have received knowledge of the truth. . .”--In the immediate context of **Hebrews 10**, the warning is equated with the persistent adherence to the old covenant rituals and ceremonies in the temple despite their profession of faith in Christ
 - a. it was tantamount to a rejection of the death of Jesus as superseding the offering of animal sacrifices in the temple
 - b. it was tantamount to the blatant refusal to enter boldly into the holiest of all through faith and identify with the high priestly ministration of Jesus
26. Warnings found in this passage parallel to those given earlier:
 - a. **Heb 2:3-4**—how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord. . .”
 - b. **Heb 6:4-6**—“it is impossible for those who were once enlightened. . .if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God and put him to open shame”
 - c. Hence, warnings against rejecting the truth about the work and mission of Jesus Christ are placed strategically throughout the book of Hebrews
 - i. at the beginning (Hebrews 2), middle (Hebrews 6) and end of the book (Hebrews 10)
27. Rejecting the truth about the work of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary is serious because it is rejection of the only means by which the blessings of the new covenant can be received!
 - a. It is treading underfoot Christ underfoot and counting the blood of the covenant an unholy thing and doing despite unto the Spirit of grace (**Heb 10:29**)
 - b. It is neglecting so great salvation
 - c. It is to fall away and crucify the Son of God afresh!
28. For Seventh-day Adventists, minimizing the sanctuary truth for whatever reason is tantamount to rejecting it!

VERSES 32-34 REMEMBER HISTORY

29. The former days—referring to the time when the Jewish Christians firmly stood for the gospel in the face of persecution from the Judaizers and were deeply concerned for each other
30. A better and enduring substance—
 - a. **Heb 2:3**—so great salvation
 - b. **Heb 5:9**--eternal salvation
 - c. **Heb 10:35**—great recompense of reward
 - d. Likewise, Seventh-day Adventists are not to forget their past history and the way God has led them in the past; for doing so, will bring weakness and uncertainty for the future

<p>We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history. We are now a strong people, if we will put our trust in the Lord; for we are handling the mighty truths of the word of God. 3SM 162.</p>

- a. **“We have nothing to fear for the future. . .”** In other words, we can have boldness, as long as hold on to the mighty truths of the word of God and remember how God has been leading the Advent movement

VERSES 35-39 A FINAL APPEAL FOR PATIENCE, FAITH AND FAITHFULNESS

31. The Hebrew converts were in danger of throwing away their assurance of salvation because of lack of patience and faith in the work of Jesus as Sacrifice and High Priest
 - a. **Heb 6:12**—we need to be followers of those who through faith and patience we may inherit the promise (a reference to Abraham, **verses 13-15**)
 - b. **Heb 10:36**—we need patience, after we have done the will of God, we may receive the promise
32. The warnings and appeals in this chapter apply to Seventh-day Adventists today who are giving up their faith in Adventism’s unique doctrine of the sanctuary in hopes of conforming to the world and becoming more acceptable to other denominations. . .