

THE BETTER SACRIFICE II

VERSES 5-9—“A BODY THOU HAST PREPARED ME. . .”

1. **Heb 10: 5**--A human body was prepared for the divine Son of God to accomplish what animal sacrifices could not;
2. Not just any human body, but a body
 - a. made in the image of likeness of God as the first Adam was
 - b. made in such a way that He could stand as the second Adam, as the federal head and representative of the human race
 - c. In that body, He redeemed the Adamic race through Adam’s disgraceful fall, by succeeding where Adam failed
 - i. He perfectly obeyed the Law despite the strongest temptations that were brought before Him by the Devil;
 - ii. He resisted the strongest temptation even unto blood (**Heb 4:15; Heb 12:4**)
 - iii. He overcame the world and the devil (John 16:33)
 - d. In that body, He tasted death for every man (**Heb 2:9**)
 - e. In that body, He demonstrated that there is no excuse for sinning;
 - f. In the body prepared for Him, Jesus demonstrated how sanctification and perfection can be attained in this life, by faith in His All-powerful High Priestly ministration in the heavenly sanctuary
3. **IMPORTANT:** Those who teach that character perfection is not possible to attain in this life manifest unbelief in that work; THEY BRING THE ATONING MINISTRY OF JESUS IN THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY DOWN TO THE SAME LEVEL AS THE ANIMAL SACRIFICE WHICH HAD NO EFFICACY TO BRING PERFECTION TO THE WORSHIPPERS
4. In other words, in that body, Jesus did the will of God;
5. What is the will of God?
 - a. “And this is the will of God, even your sanctification” (**1 Thess 4:3**)
 - b. by the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Christ (**Heb 10:9-10**)
6. This is why God was pleased with His Son, but not pleased with animal sacrifices
 - a. “This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. . .”
7. **Verse 5--“A body thou hast prepared me”**
 - a. quoted from **Ps 40:6** (Septuagint)
 - b. the original Hebrew text says —“*my ears hast thou hast digged*” (pierced)
8. What might explain the discrepancy? Which translation would be authoritative—the Hebrew or the Greek Septuagint?
 - a. In the absence of an authoritative source, we can accept both, as both convey important spiritual truth

- b. **Exo 21:1-6; Deut 15:16 17**— An “awl” or “awl,” was a small tool with a long sharp point used to make a hole usually in leather or wood; used to bore a hole in the ear of the Hebrew servant who wanted to give up his freedom after 6 years of servitude
 - i. This ceremony served as a beautiful illustration of total surrender of a slave to his master
 - ii. In taking human nature upon He divinity, Jesus demonstrated that He was willing to be forever subject to His Father in obedience to His will (Ps 40:8)
 - 1. “For the Son of man came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life ransom for many”
 - 2. Jesus totally emptied Himself and came on earth to do the will of His Father like that of a slave!
 - iii. This was the secret behind Christ’s total victory over sin—total surrender and total commitment to the will of God
 - iv. Jesus had to give up certain divine prerogatives in order to be in the position made like unto His brethren

VERSES 10:11-14 PERFECTED FOREVER BY ONE OFFERING

- 9. **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
- 10. This passage is used to teach that Jesus finished the work of redemption at the cross
- 11. 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
- 12. 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
- 13. **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**)
- 14. Therefore, sitting at the right hand of God does not mean idle inactivity, but merely to highlight His completed work
- 15. Jesus attained His goal of sanctifying and perfecting the worshippers with just one act of sacrificing Himself

A DONE DEAL?

16. 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**)
17. These two great accomplishments are expressed in the **past tense** giving the impression that they have already been achieved and completed
18. 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.**

19. 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