**“My Strong and Perfect Plea”**

**or “The Once-for-all Sacrifice”**

**Hebrews 10:1-18**

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Sean Hoisington, Hayden Bible Church, 6/20/21)

 The Book of Hebrews was written to a mixed lot: some who were born-again, and some who were still lost. At the time, ceremonial sacrifices were still being offered at the temple, a system only intended as a shadow of the real sacrifice: Jesus. For the born-again, Jesus had done His work and had begun His reign as King of Glory. He alone is enough.

 Can you trust Him alone, or is there something you need to add? What is your plea of acceptance before God? Your good works? Your joyful attitude? Your busyness at church? Your adherence to doctrine? Maybe you have no plea at all… you have nothing to bring. What you really need is a strong and perfect plea, one only given by Jesus Himself. He alone is our sufficient Savior. He alone is enough.

 The sacrifices offered at the temple were not lasting. They were a foreshadowing of the perfect Sacrifice to come. Ceremonial sacrifices didn’t permanently cleanse from sin, they didn’t cleanse consciences, and they didn’t lead to joy. Even now some meet weekly for therapeutic reminders of sin, but without the cleansing offered by Jesus. Only Jesus is our Redeemer and Rescuer. He is the once-for-all offering for sin, totally paying the price of redemption on the cross. To put an exclamation point on it, read Heb. 7:26-27; Heb. 9:11-12; Rom. 6:10; 1Pet. 3:18. What Jesus did was 0NCE-FOR-ALL! It’s DONE!

 Notice the phrase “He sat down” in Heb. 10:12. Jesus’ work of redemption is complete. He is seated on His throne at the right hand of God. Here is the truth: Only Jesus can keep me reconciled to God. Only Jesus is worthy of all honor, praise, and glory.

 God took away the Mosaic Covenant to establish the New Covenant through Jesus. Anyone under this new covenant has God’s laws written on his heart. And because His words are written on your heart, you are now a slave to righteousness. A born-again Christian will agree with God about what is sin, even though he may still struggle at times with sin. But that sin will never, ever come between you and God again! JESUS IS OUR SUFFICIENT SAVIOR. Amen.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. My 2 favorite verses in this passage are Heb. 10:10 and Heb. 10:14 (in The Message). Which are your favorites, and why?
2. In Heb. 10:16 God says He will put His laws on our hearts. What does this mean? How does this change you?
3. Look at the last line of the first stanza of the hymn. How do you know “No tongue can bid me thence depart”? Hint: Read Rom. 8:35-39 and rejoice! Read also John 6:38-40. Isn’t this incredibly good news?!
4. The second stanza of the hymn provides a very good definition of justification. What is it?
5. How are we justified? Read Psalm 103:10-12 and Rom. 5:1.
6. Read Mark 5:19. How has God had mercy on **YOU**? Who do you need to tell of his once-for-all sacrifice? Who do you need to pray for?

“Before the Throne of God Above” (Bancroft)

1 Before the throne of God above

I have a strong and perfect plea,

A great High Priest whose name is Love,

Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on his hands,

My name is written on his heart;

I know that while in heav'n he stands

No tongue can bid me thence depart,

No tongue can bid me thence depart.

2 When Satan tempts me to despair

And tells me of the guilt within,

Upward I look and see him there

Who made an end of all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died,

My sinful soul is counted free;

For God the Just is satisfied

To look on him and pardon me,

To look on him and pardon me.

3 Behold him there! The risen Lamb,

My perfect, spotless righteousness;

The great unchangeable "I AM,"

The King of glory and of grace!

One with himself I cannot die,

My soul is purchased by his blood;

My life is hid with Christ on high,

With Christ, my Savior and my God,

With Christ, my Savior and my God.