

## **The Greatest Gift of All**

*Hebrews 10:5-10*

### **Introduction**

Are you excited about Christmas? Yes! I have been good this year...

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### **Hebrews 10:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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### **Exposition**

#### **I. Context from Hebrews 10:1-4**

Hebrews 10:1-4 tells us that “the law,” which here, refers to the Old Testament sacrificial system of sacrifices and offerings on set days for different reasons and remembrances, this law pointed forward, it prefigured, foreshadowed the good things to come in the future. However, the law was not the substance of the good things. The good things that were coming were qualitatively and quantitatively better than the law that had come earlier.

The sacrificial system, as described in Hebrews 10:1-4, could not make a person perfect. It had to be repeatedly all the time. It was dependent on a group of religious leaders who were prone to failure. Furthermore, the sacrificial system could not fully address the guilt of the people. Finally, the bloods of bulls and goats could never atone for the sins of people. The sacrificial system was never intended to be a permanent solution to the problem of sin and rebellion against God. The sacrificial system merely renders a person ceremonially clean to continue to be a part of the people of God until “the good things would come in the future,” which leads us to the question, “What are the good things that were to come?”

#### **T.S. – We find that answer in Hebrews 10:5-10...**

#### **II. The Good Things to Come (Hebrews 10:5-10)**

As a consequence of the laws inadequacy to deal with the problem of sin and guilt, Christ came into the world. And when Christ came into the world, according to verses 5-7, He understood that His job was not to maintain “business as usual.” He did not come to earth to maintain the religious observance of the Jewish people that could never truly deal with sin and guilt. When Jesus came into the world, He did not come to fix the Levitical priest or His people through ceremonial observance according to the law by means of sacrifices and offerings of animals.

No! When Christ came into the world, He was not looking to follow the old order of ceremonial sacrifices, but to reveal the true order of heaven. The true order in which God the Father had sent God the Son into the world to become a man by the work of God the Holy Spirit in Mary. And instead of offering sacrifices, God the Son would take on flesh. He would become a man, and as a man, He would do the will of the Father who sent Him. Fulfilling all righteousness. Keeping all of God's holy law. Doing the will of the Father perfectly!

And what was the will of the Father? It was for Christ to come and do away with the first sacrificial system that could not make mankind acceptable before God, and to establish the true order, which verse 10 tells us will "sanctified us through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Do you see the difference between the work of Jesus in Hebrews 10:5-10 and the old sacrificial system of Hebrews 10:1-4?

Whereas the old system made an individual ceremonially clean to participate in the worship of the community of the people of Israel, it did not and could never deal with our guilt before a holy God. The blood of bulls and goats could not satisfy God's righteous wrath toward the sins of mankind. In order for man to be redeemed and reconciled to God, a man would have to do God's will perfectly and offer up himself in the place of all humanity. Yet, it could not be a mere man. It would have to be the God-Man, Christ Jesus. Very God of very God. 100% Man. 100% God. Jesus Christ, offering up Himself in our place, to satisfy God's righteous demand for the penalty of our sin, in order to make us holy forever.

The sacrifice of Christ never has to be offered again. It is done. Once and for all. And the benefits of His death can be applied to you today if you turn away from your self-made attempts to save yourself and trust in Him. Christ gave Himself for your sake, not because you were good, and you deserved it. But because you were not good, and you needed it! You could not save yourself. So, Christ came to save you!

### **Conclusion**

At Christmas, we often think about receiving gifts because we were good this year. We often think in terms of what we deserve and what we have worked hard to enjoy. Yet, this season should actually remind us that we are incapable of being good enough to be accepted by God and receive salvation. Salvation is the gift that God gives us, not because we deserve it, but because we need it. And it is the greatest gift of all, to those who receive it by faith in Christ.

Would receive this gift today?