

Christ Came to Make His People Perfect

Hebrews 10:1-4

We have studied how all the sacrifices in the Old Testament (called the Law) are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. In chapter 10 the writer makes a transition. We move from the doctrine to the difference it makes in us. The Old Testament sacrifices never made the worshipper perfect, and therefore they continued (vs.1-2). Jesus Christ came to make God's people perfect. This astounding truth is repeated throughout Hebrews.

I. To be perfect can only be determined by the One who sets the standard.

This should be obvious, but there are some who wrongly define perfection by their standards. For example, you may think you are perfect in your performance, until a coach points out to you a flaw. Jesus said, *"Be ye perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect"* (Matthew 5:48). The standard is God. The Old Covenant Hebrews had a better sense of the perfect holiness and righteousness of Yawheh. For this reason they kept their distance. They knew their failures. They brought their bulls and goats. The Old Testament sacrifices were an acknowledgement by the Hebrews that their sins did them in.

II. Christ's offering of His blood (death) makes the worshipper perfect.

A few commentators minimize the word perfect (*teleos* in Greek) by saying it cannot mean perfect. It means, though, exactly what it represents in English. The OT sacrifices could not make perfect. What does it mean to be perfect in the eyes of God? Not your eyes, His eyes? What is "perfection"? The Greek word *teleos* was used as much in Christ's day as our English word "perfect" is used today. The Greeks spoke of a "*teleos* play" as we speak of a "*perfect* game," and it meant the same thing. We can view perfection from three angles to see its fullness, or three color shades to see its richness. **If something is perfect:** (1). It contains all the requisite parts and is complete; (2). It is so good that nothing of the kind could be better or more satisfying ; (3). It attains the purpose for which it exists.

Every message you receive in this life is that you are not perfect. Young people, you are told that you lack the requisite proportional body parts to be considered perfect. You hear that other people are better, nicer, prettier, smarter, more fun, (and its true) ... and you ask, "What is my purpose in life?" *The One who created you made you to have rich fellowship and an enjoyable relationship with Him.* There is in us a natural sense that we are unworthy of God's love, grace, and goodness—and we are. The death of Christ obtained for you the removal of your guilt, the resurrection of Christ obtained for you the credit of His righteousness, and your *faith in Christ* that makes you "perfect" in God's eyes ...

III. Worshipers purged by Christ's blood ought to stop their offerings of guilt.

Allow me to close our study on these four verses to draw a parallel from the ancient OT Hebrews. Verses 2-3 explain why sacrifices continued among the Hebrews: There is a remembrance of sins. He who understands the work of Jesus Christ stops doing things in order to obtain God's blessings.

A. To be coerced into doing something good by threats or guilt is a sign Christ's blood is not yours.

It is true that some people in this life have to be coerced by punishment to restrain them.

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died ..." (II Corinthians 5:14).

B. To be fearful of God withdrawing His goodness is a sign your faith is not in Christ.

It is the sacrifice of Christ that makes you perfect, not your continual sacrifices to God. For this reason we can have full assurance "without wavering ... for He who promised is faithful" (v. 23).

C. To be satisfied by lesser things than God's love in Christ coming for you is soul dysfunction.

"O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure!"