

He Takes Away the First In Order to Establish the Second

Hebrews 10:8-10

The word judgment means “a decision; a division of two things.” If you are making a judgment, you are dividing between good and bad, right and wrong, harmless or dangerous. There is a cut, a separation. That is what judgment is. We usually think of judgment as synonymous with punishment, but that is not the case. Punishment may be a part of a judgment, but it is not judgment itself. You go to court for a judgment. You go to jail for punishment. The cross of Jesus Christ represents God’s judgment. It divides.

I. God has taken away the first agreement (“The Law”) at the cross.

The sacrifices, the festivals, the commandments, and the Laws of the Old Covenant are all gone. *He takes them away.* When you come to the Laws of the Old Testament you need not abide by them. *“Therefore let no one judge you in food or in drink, or in respect of a feast, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbaths. For these are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is Christ”* (Col. 2:16-17).

He takes them away. Everything in the Old Covenant pointed to the person and work of Jesus Christ. *“The Law has a shadow of good things to come, but is not the very image of the things”* (Heb. 10:1). The Old Testament and Hebrew rituals are like a blueprint of a new home. Before the home comes (is built) you follow the blueprint, but when the substance is come, you take away the blueprint. The only reason you would pull the blueprint out again is to *appreciate the details of the house*. I love to study the OT; but we must at all times see Christ in the blueprint or we miss the gospel.

II. God has established a second agreement (“The New Covenant”) at the cross.

He takes away the first ... *in order to establish the second.* What happens because of Christ’s death? *“By this we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”* (v. 10). This verse is Hebrews 10:10. It’s a 10 on every scale. It’s a perfect verse for a perfect people in Christ. The word “sanctified” (Greek: *hagios*) means “to be considered perfect or pure; a cut above all else.”

A. We have been sanctified by God at the cross.

We all must be very careful with measuring the holiness of God’s people apart from Jesus Christ. God makes a division at the cross; there are those who trust His Son; there are those who don’t. All God’s blessings, all of God’s goodness, all God’s power and pleasure belong to those in Christ. The Bible says *“We are accepted in the Beloved”* (Eph. 1:6). He is our sanctification (I Cor. 1:30).

B. Being in Christ guarantees God’s continual work in you.

“He who began the good work ... will carry it on to completion” (Phil. 1:6). *“You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins”* (Matt. 1:21). You are HIS work! Paul addresses the Corinthian believers as *“those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus”* (I Cor. 1:2).

C. The goodness, pleasure and love of God for you is in Christ.

God’s blessings are His words and His actions in Christ that empower us to be His children. *“God the Father has blessed us with every spiritual blessing ... in Christ”* (Eph. 1:3). The greatest incentive for holy living is our position before God. Do you know who you are?

III. Second agreement people look a great deal different than first agreement people.

The emphasis of the Hebrew people was on the keeping of “The Law.” Christians are led by the Spirit. The Law of the Hebrews was a set of codified regulations; the Spirit impresses Christians in the heart. Hebrew sin led to punishment and being “cut off” from God; believer’s sins lead to loving discipline. God is the potter; we are the clay. Rough spots cause God to apply greater pressure and spinning. Never forget; He will change you. He destroys sin because sin destroys you. He’s that good to you.