

I. Introduction and review.**II. Let us go out to Him bearing His reproach. v. 13-14****A. Go out to Christ to be made holy (acceptable to God). v. 13a**

1. Verse 13 summarizes the entire message of the book of Hebrews!
2. Because Jesus atoned for sin outside of Jerusalem, holiness is no longer to be found in Judaism (or any other external religion).
3. You can only draw near to God through faith in Jesus Christ's finished work. 9:11-14 10:10,14 John 14:6 Acts 4:12
4. Many have tried to turn Christianity into a system of rituals, priests, altars, sanctuaries, and sacrifices which are barriers between men and Christ. I Ti. 2:5
5. Those who continue in the outmoded sacrificial system cannot partake of Christ's true and final sacrifice.
6. Repent of earthly religion and in simple faith trust Jesus Whose sacrificial death has paid for the guilt of all who come to Him.

B. When you take your stand with Jesus you will be treated with reproach. v. 13b

1. Turning to Christ involves total commitment and suffering. Mark 8:34
2. The religious establishment will hate you. II Cor. 11:27 II Tim. 3:12
3. The simplicity and exclusivity of the cross of Christ as the only way to God is still offensive to religious people. I Cor. 1:18-2:5 Gal. 5:11 6:12 John 14:6
4. The world will hate you. John 3:19-20 17:14-16 I Jo. 2:15-17 Js. 4:4
5. Are you prepared to offer yourself as a living sacrifice, thereby turning your back on the world? 11:26 Rom. 12:1-2 Luke 14:27

C. Your hope for the coming city of God enables you to live as pilgrims on earth. v. 14

1. There is no lasting city here. 12:26-27
2. We eagerly await the coming of the City of God. 11:10,13-14 9:28 12:28
3. Whatever we suffer now will seem light and momentary when Christ returns.

III. Let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God. v. 15**A. We come to God *through Him* (Jesus). v. 15a**

1. Because of Jesus' penal substitutionary atonement, no more sacrifice is required (or allowed) to pay for our sin. 10:18,14,10 I Pe. 2:18
2. We are all priests through Christ Who gives us access to God's holy presence. 10:19-22 I Pe. 2:4-5 I Tim. 2:5 Rev. 1:5-6
3. Our "sacrifices" do nothing to secure our redemption, but simply express gratitude and love towards God.

B. We offer a *sacrifice of praise to God*. v. 15b Hos. 14:2 Ps. 50:14,23

1. Jesus explained that a radical change was going to take place in how God would be worshiped under the New Covenant. John 4:21-24
2. Instead of offering animals to atone for our sin, we gratefully offer sacrifices of praise to God for the perfect and final sacrifice of Christ.
3. The early church replaced the elaborate ritual of the Old Covenant with the simplicity of New Covenant worship. Acts 2:42
4. We worship God *continually*. I Th. 5:18
5. Worship is a joyous privilege. Ps. 98:4 100:1-5

- C. What kind of worship does God seek? John 4:23-24
1. Worship is God-centered. 12:28-29 John 4:23 Ps. 96:8-9 II Tim. 4:3-4
 2. Worship is regulated by the Word of God. Worship in truth. John 4:24
 3. Worship is to be spiritual (sincere) and heartfelt. Ps. 103:1 Mt. 15:8-9 Is. 1:11ff
 4. New Covenant worship is Christ-centered. 10:19ff I Pe. 2:5 Rev. 5:9ff
 5. Worship is to be orderly and intelligible. I Co. 14:40,14-17
- D. Not all worship is acceptable to God. Isa. 1:14
1. We are not free to go back to the Old Covenant.
 2. We are not free to add or subtract from the pattern of worship revealed in the New Testament. Dt. 12:32 Mt. 15:3,6
 3. False worship can be fatal. 12:28f Lev. 10:1-3 II Sa. 6:6ff Acts 5:1ff I Co. 11:29ff
 4. It is very easy to slip into improper worship. Col. 2:23
- E. In what ways does God want to be worshiped? Acts 2:42
1. We sing praises to God for His attributes and for His great works. Col. 3:16
Eph. 5:19f Ps. 66:5-7 100:2
 2. We hear His Word read and proclaimed. 13:7 Acts 2:42a I Ti. 4:13 II Ti. 4:1ff
 3. We pray: confession, thanksgiving, praise, and petition. Acts 2:42d I Tim. 2:1ff
Phil. 4:6 Ps. 51 Eph. 5:20
 4. We give public testimony, declaring gratitude for His manifold goodness to us.
 5. We remember the Lord through communion, by which we proclaim His death until He comes. Acts 2:42c 20:7 I Co. 11:17-34 10:16

IV. Let us offer up a sacrifice of good works to God. v. 16

- A. What is the role of good works in Christianity?
1. Your works contribute absolutely nothing to your salvation. Eph. 2:8-9 Tit. 3:4-7
Phil. 3:7ff I Cor. 1:30-31
 2. Christians do good works as an expression of gratitude and worship to God who has saved us by His sovereign grace. Eph. 2:10 Titus 3:8 2:14 Phil. 1:6 I Jo. 2:3-4
- B. What kinds of good works please God? Mic. 6:8 Isa. 58:5-8
1. Share your resources with those in need. 13:3 Acts 2:44f 4:32ff Js. 1:27 Ga. 6:9ff
I Jo. 3:16-18 II Cor. 8:7-9 9:7
 2. Serve the Lord by using your spiritual gifts to build up the church. I Pe. 4:10-11
Eph. 4:10ff
 3. Participate in the proclamation of the gospel. I Pe. 2:9-10 Mt. 28:18ff Acts 1:8
 4. Such sacrifices are possible when you trust Him. 13:5-6

V. Concluding applications.

Discussion Questions

1. How does verse 13 summarize the entire book of Hebrews (and the entire Bible)?
2. Why must the Hebrews make a total break with Judaism?
3. From what must those who want to become Christians today make a break?
4. What should you expect as a result of your decision to follow Christ?
5. How can you endure the reproach which falls upon those who follow Christ?
6. In what sense are sacrifices complete and in what sense do we still offer sacrifices to God?
7. In what sense are we priests?
8. What worship and praise does God seek?
9. What worship is unacceptable to God?
10. What is the role of good works in Christianity?