

Here we come to our third point how thinking of Jesus' offering and rightly and believingly viewing it means seeing Christ's one offering not only as all-important, and all-sufficient, but also all-inviting. The gospel message is that whoever believes in Jesus Christ shall not perish but have everlasting life. God is not willing that any should perish, and no one should think God just is not interested in saving a sinner like you, or He is just not able to save a sinner like you. No, listen to Hebrews 7:23ff, again telling of the superb once for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We read there, "And [speaking about Old Testament times] *they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man, [speaking of Jesus Christ], because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore He is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*"

You are so wrong when you somehow think the gospel message and invitation can't be for a sinful and struggling person like yourself. Jesus receives hopeless case sinners and that makes no sinner's case hopeless in fleeing to Him. The only hopeless sinners are those who refuse to cast themselves upon Christ, pleading, "God be merciful to me a sinner, for Jesus' sake." Will you not so pray and come to the Saviour? Do you hear the Saviour calling you to come to Him, also through this preached word now? Let me quote here a saying from John Calvin that we all do well to consider. "If we defer hearing until tomorrow, when God is speaking to us today, the unseasonable night will come, when what now may be done, can no longer be done; and we shall knock in vain when the door is closed." These are solemn words urging all to be sure to be trusting in Jesus' once for all offering as this year ends and as we fly away to a never ending eternity in one of two places. Hebrews 10:14 states about Jesus and His saved people, "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified [are being sanctified]." Those who are being sanctified refers to all those who are by the Holy Spirit and through His Word turning from sin and trusting in Christ and following after Him. Does that include you too, my friend?

Trusting Jesus' once for all offering, seeing it as all-important, all-sufficient, and all-inviting, "O, happy is the man that chooses Israel's God to be his aid. He is blest whose hope of blessing on the Lord His God is stayed!" It is the only blessed way to end one year and enter into a new year. Amen.

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BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST

Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)



JESUS' ONE OFFERING FOR SIN

For this last broadcast of the year 2007 I would draw your attention to Hebrews 10:11-15a and Christ's once for all offering as the only remedy from all sin. "And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us..."

With this passage in mind, consider with me now the gospel theme of trusting Jesus' once for all offering. The burden with this message is that you now realize that this was and still is an all-important offering, an all-sufficient offering, and an all-inviting offering. On this last Sunday of the year 2007, is this a message you listen to and live out of by God's grace?

In the book of Hebrews, from the start and all throughout, the inspired author is seeking to bring out the supremacy of Christ Jesus and His surpassing greatness above the angels, Moses, Joshua, Aaron, and all the sacrifices and shadows of the Old Testament. In the context of chapters 9 & 10, the author is showing how Jesus is a greater high priest by far with the greatest sacrifice and offering above all! The Old Testament sacrifices and all the blood shed then served ever to remind the Israelites of their sins and the need of cleansing and renewal, and they pointed always to the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, and His once for all offering for sin one day. "For it is not possible" we read in Hebrews 10:4 "that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." Thus also it says in Hebrews 9:12, "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, He [Jesus] entered in once into the holy place [in glory above], having obtained eternal redemption for us [all who trust and follow Him]."

Trusting Jesus' once for all offering means, among other things, realizing the all-importance of it. Nothing in all of history can compare to the importance of Jesus' offering on the cross with His once for all sacrifice on Golgotha. Before that historical event about 2000 years ago, all of history was an outworking of God towards that event and since that time all of history actually revolves around that one-time great event on Golgotha and all that it means and brings for now and forever. Now many may say they realize of course that Jesus' offering on the cross is all-important. What we

need to ask and pursue, however, 'Is it also all important to you in your spiritual experience?' Really grasping the all-importance of Jesus' offering in true faith will mean realizing also by God's Word and Spirit something of how terrible and deep is our fall into sin that nothing less than Jesus' blood is required to save us from our sins and sinfulness. To know the all-importance of Jesus' offering you will realize then too something of the depth of your own sin and misery that nothing less than so great a remedy is needed to save you from your sins! The truth is that nothing but the blood of Jesus shed on the cross and applied to your heart by Spirit-worked faith can make you accepted of God and whole before Him again. Is this your heart realization and personal confession?

This is the gospel! Do you know and understand the all-importance of Jesus' offering? How important with all-important matters in life that you get the right authorities behind it. Well, concerning the all-important matter of salvation from sin and reconciliation with God, Jesus Christ the Saviour with His once for all offering has all the authority and approval of God Triune behind Him. God the Father sent His Son for this one-time offering for sin, and the Spirit upheld the Son in this 'one-time for all time' offering for sin, and Jesus gave His offering to save His people from their sins. Jesus' offering is the all-important one because He alone is the God-sent, God-equipped, God-accepted, God-approved, and God-blessed Saviour of sinners. Do you confess this Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen Saviour, and His one offering as so all-important also to you and for you? Truly believing in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord means acknowledging this reality sincerely and repeatedly so.

Our text shows Jesus Christ and His one offering is not only all important but also all-sufficient. After Christ's one offering which we are told in verse 12 was for sins forever [for all time], then also the text says Jesus sat down at the right hand of God expecting the full fruition of His salvation work. This means the Saviour with His once for all sacrifice was accepted into the most Holy Place in God's presence in eternal glory once for all, having obtained "*eternal redemption*" as Hebrews 9:12 states. There is no longer then any offering for sin required with Jesus' shed blood and His once for all sacrifice on Calvary. With Jesus Christ is found that perfect righteousness before God we need, and with Him is found that perfect payment for sin that God requires. Christ paid it all, and no more offering, no more bloodshed, no more sacrifice, and no more righteousness from us ever is needed to find total acceptance with God; it is all only always found in and with Christ Jesus and His once for all sacrifice.

Jesus, the crucified and risen Saviour, is the perfect once for all sacrifice for us before God and this is so because of His perfect Person and work as Mediator, being eternal God and righteous sinless Man in one Person. His Person makes His sacrifice endlessly priceless and all-powerful!

Think too of the perfect completeness of His offering. Not a thing required is missing in Jesus' saving work and all He did! Everything was done so infinitely perfect and with such perfect love and devotion towards God His Father and on behalf of sinners that it is all-sufficient in every way for any and all sinners who come to Him and trust in Him. Again, surely also the way the whole Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are behind and in support of what Christ came to suffer and endure in His offering proves to us in Jesus Christ and Him crucified we have so great a Saviour of sinners, greater than all words of all languages could ever tell and proclaim.

Just to bring this out some more, let me give here two quotes about Jesus' once for all offering from the late Rev. Douglas MacMillan. He describes how Jesus offered Himself with such infinite love and willingness to do so. "[Christ's] obedience [in offering Himself as Saviour], lay not only in mere acceptance [of His task] but in assertive exertion!It is not merely that Christ was there, offering Himself in death; the truth is far grander than that; there was nowhere else in all the reaches of the universe that He would rather be; nothing else that He would prefer to be doing. This was His work, this was His will, this was His mission. He gave Himself fully to all that it demanded. His own positive, powerful action is in exercise all the time; [yes, as] He 'offered Himself'" like Hebrews 9:14 also says. And then commenting on how Hebrews 9:14 states that it was through the "eternal Spirit" Christ offered Himself without spot to God", how precious what MacMillan says about this too when he writes, "Eternal issues were being settled in the death of Jesus. Eternal wrath was being experienced; eternal punishment was being endured; eternal salvation was being secured; eternal death was being faced; eternal justice was being satisfied; eternal love was being demonstrated; and it is altogether appropriate that the One Who sustains the Saviour throughout should be the eternal Spirit....It was the eternal Spirit alone Who could fathom all the factors involved, and who could, in some sense, company with the Redeemer on this lonely, lofty peak of redemptive achievement."

All this brings out so clearly the Saviour, Whom God the Father has sent into this world, is the one and only all-sufficient Saviour of sinners! And now the question is also in these last days of 2007, 'Do you too recognize and believe the all-sufficiency of Jesus' one offering in time past on Golgotha, also to save you from all your sins and sinfulness? Do you believe in your heart no matter how great your sins, yet God's grace and free and full pardon is greater still and can be so, without a doubt, in the light of Jesus Christ and His once for all offering for sin, and trusting therein? Do you in your heart value and treasure and find refuge in Jesus' Person and work as Saviour as sufficient surely also to save so great a sinner as yourself? This is in fact what true faith and genuine Christianity is all about. Are you trusting Jesus and His once for all offering in your heart and life?