

## Hebrews Chapter 10A

I have a question for you and I want you to be honest:

How many of you, when you were children, grumbled about the continual repetition that you were forced to endure throughout the education process?

- Before you answer let me remind you:
- Of the times when you gave your mom a hard time when she brought out those dreaded flash cards that helped us learn the times tables.
- Or when she made you rewrite all of your spelling words 10 times. (Torture!)
- Remember, arguing with your 100-year-old Piano teacher over the constant repetition of the scales that she made you play every Wednesday afternoon in your piano lesson.
- Rebelling against your Dad in High School when he tested you in the Periodic Table of Elements every night for two months.

Aristotle: The ancient Greek Philosopher, recognized the role of repetition in learning saying “it is frequent repetition that produces a natural tendency” and “the more frequently two things are experienced together, the more likely it will be that the experience or recall of one will stimulate the recall of the other”

- Bringing it into more modern times:

Zig Ziegler – Businessman and motivational speaker said:

“Repetition is the mother of learning, the father of action, which makes it the architect of accomplishment.”

- SO from A to Z (*Aristotle to Ziegler*) Ancient and Modern educators all agree that repetition is a necessary element in the learning process.

And yet no matter how old we are, that same childhood grumbling often rises to the surface when ongoing education, even Bible Study, involves continual repetition.

Of course I bring this issue up today because here in Hebrews chapter 10 the Author is going to repeat the same doctrinal truths that he has been elaborating on in chapters 7 through 9.

- So as I begin I want to warn you:
- Don't allow your inner child to divert your attention from the text this morning, I hope to provide you with a very important application that will benefit you in your own struggle with remaining sin.

This morning we are in Hebrews 10:1-14, and here are the points I would like to draw to your attention:

- The Imperfections of the Shadow      The Effectiveness of the Substance
- The Sufficiency of the Sacrifice,      Then an important application

## 1 The Imperfections of the Shadow

Hebrews 10:1 **For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshippers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins?**

Although they were offered continually all of the ceremonies and all of the sacrifices demanded by the Law were impotent, completely unable to perfect the participants and because of that the worshippers were unable to draw near to God. They remained outside of the veil.

- But through the repetition of the doctrinal of salvation, the Author of Hebrews desires to etch to engrave the superiority & sufficiency of Christ into our minds.
- You see the O.T. Sacrifices (bulls / goats) were merely shadows designed to reflect the substance of good things that were yet to come.

The word that is translated “Shadow” in vs 1(SKIA) refers specifically to a pale or sketchy shadow, one that is hard to distinguish, difficult to discern.

- The language employed by the Author compares the Shadows of the O.T. to a quick and very basic draft of an image that was penciled on a canvas.
- So also the rituals and sacrifices of the O.T. were merely a shadow, a sketch, a vague image of the glory that was to be revealed through Jesus Christ.
- In comparison the Author likens the New Testament (*In his words*) to **the true form of these realities**.
- So compared to the O.T. Sketches the N.T. in Christ’s blood could be likened to the sharp, clear picture that is captured by a High Definition Camera.

In Colossians 2:17 (The Apostle Paul tells us the O.T. Rituals and practices) **are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.**

The continual repetition of the O.T. Sacrifices “**Year after year**” implies the piling up of one shadow on another and then another and it describes the futility and frustration of religious exercises that are unable to bring the worshipper into the presence of God

- They were like riding a merry go round; it may look like a horse, it seems to be moving forward, but after going up and down and round and round for a long period of time you are no closer to your desired destination than when you began.
- None of the prescribed sacrifices of the O.T. actually cleansed the worshipper nor did they provide access to the presence of God.

Why then did God institute the Law? What is the purpose for the shadow?

1. The purpose of a shadow is to point to the substance. Ask any 5-year-old child. When he sees a shadow on the wall after you put him to bed he is certain that there is a monster in the room.
  - a. It is only after you painstakingly reveal the true substance behind the shadow (*Look it's just a shirt or a toy*) Only then can the child finally lay down and rest.
2. So it is that when God graciously reveals the substance of Christ behind the shadows of the O.T. rituals the child of Abraham can finally enter into the rest of faith that God provides through Jesus Christ alone.

Moving from the Shadows to the Substance, from the rituals to the reality the writer of Hebrews uses a quote from Psalm 40 to show the effectiveness of Christ's sacrifice.

## 2 The Effectiveness of the Substance

Hebrews 10:5 **Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me. 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 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.'"**

- God took no pleasure in the continual slaughter of animals. They were simply a foreshadowing of the perfect sacrifice that would take place at the incarnation of Jesus Christ.
- Taking on a human body, living a perfect life and dying on the cross Jesus fulfilled the perfect will of God. *"Behold I have come to do your will O God"*
- It was the plan of the Father, before the creation of the world that the Lord Jesus would be the sacrificial Lamb who would take away the sin of the world.

In Revelation 13:8 Jesus is the **Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

The O.T. prophets communicated the will of God concerning the sacrificial death of Christ.

Isaiah 53:7 **He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?**

- Isaiah clearly showed that the death of Christ was the will of God:

Isaiah 53:10 **Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; And we know from our study in the Gospel of John, it was Jesus' supreme mission on earth to do the will of the Father.**

John 6: 38 **For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.**

- Jesus obedience to the Father can be seen in the incarnation when he left his home in glory and took on human flesh but His greatest act of obedience is seen in the Garden of Gethsemane when he obediently submitted to the Father, agreeing to bear our sin.

Mark 14: 36 **And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."**

- In the perfect will of God, Jesus Christ satisfied the justice of God by offering himself as the one and only substitute of atonement for the sins of men.
- His sacrifice effectively removed the penalty and the power of sin from man thus providing him with that which the O.T. rituals and sacrifices never provided and that is access to the Father.
- We saw this in chapter 9:

Hebrews 9: 13 **For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.**

- Because Christ's sacrifice is the substance OF which all of the O.T. sacrifices were simply shadows it stands to reason that once the substance is revealed the shadows can be removed.

Here in Hebrews 10:9 the effectiveness of the Substance is seen in the fact that it did away with the O.T. rituals.

Hebrews 10: 8 **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), 9 then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second.**

- God took away the first, that is the O.T. rituals and sacrifices to make way for the Second.
- AGAIN the Covenant of Moses was insufficient to accomplish the will of God. It was never able to perfect the worshippers of God.
- It made no provision for the complete removal of sin therefore it could not cleanse a man's conscience.

Hebrews 7:19 **(for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.**

- Only through the atonement that is provided by the death of Jesus Christ can a man be completely set free from sin and enter into the presence of God.
- I realize that I have presented these same truths in a variety of ways over the past 3 or 4 weeks.

Please don't allow the repetition of this truth to dull your senses or to diminish your sensitivity to the power of Christ's Great Victory.

- The goal of the writer as he constantly brings us back to the sufficiency of Christ's atoning sacrifice is that his readers will leave behind their former way of thinking and run to the Lord Jesus embracing his all sufficient sacrifice.

As I was contemplating the repetition of these core doctrinal truths here in the Book of Hebrews I thought about the descriptions of Military boot camp that I have heard over the years.

- In Boot Camp an 18-year-old boy is miraculously transformed into a valiant fighting man who willingly gives his life for the sake of his country.
  - How does that transformation happen?
- The intense repetition of military exercises and disciplines in boot camp are uniquely designed to destroy the immature, self-centered, self-sufficient thinking of teen-age boys and transform their minds so that they will act courageously and not freeze in the face of fear.
- The repeated drills that they endure equip them to bravely and without second thought lay down their lives for their fellow soldier.

So it is that the repetition of the core doctrines of the Christian faith contained in the Word of God is designed to transform our minds, empowering us by the Spirit to live a new and sacrificial life for the glory of God.

- When we face the enemy of our souls, and all of his lying schemes we must respond valiantly, the way that Jesus responded, **"It is Written!"**

OK We have carefully observed the Imperfections of the Shadow and we have seen the Effectiveness of the Substance NOW we move on to confirm the Sufficiency of the Sacrifice

### 3 The Sufficiency of the Sacrifice

Hebrews 10:10 **And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

- The Lord Jesus' submission to the Will of His Father when he voluntarily bore the wrath of God for the sins of his people has resulted in OUR sanctification.
- The word Sanctification is used in this context to describe our new standing before God. By the grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, we have received a HOLY standing before God and we are able to enter into His presence.
- Friends, that did not happen in the O.T. Rituals:

Hebrews 10:11 **And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.**

- The Priests work was never done; he could never sit down because the sacrifices that they offered did not remove sin.

12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

- By one single offering, never to be repeated Jesus has perfected (completed, fully matured and consecrated) those who are being sanctified.
  - Let's try to understand that, what he is saying is this:
- Every true believer, who has repented of their sin and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ has been declared NOT GUILTY in the courtroom of Heaven.
- In addition to that 2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us that the righteousness of Christ has actually been imputed to us, So when we stand before God, what he sees is the righteousness of Christ that has been applied to our lives.

BUT Even though I legally possess the righteous of Christ, that righteousness is not yet my present experience. (not completely) I still struggle with sin. That's why the author says: **he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**

- Those of us who believe are presently in the process of becoming what God declared us to be:
- We have been set free from the penalty of sin, we are no longer slaves to the power of sin but we have not yet been released from the presence of sin.

Php 3:12 **Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.**

- Over the past 9 chapters the writer of Hebrews has presented the supremacy of Christ and His atoning sacrifice from every angle imaginable.
- He wants his readers to KNOW the freedom, to experience the fullness of joy that comes through perfect forgiveness.
- For those who believe their sins have been removed as far as the east is from the west and God remembers them no more.
- That brings me to one final question as we seek to apply today's text to our lives:

With all of this emphasis on the efficacy of Christ's "**Once-for-all**" sacrifice, knowing that with **one sacrifice he has perfected forever those who are being made perfect.**

The Author of Hebrews has repeatedly pounded into our minds the fact that Jesus bore the wrath of God for all of our sins, past, present and future....

Hebrews 10:10 **And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

Hebrews 10: 14 **For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**

- If this is true, and we know it is, then: Why would the Bible instruct us to confess our sins to God?

One of the very first Bible verses that we memorized as new believers was 1 John 1:9, **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

- If salvation through Jesus Christ really provides forgiveness for all of my sins, past present and future,
- If the cross truly was a once-for-all, sufficient sacrifice for sin,
- If justification actually removes our sins, placing them on Christ and imputes the perfect righteousness of Christ to us then:

WHY do I still need to confess my sins?

There are some Evangelical Pastors who teach that Believers should never confess their sins or ask God for forgiveness because it is a blatant act of unbelief. (Bob George – “Classic Christianity”)

If that were true, then what do I do with the Lord’s Prayer: Where Jesus teaches his Disciples to pray: ***“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”***

- SO I will ask you again: Why should I ask for God’s forgiveness?
- Because as children of God, adopted into the family of God our sins grieve the heart of our Loving and Holy Father.

When we, who have been adopted into the family of God come before Him in humble confession we are not facing an angry judge, No, we are standing before our Heavenly Father.

- ALL of his wrath, his perfect justice for every one of our transgressions, all of our sin has been propitiated (Absorbed) by Jesus Christ on the Cross.
- If he were to deal punitively with us in our sin it could be considered double jeopardy because Christ already bore the full punishment for our sins.
- The Justice of God has been fully satisfied!
- So Our sins are no longer a legal issue that can threaten our standing before God, instead our sinful behavior is a relational issue that hinders our intimacy with God.

Ephesians 4: 30 **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

As Moms and Dads our hearts are often grieved by the sins of our children.

- They lie to us, they plot evil with their brothers and sisters, They take advantage of our trust and do things that we don’t find out about until they are in their 30’s.

It is with broken hearts that we intercede for them asking God to be merciful and grant them the gift of repentance.

- Out of love we discipline our children so that they will learn to walk in the truth.
- So also as children of God we face the discipline of our heavenly Father. His discipline is corrective and not punitive.

Hebrews 12: 5 **And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."**

- HOW many times do you correct your children for the SAME offenses in a single day?
- The repetition of truth and discipline faithfully serve to transform your child into a morally responsible and healthy man or woman of God.
- SO then, WE should not despise the repetition that is employed by God in his Word it is there to shape us into the image of Christ.