

Sunday September 24th sermon: "Christ's Sacrifice Forever Perfects Us
-- The God of All Comforts (Pt 34)"

Preached at the Lord's Table at Grace Bible Church in Greenwood, MS,
by John Pittman Hey

Hebrews 10:14; Matthew 26:28

God comforts us by the oath He made to Christ, appointing Him our
high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Aaron's work was never finished, never completed, and he never rested
from it. Aaron's sacrifices went on forever, but could never take away
sin.

Christ's sacrifice was once for all for our sin, and it took them all away.

And therefore, Christ our high priest sat down.

Indeed, our great Man of Calvary, the Lord Jesus, is enthroned at the
right hand of power and glory now! The very One Who takes away our
sin before God, is the very same One Who lays His perfect obedience
and righteousness upon us, as our King, as our Ruler!

The comfort that God gives to us by His oath to Christ, to be our priest
forever, is now seen to be far greater, and more wonderful, than we first
believed!

Hebrews 10 next informs us that the reason Christ sat down, is because
by His one sacrifice for our sin, He has forever perfected all those that
He sanctified!

All those who are sanctified by the sacrifice of Jesus by the will of God,
are thereby made perfect forever. Those who were, by the will of God,
given to Christ to be saved, He has saved by sanctifying and perfecting
us by His sacrifice for our sin.

Men were sanctified ceremonially and temporally by the animal sacrifices of Aaron, but none of them were ever perfected by those offerings.

Perfection means our sins have been taken away by Christ's blood, forgiven and cleansed, and we have been declared righteous for Jesus' sake! God has been propitiated by the sacrifice of Jesus, so that there is no wrath from God for our sins anymore.

Previously, Hebrews has used this word "perfected," to now draw this contrast between the law and the animal sacrifices, and the sacrifice of Christ.

Hebrews 7 tells us that the law made nothing perfect. That's because no man can be justified by keeping the law, for no one but Jesus can keep it. The law is itself perfect and honorable, but the weakness of our sinful flesh causes us to break that law, and therefore we are condemned by it.

That is why God declared His New Covenant, whereby He would forgive our sins, and change our hearts to love Him and know His law.

In Hebrews 9, we are told that the animal sacrifices could not make the poor sinner perfect in his conscience. Though they might cleanse men temporarily and ceremonially, yet in their hearts and before God, they were still guilty for their sins.

And in Hebrews 10, we are told that those sacrifices, though they were offered repeatedly, could never make poor sinners perfect.

If they could have made us perfect, then they would be discontinued, because the sinners would be guilt free, purged of their sin.

But now, by the blood of Jesus, we who trust in Him have been perfected forever!

That is why Christ's offering is one time only – because a sacrifice that makes us perfect before God, need never be repeated.

That Christ would indeed perfect His people, by taking away their sins by His Own sacrifice, is a persistent theme throughout Scripture.

In Isaiah 53, it is foretold that Christ would be punished for our crimes laid upon Him, by God Himself. God would make Jesus' soul an offering for our sin, and when He saw of Christ's suffering in that punishment, He would be satisfied! Christ would justify many people, because He would bear our iniquities.

And so it was, that John the Baptist cried out the truth, that Jesus is the Lamb of God, that takes away our sin!

God has comforted us by His solemn oath to Christ, making Him our perpetual high priest, Who made Himself one sacrifice as God's Lamb in our place, and for our crimes, and so He has perfected us forever before God!

That is why we celebrate what Jesus did for us on Calvary's tree, that cruel cross. That is why we recite Christ's own words from that night He was betrayed, taken out the next day, and slain in His love for His people: "this is My blood of the New Covenant, shed for many for the forgiveness of sin."

For all who trust in Jesus, His body and blood were sacrificed for the forgiveness of our sins, according to the promise of the New Covenant, which God had made to us, that one day He would perfect His people!