

DIRECT ACCESS TO GOD'S PRESENCE

Hebrews 9:1-24

Man walking through a field stumbled & fell into a well. He called for help as he treaded water to stay afloat. Passerby stopped, then wrote on a piece of paper:

“Ten Rules to Keep You from Falling into a Well.”

That's how law works. It can tell us how to keep from falling into hole, but doesn't tell us how to get out. Law's powerless to drop us a line we can pull out with. It points us to Christ, but we have to look beyond law, to God's provision, to get out of the hole.

People often misunderstand what God says about the law. He's *not* trying to say the law is bad, or that it's wrong.

Judaism's *legalistic interpretation* of the law is wrong.

Even under the old system, no one could make it to God by being good enough.

Law provided means to fellowship with God, based on shed blood.

But the system *looked ahead* to **THE Lamb of God** Who takes away the sin of the world. **Jesus fulfills it all.**

If we want the real thing, we must trust Him.

Nothing will be gained by going back to the shadow.

We have the real thing!

Superiority of Christ's Work 8-10:18 [His Ministry]

Jesus' ministry is better . . . [8]

...we're served by a better high priest 8:1-5

...it's based on a better covenant 8:6-13

Problem of old:

Under old covenant, people didn't remain faithful.

New covenant solves problem; God changes the heart.

It doesn't depend on us, but on God.

Benefits of ministry of better high priest

1st Benefit: Under new covenant

God has written His law on our hearts 8:1-13

2nd Benefit: Through Christ,

We have direct access into God's presence 9:1-24

Jesus' ministry is better

because he serves in a better tabernacle

Deficiency of 1st tabernacle 9:1-10

People didn't have direct access to God 1-8

Description of 1st tabernacle **1-5** *"Now even 1st covenant had regulations for worship & an earthly place of holiness. ²For a tent was prepared, the 1st section, in which were the lamp-stand, the table & the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. ³Behind the 2nd curtain was a 2nd section called the Most Holy Place, ⁴having the golden altar of incense & the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, & Aaron's staff that budded, & the tablets of the covenant. ⁵Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we can't now speak in detail."*

Not his purpose to teach physical details of tabernacle.

He introduces physical details to get to his real point:

Description of ministry that went on in 1st tabernacle **6-7**

"These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the 1st section, performing their ritual duties, ⁷but into the 2nd only the high priest goes, & he but once a year, & not without taking blood, which he offers for himself & for the unintentional sins of the people."

Don't get idea that *the people* gathered in temple for worship.

None of readers had ever *seen* things he was describing!
 Only priests & Levites were permitted *inside* tabernacle
 –NOT people from other tribes.

Old system kept us out! 8 *“By this the H.S. indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the 1st section is still standing”*

The system was a reminder that **access was limited:**

Only *Israelites* were admitted into the temple

Only *priests* could enter the holy place

Even they were on a rotation system.

They didn’t all enter daily.

Priest only entered once in his life—for week’s service.

Only *the High Priest* could enter the Holy of Holies.

Even He could only go there once a year!

He had to get in, do his service & get out quickly.

Christ went in & *sat down* at Father’s right hand *forever*.

As long as priests were ministering in the Holy Place, the way into the Most Holy Place, where God was present among His people, was not open.

There wasn’t yet access to His presence.

That’s why it’s significant that at Christ’s death, the veil is torn in 2.

Now way is open; we have access to Holy of Holies!

Sacrifices offered were provisional–temporary 9-10
“which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts & sacrifices are offered that can’t perfect the conscience of the worshiper, ¹⁰but deal only with food, drink & various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.”

They couldn’t clear the conscience of offender.

There's nothing wrong with ritual, but ritual can't change the inside of worshiper. Ritual can't cleanse the conscience.

It can't solve guilt; can't satisfy longing for forgiveness.

Best ritual can do: ceremonially cleanse our food & drink.

Sacrifices looked ahead to *permanent* solution to come **10, 24**

It never was *real* solution! It was shadow, picture of real one.

Superiority of the new tabernacle 9:11-15

New system gives us direct access to God.

Thus new tabernacle is better—fulfills what they're looking for.

Tabernacle Jesus entered was *not* made with human hands; it was built by God. 11 *"When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater & more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)"*

It's the true one; it's permanent

Blood was *not* from animals; it was His own. 12

"He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats & calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption."

Sacrifice didn't just provide temporary solution;

He obtained eternal redemption

and gives an eternal inheritance. 12, 15

His sacrifice was offered once for all.

His sacrifice obtained *eternal* redemption.

Nothing remains to be done. **EVER!** It's finished!

Sacrifice didn't just cleanse the outside;

it cleansed the conscience. 13-14 *"For if the blood of goats & bulls, & the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how 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.”

Old sacrifices could demonstrate the consequences of sin.
They could demonstrate that sin demands death,
that only with shedding of blood can there be forgiveness.
But they couldn't cleanse the conscience. **9:9**

Animal sacrifices they offered could cleanse the outside,
but not the conscience—it can't fix our heart trouble!
Christ's sacrifice cleans up inside—the conscience—so we can
serve God.

Service is *result*, not the *cause*, of His forgiveness.
When Jesus died, rose, and ascended, He replaced the
temporary symbol with a permanent reality—He has given us
a clean conscience!

COST OF THIS SACRIFICE. 9:15-22

It didn't cost us a thing! We could NEVER pay for it!
It's free to us; but it cost the highest imaginable price—
It required shedding of His blood—It required death.

That's only way to obtain an inheritance 15-18
“Therefore he's mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the 1st covenant. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the 1st covenant was inaugurated without blood.

That's only way to obtain forgiveness of sins

19-22 *“For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves & goats, with water & scarlet wool & hyssop, & sprinkled both the book itself & all the people, ²⁰saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” ²¹In the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent & all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, & without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”*

Concluding summary 23-24 *“Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.*

Jesus entered the true sanctuary.

Jesus appears on our behalf in God’s presence.

Without a doubt, hardest part of the good news, what’s most difficult for us to believe—to understand in our minds & feel in our hearts—is that we’ve been made *perfect* in Christ. We know ourselves too well.

We know how often we come up short.

When we come to Hebrews 9 & 10, we stumble.

We can’t quite believe it’s true:

“By one sacrifice He has made us perfect forever!”

That’s more than we can force ourselves to believe!

Yet, that’s what makes the gospel such good news!

That’s what makes Jesus’ sacrifice better than O.T. system.

That’s why Heb. insists it’s useless to go back to Judaism.

It has nothing to offer!

Jesus’ offering makes us perfect, once for all.

Jesus' ministry's better than priests of Judaism

8-10:18

Jesus' ministry's better because it's served by a better

High Priest 8:1-5

Jesus' ministry's better because it's based on better

covenant 8:6-13

OLD=>Deficient<=Because of our disobedience, unfaithfulness

NEW => Better <= It's recorded on the heart

Jesus' ministry's better because it's offered in a better

tabernacle 9:1-24

OLD => Deficient <= Access was limited

NEW => Better <= Provides direct, unlimited access to God

Jesus' ministry is better because He offers a better

sacrifice 9:25-10:18

10 ways Jesus' sacrifice is better than sacrifices of

O.T. system:

Levi

christ

1. Priests purify the figure

Jesus purifies the true temple 23 *"It was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these."*

Levi's sacrifices only purify the figure, earthly temple.

Figure is purified with animal blood—part of the creation.

True tabernacle—the heavenly—requires better sacrifice —Jesus' own blood.

Christ's sacrifice purifies God's heavenly tabernacle.

2. Priests entered a man-made copy

Jesus entered the true sanctuary 24 *“Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.”*

His sacrifice is presented before God—in heavenly sanctuary.

Priests only entered a copy of God’s temple.

In **10:1** the writer makes a similar statement.

Law is *shadow* of good things to come; not the reality.

The reality comes later.

Christ is the reality, substance to which shadow points.

By clinging to legalistic standards, *people are hanging on to a shadow.*

Why cling to shadow, when we have real thing?!!

The commandments, the tabernacle, are *shadows* of the real thing that was to come.

now that He has come, . . .

now that He is seated at the right hand of the Father, . . .

now that we have direct access to the presence of God...

why would you want to go back to the shadow?!!

3. Priests offered the blood of others

Jesus offered His own blood 25-26 *“Nor was it to offer himself **repeatedly**, as the high priest enters the holy places **every year with blood not his own**,²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer **repeatedly** since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared **once for all** at the end of the ages to put away sin **by the sacrifice of himself.**”*

4. Priests offered many times

Jesus offered only once 9:25-26

10:11 points out the monotony:

“day after day”

“once for all” **10:10**

“again and again”

“for all time” **10:12**

“the same offerings”

“by one sacrifice” **10:14**

He doesn't repeat it. It doesn't go on & on, over & over again.

He finished the job offering it *once* because He was the perfect sacrifice.

This concept of “once” is seen in other areas of God's dealing also.

It's seen in the matter of death.

He *assumes* people only die once.

That's the basis for argument about Christ's sacrifice.

As people only die once, Christ's sacrifice, once for all, is enough.

God says, “man is destined to die *ONCE*, and after that to face judgment.”

There's no coming back. No second chance.

Sequence: 1 death, then judgment. **27** *“Just as it's appointed for man to die once, & after that comes judgment*

Similarly, when Christ comes back, it won't be to die again,

it will be to deliver those who are waiting faithfully for Him. **28**

“So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a 2nd time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him”

5. Priests' offering couldn't make us perfect 10:1-2 *"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. ²Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins?"*

Jesus' sacrifice made us perfect 10:14 *"By a single offering he's perfected for all time those who're being sanctified."*

Priestly sacrifices were offered over and over because they never finished the job.

Results are final. Our salvation is completed—a "done deal."

6. Priests' offerings made us remember sin 3 *"In these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year."*

Jesus' sacrifice made us forget our sin 17 *"He adds, 'I will remember their sins & their lawless deeds no more.'"*

The law keeps reminding us of our guilt.

It reminds us that we've been weighed & found wanting;
all fall short of God's glory

7. Priests couldn't take away sin 10:4

Jesus takes away our sin 9:26; 10:18

Animal sacrifices can't take away sin;

His sacrifice removes sin forever.

10:4 *"It is **impossible** for the blood of bulls & goats to **take away sins**."*

9:26 *"He has appeared **once for all... to put away sin**"*

The writer was not the first to understand that animal blood couldn't atone for sins.

God's people had known this for hundreds of years.

It isn't about just "going through the motions" of religion!

5-8 *"When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices & offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings & 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.'" ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices & offerings & burnt offerings & sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law)"*

God finds pleasure in people who offer sacrifice *with a contrite, obedient heart.*

Though God Himself required offerings, to teach us need for shedding blood, to pay the price of sin, & point His people toward the Savior,

The sacrifices were never enough to take away our sin.

Sacrifices are a mockery unless the heart is seeking God.

Ritual is meaningless.

Problem is the heart! Only Jesus can solve that problem.

Paul asks in Rom. 8, *"if God is the One who justifies, then who can condemn us?"*

Our sin has been taken away!

In case the contrasts aren't enough,

Hebrews adds a few reasons why Jesus' offering is superior to that of the priests:

8. (Offered by a sinner) Jesus was obedient 9

"I have come to do your will"

It isn't sacrifice He wants;

it's a heart that's inclined to obey His will.

Ritual doesn't satisfy God; obedience does.

In that Spirit Jesus fulfills the law.

He has come to obey God's will.
 This isn't statement that God doesn't want sacrifices,
 He required them.
 But obedience is more important.

Sacrifices are meaningless unless they are tied to doing His will.

Jesus came to do His will.

He's obedient, in contrast to the priests, who were sinful.

9. (Priests *never sat down*) Jesus sat down in God's presence 10-13 *"By that will we have been sanctified*

through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ¹¹Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet."

He is seated at the right hand of the Father—waiting for the victory to be complete. His work is finished.

10. (Priests serve to cure problem)

Jesus prevents problem 14-18 *"By a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. ¹⁵H. S. also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, & write them on their minds," ¹⁷then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin."*

He changed our hearts so we're no longer obligated to sin.

"He writes His laws in our hearts"

He's changed us on the inside—in the heart.

Sum of what God tells us in these 10 contrasts is noted in 10:1 and 10:14:

10:1 [Law] *“can never make perfect those who draw near”*

The law can never make us perfect!

10:14 *“By a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified”*

We have been made perfect in Jesus!

That’s the essence of the difference.

WE HAVE BEEN MADE PERFECT IN HIM!

How much does this leave US to do?

How much depends on us? What do WE add?

It’s all about Him! He did it all! It is finished!

We are complete in Him; there’s nothing for us to add!

All God asks US to do is to trust Jesus—stop trying to “do it ourselves”—and trust Him!

In every way **Christ offers us more than Judaism.**

There’s nothing to go back to.

Who would want to go back to the bondage of legalism, once God has transformed our heart and set us free?!!

Gal 5:1: *“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm & do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”*

LESSONS FOR OUR LIFE TODAY:

Stop focusing on externals—ritual, going through motions.

Focus on what’s inside—the internals—

Look beyond the shadows to the substance.

Our High Priest is always in God’s presence

Our High Priest is always in true, tabernacle

He's always interceding on our behalf, with His own blood offered as a sacrifice for us. *We need no other intercessor!*

Through our High Priest, WE have direct access into God's presence.

We can come boldly into the throne room of God!

Beatriz: "If my father were President, . . ."

When times are hard, . . .

...when pressure rises... ...when God's people are suffering
... We have such a High Priest—in—*in God's presence!*

He has provided **direct access into God's presence!**

We can bring our concerns to Him.

We can trust Him to handle our concerns.

Therefore, let us draw near to Him!

"By this one sacrifice, He has made us perfect forever."

That's good news!

We can draw near to Him with confidence!"