Crossroads International Church Dr. Rick Griffith

29 March 2015 Message 7 of 12

NLT 40 Minutes

**Better than Sacrifices**

Title

***Hebrews 9:1–10:18***

**Topic:** Salvation

**Subject:** How is Christ’s death better than any sacrifice?

**Complement:** Jesus saves us permanently.

**Purpose:** The listeners will believe that Jesus saves them permanently.

**Meditation:** “And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices” (Heb. 10:18 NLT).

**Reading:** John 12:12-16

**Song:** “No Greater Love” Don Moen (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6kMvQ4QMU4)

# Introduction

### Interest: [Palm Sunday was a prelude to Good Friday.]

Palm Sunday

#### I hope you can tell from our service today that it is Palm Sunday. That is an interesting name for the day, isn’t it?

Two Types of Palms

#### We know that today recalls the palm branches waved at Jesus as he entered Jerusalem at the beginning of his last week of his life. Yet the focus really isn’t the *tree* palms, but the *hand* palms of Jesus that would stretch out on a cross but a few days later. Tree palms were but a prelude to the cross.

Palms to Cross

Triumphant Entry

#### Even the alternate name—Triumphant Entry—is also perplexing.

Photo of Entry

##### True, Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the crowds cheered his arrival.

##### Matthew 21:9 says the crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!”

Matt 21:9

##### Normally a king rode into the city as the victor over his enemies, while that very week would culminate in Jesus’ death on Friday, which we call Good Friday.

Palms to Palms

### Curiosity: But that name is equally puzzling. Why is Good Friday called “good”?

What’s good?

#### Our leader died on that day, so it seems strange to call the day “good.” No other religion refers to the death of their leader as “good.”

#### We believe that his death was good. How was that?

### Subject: How is Christ’s death better than any sacrifice?

Subject

### Background: Today we continue in our study of the book of Hebrews. The first readers were confused about the significance of the death of Jesus, so they were tempted to return to the old sacrificial system. Instead, the author exhorted them to “Press on!”

Press On!

Backgrd

#### They had experienced persecution for becoming Christians, but in 8:11 he had encouraged them with the realization that, after the return of Christ, the whole world know the Lord.

8:11

#### This is **not** universalism—a false teaching that everyone who ever lived will be saved, whatever they believed. Rather, Revelation 5:9 says that, of the many unreached peoples of the world today, at least one person will be saved “from every tribe, nation, language and people.”

Not Universal

Rev. 5:9

#### After the Rapture, earth will be 100% non-Christian. However, at the end of the 7-year Tribulation, millions of unbelievers will be judged and sent away, so at the beginning of the millennium, earth will be the opposite—a full 100% Christian.

Timeline  
• 100 • 100

#### Many Gentiles will trust Christ in the Tribulation, but what about Israel? Paul said it well in Romans 11:26 where, at that time, “all Israel will be saved.”

Rom.   
11:26

#### Since only believers will enter the millennial kingdom, we can say with 8:11 that there will finally be worldwide belief in God.

Worldwide belief

#### In light of the worldwide triumph of Christianity, do you see why the author was eager to show how Christ is superior to the tabernacle sacrifices?

Book Chart  
• 9:1-10:18

Where we are goin’

### Preview: Let’s see what was wrong with the sacrifices and how Jesus’ death was better.

### Text: Hebrews 9:1–10:18 is long but life changing.

Subj

(How is Christ’s death better than any sacrifice?)

# I. Tabernacle sacrifices were temporary (9:1-10).

MP

[God approved the old covenant system but only for a time.]

9:1-5

9:6-10

## The old covenant with its earthly tabernacle and furniture had God’s glory (9:1-5).

## Old covenant sacrifices could not cleanse anyone’s conscience (9:6-10).

Subject

(How is Christ’s death better than any sacrifice?)

# II. Christ’s death saves us permanently (9:11–10:18).

MP

9:11

[His sacrifice gives us *eternal* life.]

## Christ went to heaven after his death—not simply between tabernacle rooms (9:11).

## Christ shed his own human blood—not just the blood of animals (9:12).

9:12

## Christ purifies our consciences—not just ceremonial cleansing (9:13-14).

9:13-14

## Christ mediates a new covenant that frees us from sin under the old covenant (9:15).

## Christ shed his blood for us since forgiveness comes only through death (9:16-22).

9:15-22b  
(6 slides)

9:23

9:24

Furniture

From east side

Two rooms

Cross Shape

Altar  
(3 slides)

Title

Title

Title

## Christ entering heaven after his death showed his as the final sacrifice (9:23–10:18).

### He purified us in heaven through his sacrifice (9:23-24).

#### The tabernacle furniture arrangement was a copy of God’s heavenly plan.

#### The outer court had the brazen altar (sacrifice/position before God) followed by the laver (washing from ongoing sin to reestablish fellowship with God).

#### The two rooms depict Christ in the four items of furniture.

#### The worshipper actually proceeded in the formation of a cross!

#### The brazen altar depicted salvation open to all.

#### The laver helped priests to see their need for continual cleansing like the Word of God shows us our sin.

Laver  
(5 slides)

#### The silver sockets represent redemption.

Sockets  
(2 slides)

#### The 48 vertical boards had two knobs each that fitted into the sockets, depicting being a new creation dead to the old way of life.

Boards  
(2 slides)

#### Rather than being rooted in the world of sin, the sharp and mighty "axe" of God's Word fell upon our heart and conscience. We were "cut down" before God. We trusted in Christ and we were converted. The tree not only had to be cut down, but it had to be stripped of its limbs and shaped into boards of the proper size. The boards were then given a new beauty and glory. They were overlaid with gold.

Axe

#### Finally, the boards were placed in the sockets and then bound together by five horizontal bars, making them into one structure, the dwelling place of God on earth. So it is with us. We are not simply individual "boards," but we are bound together into one Body.

Cross over people

### He entered heaven for our redemption only once (9:25-28a).

9:25

#### Jesus entered the holy place in heaven.

9:26

#### Jesus did away with sin (not just covered it).

Reincar-  
nation

9:27

Pie chart

#### We all die only once.

##### Reincarnation believes people return to earth again in another human body.

##### It is held now by about 20% of Americans.

##### Some joke about it but it is a serious matter!

Man & cat

9:28

#### So Christ died but once for all.

### He will return to complete our salvation (9:28b).

10:1-4  
(3 slides)

### He permanently cleansed us from sin and guilt that animals could never do (10:1-4).

### He fulfilled Psalm 40’s prophecy that he would please God by offering his body (10:5-9a).

10:5-9  
(2 slides)

### He cancelled the Mosaic covenant (10:9b).

### He made us holy once for all time (10:10-18).

10:10-18  
(6 slides)

Subj

(How is Christ’s death better than any sacrifice?)

# Conclusion

### Jesus saves us permanently (Main Idea).

MI

### Our passage has contrasted these two sacrifices in one key way:

MPI

MPII

#### Tabernacle sacrifices were temporary (9:1-10).

#### Christ’s death saves us permanently (9:11–10:18).

Permanent  
(3 slides)

### Do you believe that Jesus has saved you from sin permanently?

Prayer

### Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### In the entire book, he has sought to convince his readers that Jesus is better than anything or anyone they had ever known under Judaism.

### He had just declared the old covenant obsolete and soon to pass away (8:13).

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### Our whole lives we are told this important word: DO. Do this, do that, keep doing this, and keep doing that.

### God knows that it is nearly impossible for us to comprehend this word before God: DONE.

### So we have today’s text to tell us: No more sacrifices—no more animals, no more blood, no more old covenant—because Jesus paid the LAST sacrifice with his own body and blood. The price is paid, DONE.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### Godly people had been offering sacrifices for thousands of years before today’s passage was written. They could hardly conceive of a religious system except one that had continual sacrifices.

### This was not only true of Judaism, but every other religious system. Sacrifices were offered to the Greek gods, the Roman gods, and to the local deities of Canaan.

# Questions

### Wasn’t the incense altar in the Holy Place? Why is it said to be in the Most Holy Place (4)?

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

# Exegetical Idea: Since Christ is superior to the tabernacle by his sacrifice, all should follow Him (9:1–10:18).

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Text

**Better than Sacrifices**

***Hebrews 9:1–10:18***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# Exegetical Idea: The way that Christ is superior to the tabernacle sacrifices is that his sacrifice saves us permanently (9:1–10:18).

# I. Tabernacle sacrifices were temporary (9:1-10).

## The old covenant with its earthly tabernacle and furniture had God’s glory (9:1-5).

## Old covenant sacrifices could not cleanse anyone’s conscience (9:6-10).

# II. Christ’s death saves us permanently (9:11–10:18).

## Christ went to heaven after his death—not simply between tabernacle rooms (9:11).

## Christ shed his own human blood—not just the blood of animals (9:12).

## Christ purifies our consciences—not just ceremonial cleansing (9:13-14).

## Christ mediates a new covenant that frees us from sin under the old covenant (9:15).

## Christ shed his blood for us since forgiveness comes only through death (9:16-22).

## Christ entering heaven after his death showed his as the final sacrifice (9:23–10:18).

### He purified us in heaven through his sacrifice (9:23-24).

### He entered heaven for our redemption only once (9:25-28a).

### He will return to complete our salvation (9:28b).

### He permanently cleansed us from sin and guilt that animals could never do (10:1-4).

### He fulfilled Psalm 40’s prophecy that he would please God by offering his body (10:5-9a).

### He cancelled the Mosaic covenant (10:9b).

### He made us holy once for all time (10:10-18).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will believe that Jesus saves them permanently.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Palm Sunday was a prelude to Good Friday.

### Curiosity: Why is Good Friday called “good”?

#### Our leader died on that day, so it seems strange to call the day “good.”

#### We believe that his death was good. How?

### Subject: How is Christ’s death better than any sacrifice?

### Background: The readers were tempted to return to the old sacrificial system.

#### They had experienced persecution for becoming Christians.

#### So the author answered this question for them: How is Christ is superior to the tabernacle sacrifices?

### Preview: Let’s see what was wrong with the old sacrifices and how Jesus’ death was better.

### Text: Hebrews 9:1–10:18 is long but life changing.

(How is Christ’s death better than any sacrifice?)

# I. Tabernacle sacrifices were temporary (9:1-10).

[God approved the old covenant system but only for a time.]

## The old covenant with its earthly tabernacle and furniture had God’s glory (9:1-5).

## Old covenant sacrifices could not cleanse anyone’s conscience (9:6-10).

(How is Christ’s death better than any sacrifice?)

# II. Christ’s death saves us permanently (9:11–10:18).

[His sacrifice gives us *eternal* life.]

## Christ went to heaven after his death—not simply between tabernacle rooms (9:11).

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### He made us holy once for all time (10:10-18).

(How is Christ’s death better than any sacrifice?)

# Conclusion

### Jesus saves us permanently (Main Idea).

### Our passage has contrasted these two sacrifices in one key way:

#### Tabernacle sacrifices were temporary (9:1-10).

#### Christ’s death saves us permanently (9:11–10:18).

### Do you believe that Jesus has saved you from sin permanently?

### Prayer



**Rick Griffith**

29 March 2015

Message 7 of 12

**Better than Sacrifices**

***Hebrews 9:1–10:18***

# Introduction

### Palm Sunday was a prelude to Good Friday.

### Why is Good Friday called “good”?

### How is Christ’s death better than any \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

### The readers were tempted to return to the old sacrificial system.

# I. Tabernacle sacrifices were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (9:1-10).

## The old covenant with its earthly tabernacle and furniture had God’s glory (9:1-5).

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# II. Christ’s death saves us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (9:11–10:18).

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### He made us holy once for all time (10:10-18).

(How is Christ’s death better than any sacrifice?)

# Conclusion

### Jesus saves us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Main Idea).

### Do you believe that Jesus has saved you from sin permanently?

**Thought Questions**

1. Read the passage aloud. Contrast the OT and NT sacrifices:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tabernacle Sacrifices** | **Jesus’ Sacrifice** |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |

1. In what way do you live as if you must pay for your sin?

Text