

Hebrews 10:1-18

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 worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

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.’”*

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

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

15 And the Holy Spirit 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,
and write them on their minds,”*

17 then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Jesus said, “Behold, I have come to do your will, O God.” Those aren’t easy words to speak, are they? We can struggle to pray, “Thy will be done.” Yet that is what Christ prayed in Gethsemane, even as His cross weighed upon His thinking and His agonizing death and unparalleled tribulation quickly approached: “Behold, I have come to do your will, O God.”

Beast after beast was offered, but the worshippers still had consciousness of sins. In fact, there was a reminder of sins in those sacrifices every year. Those sacrifices were necessary. They were prescribed in God’s law. They served an important service, driving home with bleating and blood the seriousness of transgression, pointing to a better sacrifice to come, and yet they could not themselves cleanse a conscience or blot out iniquity.

But now Christ has come. Having told His Father, “Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,” He was obedient even unto death, even unto death on the cross. And why? For we who have been disobedient, who have recoiled in crucial moments from God’s will out of concern for our own, who have even in our most faithful moments offered an obedience concerning which

we must confess with Luke 17:10, "I am unworthy servant. I have only done my duty." Christ has done His duty and more. He has fulfilled the law for us, and has expunged from its records our trespasses, so that we hear, "*I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.*"

What a relief! What a joy! What a hard reality to grasp and truly comprehend and process! God's love is beyond our comprehension. Christ's obedience is beyond all comparison. And yet now it is said of us: "*I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds.*" As children of God, being renewed in His image, regenerated and converted from love for ourselves and for what corrupts to love for God and what edifies, we are now heirs of the obedience of faith and participants in it. Christ who lived for us now lives in us and works through us for His Father's and our neighbor's benefit. Why? Because He has loved us with His whole heart and all His being, and because He does love us, and because His love is so abounding that it cannot be capped or restrained. No, it must continue to flow, and it does continue to flow, for us, in us, and through us. And so now, as a believer, as a sanctified saint, as a absolved sinner, you can speak with your Jesus with the conviction worked in you by the Spirit, "*Behold, I have come to do your will, O God.*" Amen.