



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews

## Chapter 10

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# Introduction

- St. Paul proved the superiority of Christ's ministry
- St. Paul shifts to what is accomplished in our lives because of what Christ has done
- The main point is the cleansing of our conscience
- The Levitical system failed in cleansing us from sin and creating a clear conscience
- The ministry of Christ succeeded in cleansing us from sin and creating a clear conscience

# Ineffectiveness Of The Levitical Law (10:1-4)



- The sacrificial system cannot perfect those who approach God through it because:
  1. It is the shadow and not the very image of the things
  2. It is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Only the sacrifice of the greater for the lesser is adequate
- Otherwise, why are the same sacrifices offered continually, year after year

# Sanctification Through Christ's Sacrifice (10: 5-10)



- What is the solution?
- When incarnated, He said (Psalm 40:6-8):
  - a. You did not desire sacrifices
  - b. You prepared for Me a body to offer it as a sacrifice
  - c. I will do Your will
- This is the will of God, our *sanctification* through Christ's sacrifice

# Sanctification Through Christ's Sacrifice (10: 5-10)



- The Old Testament testified that the Levitical system is ineffective
- Our Lord Jesus is the model of *committed obedience* to God
- Obedience is better than a *sacrifice* (V. 9)
- For the Lord Jesus, the will of God included a sacrificial death → *our sanctification*

# Christ the New High Priest (10:11-14)



- Verse 1 emphasizes the sacrifices while verse 11 emphasizes the priests
- The priests stand day after day offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins
- Not only does the sacrifice of Christ suffice for all, but as a result of the sacrificial death, Jesus has taken His seat at the right hand of God

# Christ the New High Priest (10:11-14)



- Reference to (Psalm 110:1)
- Sitting down (vs. standing) marks the end of the day's work, so *Christ's work is done*
- Right hand is the *place of honor*
- Christ is waiting until His enemies would be made a footstool for his feet (V. 13, Psalm 110:1)

# Christ the New High Priest (10:11-14)



- Because of the "already" (seated), there was no doubt that the "not yet" (submission of the enemies) would come
- The work of being *perfected* and *sanctified* goes on continually in our lives (V. 14)
- The access to the Holy God is always available to us because the process of being sanctified is a continuous process

# The Adequacy of The New Covenant (10:15-18)



- St. Paul wants us to know that the Holy Spirit witnesses to us of the perfecting, sanctifying results of the sacrifice of Christ
- It is the Holy Spirit who brings the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:31-34 to reality in the death of Christ and in the lives of Christians
- If sins and iniquities have been forgiven, there is no longer any need for sacrifices



# Call to Use Our Access to God (10:19-25)

- Therefore: St. Paul is using the theological truth of the superiority of Christ as a basis for his spiritual exhortation
- Brethren: word of love and closeness
- There are two important truths:
  - a. We have a great High Priest over the house of God (v. 20) and we are His house (Heb 3:6)
  - b. We have boldness to enter the Holiest (v. 19)
  - c. By the blood of Jesus
  - d. By a new and living way which He consecrated



# Call to Use Our Access to God (10:19-25)

- Christ is pioneer and provider
- New: new access to God
- Living: by the living Christ and it gives life to those who walk by it



# Call to Use Our Access to God (10:19-25)

- Way: access to God (Christ) and a way of life (Acts 9:2)
- He opened the way through the veil
- That is His Flesh: either the way or the veil
- The flesh is our humanity that was pierced and died to open the way



# Call to Use Our Access to God (10:19-25)

- Therefore:
  - a. Let us draw near to God (V. 22) and this will enable us to:
    1. *Hold fast the confession of our faith* (V. 23)
    2. *Encourage one another* (V. 24)



# Call to Use Our Access to God (10:19-25)

- Let us draw near to God:
  - a. With a true heart in full assurance of faith (genuine faith without doubt)
  - b. Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience (Repentance, Confession, and Communion)
  - c. And our bodies washed with pure water (Baptism and Chrismation)



# Call to Use Our Access to God (10:19-25)

- Not only does drawing near to God enable us to hold fast to the confession of our hope, but also holding fast to the confession keeps us near to God
- The confession is the baptismal confession
- Hope: Eternal Life
- Without wavering for He who promised is faithful, reliable, and dependable



# Call to Use Our Access to God (10:19-25)

- Let us consider one another (the importance of support system) in order to:
  - a. Stir up love and good works (church atmosphere)
  - b. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together (Divine Liturgy), as is the manner of some
  - c. But exhorting one another so much more as you see the Day (the Second Coming) approaching

# Fourth Warning: Danger of Shrinking Back (10:26-31)



- Danger of Neglect: (2:1-4)
- Danger of Unbelief: (3:7-19)
- Danger of Not Maturing: (5:11-14)
- Danger of Shrinking Back: (10:26-31)
- Sinning: indicates a persistent and continual pattern rather than a momentary slip

# Fourth Warning: Danger of Shrinking Back (10:26-31)



- Willfully reflects (Numbers 15:27-31)
- If one rejects Christ as the way of salvation, there is *no other way* made available
- Apostasy is:
  - a. *Trampling the Son of God underfoot*
  - b. *Counting the blood of the covenant a common thing*
  - c. *Insulting the Spirit of grace.*
- V. 28 refers to Deuteronomy 17:2-6
- V. 30 refers to Deuteronomy 32:35, 36

# The Call to Perseverance (10:32-39)



- St. Paul is appealing to their previous perseverance so that they should continue to be faithful and not let the present persecution accomplish what the previous one had failed to do
- After you were illuminated (baptized)
- It is their hope in heaven that kept them steadfast

# The Call to Perseverance (10:32-39)



- St. Paul encourages them to have patient endurance in the future
- V. 37 and 38 is from Habakkuk 2:3-4 (Septuagint)
- Waiting for the Second Coming in which the Lord will deliver us from all the sufferings
- In that confidence the just can live by faith to the saving of the soul



# Conclusion

- Why can't the blood of bulls and goats actually take away sin?
- How did the veil function in Old Testament worship?
- What is the significance of the veil being ripped in two at Jesus' crucifixion?
- Why is our access to God called a "new and living way"?
- Why is perseverance so important?