



Sunday, October 31, 2021
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Hebrews 10:1-10

It is hard for us to imagine what the Old Testament sacrificial system entailed. Because the temple has been destroyed, there is no comparable centrally located system of sacrifice like the one instituted by God in the law. We can look at pictures in a kids' book, but it can be hard to imagine what it was like.

Yet, despite our estrangement from it, it was a central feature of the old covenant. The Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) tells the story of God and His people, Israel. One of the most significant scenes in the Pentateuch is when the people of Israel worship the idol of the golden calf (Ex. 32-34). Despite their sin, God promises to continue as planned to come and dwell with them. The Book of Exodus ends with God's glory settling on the tabernacle (Ex. 40). But this resolution to the story still begs the question: how can a holy God dwell in the midst of a sinful people? Indeed, this is one of the most massive questions looming over the entire Bible!

Well, turn the page from the end of Exodus, and you will find the first seven chapters of the Book of Leviticus dedicated to the sacrificial system. The sacrificial system highlighted the need for blood to be shed so that sins could be forgiven if a holy God was going to dwell in the midst of a sinful people. But, there was one major problem: the Levitical sacrifices would not take away sin. What would God do to finally and forever take away sin?

Context

This section begins the conclusion of the main body of the letter to the Hebrews (5:1-10:18). The main concern of this large section is to illustrate how much better Jesus is than the provisions made under the old covenant. With the crucial assertion that Christ's sacrifice was "once for all," it becomes the foundation for the following passage (10:19-25)

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Hebrews 10:1-10

“To Do His Will”

God’s Displeasure

- Offerings 10.8
- Although required 10.8

God’s Delight

- A body prepared
 - Ps. 40.6, “My ears you have dug open”
 - Opened ear to listen as a disciple
 - Idiom for creation
- I have come to do your will
 - John 4.34 My food is to do the will...
 - John 6.38 ...come down from heaven...
 - Matt. 26.39 Not my will but yours be done

God doesn’t want your sacrifices, He wants you!

Discuss

- 1) What is appealing about a system where we work to earn God's favor?
- 2) Why do you think God would command sacrifices be made if it was not what He desired?
- 3) What difference does it make that Jesus perfectly obeyed the will of God?
- 4) What are the implications of Jesus's "once for all" sacrifice? What do we need to do in order to come to God?
- 5) How much time and energy do you put into considering what pleases God? Why?