



The Book of Hebrews Being Made Perfect

Perfection: Past, present and future...
In contrast to the repeated Mosaic animal sacrifices, Jesus came into the world according to God's will in order to eternally sanctify a people through offering himself as a sacrifice once for all.

Introduction: This passage concludes the 'theological' section of the book of Hebrews. The rest of the book deals with the practical aspects of being made perfect in the Messiah.

A. The Limitation of the Old Testament 10:1-4

In these four verses, the author makes it as clear as it could possibly be made that the Old Testament sacrifices were insufficient. There was something they could not do.

1. Pale shadow: [10:1] The word 'shadow' here means a rough outline, not the very image of the reality of the 'good things' to come—the finished work of the Messiah.

2. Covered but not removed: [10:2-4] Once a year Yom Kippur was observed for the purpose of 'covering' the sin of the nation and individuals. Even though there was a covering—the sins were never 'removed' or blotted out.

B. The Unlimited Work of the Messiah 10:5-10

In this section the preacher contrasts what the animal sacrifices could not do to what the blood of Jesus could and did do.

1. The acceptable sacrifice: [10:5-7] The preacher quotes Psalm 40:6-8 to show that only obedience brings perfection. Because Jesus obeyed, He could impart perfection. But this passage also shows that God never intended for the animal sacrifices to be permanent. This is shown by the fact that God prepared a human body for Himself so that He might be the One to die for man.

2. The voluntary sacrifice: [10:8-9] The sacrifice of Jesus was a voluntary sacrifice, and it came with obedience. Jesus' obedience to the will of God accomplished the purpose of giving perfection, which was the very thing the Law could not do. In order for Him to offer a sacrifice of this type, it was necessary that He takes away the first, that he may establish the second.

3. The fruit of His obedience: [10:10] By the Messiah's willingness to die, believers have been 'positionally' sanctified once-and-for-all.

C. The Present Work of the Messiah 10:11-18

1. Standing or sitting? [10:11-12] Note that the priests were standing and Jesus is now seated—indicating His finished work on the cross.

2. Being perfected forever: [10:13] The word sanctified means to be 'set apart.' We have been set apart or made perfect [positionally] by the finished work of Christ. We are also being sanctified [working out our salvation] (Phil 2:12-13) and we will be fully sanctified when we see Him face to face.

3. The witness of the Holy Spirit: [10:15-18] The Holy Spirit witnesses that the Old Testament revealed that sin would be totally removed, not just covered. God would have no remembrance of them.

Hebrews 10:1-18 (NKJV)

1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and **not** the very image of the things, **can never** with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who

approach perfect. **2** For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. **3** But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. **4** For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "*Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.*"

6 *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.*

7 *Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'*"

8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), **9** then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. **10** By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **12** **But this Man**, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, **13** from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. **14** For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,

16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," **17** then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." **18** Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.