

LESSON 10

CHRIST'S SUPERIOR SACRIFICE AND ACCESS TO GOD

Our Savior had every qualification for the high priesthood and was superior to Aaron and any priest under the old covenant. The admonition of this chapter is to leave behind the old shadow and worship with the real thing.

THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST'S SACRIFICE (10:1-18)

Having emphasized the inadequacy of animal sacrifices (vv. 1-10), the writer next showed the efficacy of Christ's offering. He demonstrated Christ's present exaltation in the finality of His sacrifice (vv. 11-14) and in the testimony of the Holy Spirit (vv. 15-18).

1. Why was the Law only "a shadow of the good things to come" (v. 1)?
2. What about the new covenant allows us not to worry about our state of forgiveness?
3. How did the Day of Atonement show the futility of sacrifices?
4. To what might the "scroll" in verse 7 refer?
5. Why were sacrifices often unacceptable to God?
6. What is "sanctification"?
7. Why did priests have to stand while working in the tabernacle or temple (v. 11)?
8. Why should we read the Old Testament as though it were written to us?
9. Why would making a sacrifice be unnecessary today?

SUPERIOR ACCESS TO GOD (10:19–39)

The doctrinal instruction in Hebrews is now mostly over, being followed by practical advice for the walk of faith. The New Testament always associates actions with doctrine. Doctrine cannot stand alone; there must be a willingness to meet the demands of Christ's teaching for our own lives. This hortatory (exhortative) section is based on the effectiveness of Christ's blood (9:11–28) and the permanent power of His sacrifice (10:1–18).

The Greek text has one long, continual sentence, beginning in verse 19 and going through verse 25. Verse 19 opens with the word "therefore," a strong word which usually indicates a new section, as in 4:14 and 9:1, 23. It is "a transition from a statement to an appeal." Three times, verses 19 through 21 contain the idea of "since." It is specific in verses 19 and 21, while it is implied in verse 20. The thought is that "a new and living way" has come to us—and "since" this is true, we should do something about it.

10. What does our confidence include?
11. What does "new" mean in verse 20?
12. How should we understand "confession" in verse 23?
13. Describe how the early Christians met together and what the implications are for our worship today.
14. What are the three viewpoints from which Hebrews describes apostasy in verses 26 through 31?
15. Why will the apostate's punishment be so severe?
16. How can we best characterize God's "vengeance"?
17. How did the writer of Hebrews view his readers in 10:32–39?
18. What dangers and persecutions might the Hebrews have been facing?
19. How was the quoting of Habakkuk 2:4 in verses 37 and 38 appropriate to the author's message?