



The Sacrifice of Jesus – best in every way

Go to the Parkside website to hear the March 12 sermon that introduces this discussion. Read aloud Hebrews 9 & 10, perhaps one of the most thorough explanations in the New Testament as to what Christ's death on the cross accomplished for us.

Can you describe a time in your life that you were able to pay off the balance of a debt of some sort that made you feel just great?

Chapter 9

⁹This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper.

In olden times, people would bring sacrifices to their place of worship to somehow make up for sins they had committed. Have you ever felt that you have done something so very wrong, that you need to do something so very good, a sacrifice of sorts, to somehow make up for the bad thing you have done? Does such an action relieve your conscience?

Chapter 9

¹⁴How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Have you ever taken a punishment or paid a debt for someone else? What was their reaction to you? Has anyone done that for you? How does it make you feel to know that Jesus went through what He did so that your "debt" to God would go away and you would be completely restored to Him?

Chapter 10

¹⁴For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

This says that when you accept the death of Jesus as having full effect in your life [It has full effect through our confessing of faith, asking forgiveness for our sin, submitting to water baptism and promising a life of loyalty to Christ], that God declares us to be clean and free and on our way to holiness. How do you explain to someone that you can be "perfect" while still committing sins from time to time?

Chapter 10

²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Do you ever struggle with a guilty conscience? Is it difficult for you to believe that God has forgiven you for some past sin that continues to haunt you? Can you accept that in spite of that past action – that you are now free and clear and able to come up close to God in a warm and loving relationship? What would it take for you to finally accept that you are forgiven and that bad memory can be put to rest?

Chapter 10

²⁶ If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,

How often are you tempted to think this way with regard to sinful behavior . . . “It really won’t matter if I think, say or do this wrong thing because after all, I’m a Christian and grace will take care of it.” Are there ways that you check yourself to avoid taking forgiveness for granted and committing deliberate sin?

Chapter 10

³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

What is going on in your life right now that can tend to discourage you or slow you down in your life with Christ? Are there ways that you can encourage each other and pray for each other right now so that you can each persevere in your faith through this situation?