Words of Truth

Hebrews 10:11-18

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"And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin" (Hebrews 10:11-18).

Under the Law of Moses, the priests offered daily sacrifices (Exodus 29:36-42). The system of offerings was very complex then. Offerings were made twice a day. Things changed on the Sabbath. There were special offerings on a monthly basis. There were feast offerings as well (Numbers 28:1-31). The priests of old were busy when they were following the Law of Moses correctly. As we have already addressed, though many offerings were made and some of those offerings were for sin, those offerings could never take away sins (Hebrews 10:1-4).

In chapter seven of this Hebrew letter, some of the differences are given between Jesus as our high priest and those high priests of the past. The daily sacrifices is one of those differences. In a context talking about Jesus, this was written: "For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself" (Hebrews 7:26-27). As we have also already studied, Jesus' sacrifice was once for all (Hebrews 9:25-28 and Hebrews 10:10). There was/is no need for Him to offer Himself or any other sacrifice again. That part of His work is forever over.

After Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection He ascended back into Heaven (Acts 1:6-11). This letter opened saying this: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand

of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they" (Hebrews 1:1-4). The point of Jesus being on the right hand of the side of our Father is made throughout this letter (Hebrews 8:1 and Hebrews 12:1-2). Where Jesus is right now is of no small meaning. His being beside our Father in Heaven was preached from the first sermon that was preached after Jesus left this world (Acts 2:33-34). It is from the right hand of our Father that Jesus makes intercession for us (Romans 8:34).

Jesus will remain on the right hand of the Father until His enemies be made His footstool (Acts 2:35). This too is a repetitive point in this letter (Hebrews 1:13). This statement is a quote from a Psalm (Psalms 110:1). Jesus used that Psalm in teaching about Himself (Mark 12:35-37). We know, though it is not addressed in this context, that Jesus will hold this position until His return on the Day of Judgment (Matthew 24:35-25:46 and I Corinthians 15:20-28). Man can be made ready for that day through the sacrifice of our Lord.

Perfection was not attainable through the Levitical priesthood (Hebrews 7:11; 7:19). However, the blood of Christ is powerful enough to wash away sins (Revelation 1:5). As we all should know, our part is to obey the Gospel and continue faithfully in Christ (Acts 8:12-39, Acts 18:8, Romans 6:1-23, Colossians 1:23, etc.). That includes, because the blood of Christ enables such, cleansing ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit (II Corinthians 6:14-7:1).

Then, there is the reminder that the Holy Ghost had before spoken of the New Covenant. The manner in which this is stated is wonderful. We know and have studied this in this book already (Hebrews 8:7-13), that Jeremiah prophesied about the New Covenant as referenced here (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Identifying this prophesy as being from the Holy Ghost is a great reminder to us of the inspiration of the Scriptures (II Timothy 3:16-17). Remember: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:20-21). As David said: "The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue" (II Samuel 23:2).

The conclusion of the Scriptures we are looking at in this study makes it clear that once sins are remitted, there is no more offering for sin. It is through the blood of Christ that we can be forgiven, have our sins remitted, and that we can be redeemed (Matthew 26:28, Ephesians 1:7, and Colossians 1:12-14). It is not difficult to understand that once Jesus made these things possible through His death that there was/is no need for any other sacrifice. This point keeps being repeated and stated in different ways because of the struggle Jewish Christians were having in walking away from the Law of Moses. Later in this chapter (Hebrews 10:26-31), a similar point is going to be made on this matter. There is no "plan B" (so to speak). Jesus always was/is the only plan (I Peter 1:18-20).