



HEBREWS

JESUS IS BETTER

Hebrews 10:1-18

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? ³ But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

Hebrews 10:1-18

⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’ ”

Hebrews 10:1-18

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:1-18

¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 10:1-18

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

¹⁶ “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” ¹⁷ then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” ¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Outline

1. The diagnosis of our condition
2. The strong medicine needed for our cure
3. How this heals our hearts

1. The diagnosis of our condition

Hebrews 10:1-4

1. The diagnosis of our condition

Three aspects of our problem:

- The guilty conscience

LOST



1. The diagnosis of our condition

Three aspects of our problem:

- The guilty conscience
- The cancer of sin



“Every time you make a choice, you are turning the central part of you... into something a little different from what it was before... slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature. To be the one kind of creature is heaven... To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness.”

—C. S. Lewis

1. The diagnosis of our condition

Three aspects of our problem:

- The guilty conscience
- The cancer of sin
- The wrath of God

the
GOD
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DON'T
UNDERSTAND

reflections on TOUGH QUESTIONS of faith

CHRISTOPHER J. H.
WRIGHT

foreword by JOHN R. W. STOTT

God is love, and God loves every person and every creature. That's exactly why God is wrathful... I came to think that I would have to rebel against a God who wasn't wrathful at the sight of the world's evil. God isn't wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love.

—Miroslav Volf

(Quoted in Christopher Wright's *The God I Don't Understand*)



2. The strong medicine needed for our cure

Hebrews 10:5-7, 17-18

2. The strong medicine needed for our cure

- **The cross fully addresses our condition: forgiving sin, satisfying God's justice, and perfecting the conscience**

Multiple perspectives on the atonement

	<u><i>Our Problem</i></u>	<u><i>God's Perspective</i></u>	<u><i>Jesus's Work</i></u>
JUDICIAL	Sin as law-breaking	Divine judge	Takes our judgment
CHRISTUS VICTOR	Bondage to powers of evil	Mighty warrior	Triumphs over evil through death
MORAL INFLUENCE	Cut off from relationship	Loving Father	Shows depth of his love on the cross
TEMPLE	Impurity, unclean	The Holy One	Priestly sacrifice
MEDICAL	Sin as disease	Desires to restore broken creation	Physician who brings divine cure

Hebrews 10:5-7

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’ ”

2. The strong medicine needed for our cure

- **Objection: Is substitutionary atonement just? Isn't it unjust for one child to take another's punishment?**



THE CROSS OF CHRIST

FOREWORD BY ALISTER McGRATH



JOHN R.W. STOTT

The concept of substitution may be said... to lie at the heart of both sin and salvation. For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God... salvation is God substituting himself for man. Man asserts himself against God... God sacrifices himself for man. He must either inflict punishment or assume it. And he chose the latter course, as honoring the law while saving the guilty. He took his own judgment.

—John Stott

2. The strong medicine needed for our cure

- **Objection: Isn't this just the teaching of the Reformation, but not the early church?**



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Early Christian Writings

When our iniquity had come to its full height, and it was clear...retribution in the form of punishment and death must be looked for, the hour arrived in which God had determined to make known...His loving-kindness and His power. How surpassing is the love and tenderness of God! In that hour, instead of hating us and rejecting us and remembering our [wickedness] against us, He showed how long-suffering He is.



He bore with us, and in pity...took our sins upon Himself and gave His Son as a ransom for us—the Holy for the wicked, the Sinless for sinners, the Just for the unjust, the Incorrupt for the corrupt, the Immortal for the mortal. For was there, indeed, anything except His righteousness that could have availed to cover our sins?

PENGUIN  CLASSICS

Early Christian Writings



In whom could we, in our lawlessness and ungodliness, have been made holy, but in the Son of God alone? O sweet exchange!...O benefits un hoped for!—that the wickedness of multitudes should thus be hidden in the One holy, and the holiness of One should sanctify the countless wicked!

PENGUIN CLASSICS

Early Christian Writings

—The Letter to Diognetus
2nd Century Apologetic Document



2. The strong medicine needed for our cure

Hebrews 10:5-7, 17-18



3. How this heals our hearts

Hebrews 10:1, 15-16

3. How this heals our hearts

(a) Freedom from the shadow of the Law

v. 1: For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

3. How this heals our hearts

(b) Renewal of the heart

**v. 15-16: And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶ “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws on their hearts,
and write them on their minds**

Summary

1. The diagnosis of our condition
2. The strong medicine needed for our cure
3. How this heals our hearts





HEBREWS

JESUS IS BETTER