**Why the World Needs to Hear About Jesus**
Hebrews 10:11-14
Grace Bible Church, Roseville
27th June, 2010

**Introduction**

* Tell story about Hindu lady (M’s mom) – “what are you going to do about your sin before God”
* The constant answer: My guru gives me peace and power
* You can either ignore the issue of sin and judgment or accept your hopeless fate – in both cases, unless you find is a sufficient solution, you are doomed.
* This text shows us that the situation is desperate:
1. **Because the finest human resources are futile (v11)***And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.(v11)*

**CONTEXT**

* Hebrews 10:11-14is a summary of the author’s theological argument in Chapters 9 and 10.
* The author’s argument :
	+ Ritual system of sacrifice given at mount Sinai is ineffective
	+ Christ achieved a superior sacrifice
	+ Christ abolished the old system by the new inaugurated through his blood
* While the author’s specific focus as he addresses Jews is the futility of Israelite ritual, this obviously applies to any human system of religion:
	+ Israel’s religion was given by God, intentionally, knowing it was flawed
	+ The idea was to show the Jews the need for the Messiah
	+ This is the pinnacle of human religion
		- *Given by God to show the necessity of blood sacrifice*
		- *Given by God to show the futility of the best* ***human*** *resource*
		- *Given by God to show divine intervention was required for salvation*
		- *In effect - “This is the best you’ve got. It’s not going to work.”*
		- this didn’t accomplish salvation, and no other system man has devised can touch it – man’s religion don’t even deal with sin
			* Instead of sin-substitution, you have works
			* Works tries to appease, but the math of judgment doesn’t compute
* In what way was the Jewish High Priest’s ministry ineffectual?
	1. His service was only a shadow of reality
		1. Heb. 10:1
		2. A foreshadowing of Jesus as the perfect high priest
		3. [Illustrate] a “shadow”
			1. Can you imagine talking to someone’s shadow instead of the person?
			2. How about trying to drive your car’s shadow?
	2. His offering never removed the consciousness of sin
		1. Heb 10:2
		2. This is why 10:11 says “daily, repeatedly, the same sacrifices”
		3. Imagine yourself as a Jew, with constant guilt
		**Spurgeon**: Now, here comes a man who is troubled in his conscience. He comes sighing up the temple, and he must speak to the priest. He says to the priest, "I have committed such-and-such a sin." "Ah! says the priest, "You will never have any ease to your conscience unless you bring a sin offering. He brings a sin offering, and it is offered, and the man sees it burn and goes away. He has got faith—faith in the great sin offering that is to come—and his conscience is easy. A day or two after, the same feelings arise; and what does he do? he goes to the priest again. "Ah!" says the priest, "you must bring another offering; you most bring a trespass offering." He does that, and his conscience grows easier for a time; but the more his conscience gets quickened, the more he sees the unsatisfactory character of the offering he brings. At last, he says, "I am so uneasy; oh! That I could have a sacrifice every hour! For do you know," says he, "while I can put my hand on the head of the victim, I feel so happy: when I come to see it slaughtered, and the blood flowing, I feel so easy; but I do not feel perfect. I will even go up to the temple," he says, "that there I may live." He sees a lamb slaughtered in the morning, and tears of joy are in his eye. "Oh!" says he "I have seen that lamb; and when I saw the blood of that lamb flowing, I felt so rejoiced," Noon comes. "Ah!" says he, "my sins arise again; I have got a conscience, and where can I get relief for it?" And off he went to the temple; and there was another lamb in the evening, because God well knew that the sacrifices were themselves imperfect, only a shadow of the great substance, and that his people would need to have the service renewed, not only every year, but every day; nay, every morning and every evening.[[1]](#footnote-1)
	3. His sacrifices reminded the people of sin, but didn’t remove sin
		1. Heb 10:3, 11c
		2. Jews **thought** the offerings with right intention removed sin,[[2]](#footnote-2) but Hebrews puts all sacrifices under the same heading: impossible to remove sin – Heb 10:4
		3. Reminder is more than just bringing to mind separation from God
			1. Reminder through punishment of the animal
			2. Reminder through ceremonial pardon of the sinner
			3. No peace of conscience
* There is no temple today, no priest, no sacrifice
* It was the best chance men had, and it fell short – what do we have in our human resources?
* There’s some in the pews who are clutching at their own man-made straws of religion - What resource are you clinging to?
* The best effort of your religion and rituals is for naught.
	+ Is it that you’re a church going traditionalist? You attend regularly, you support missions, you vote for the republicans – is that your best claim?
	+ Is it that you think you’re ok? You’re not as bad as most?
	+ If all you’ve got is human resource, you’re building a stairway to the gates of hell.
	+ If you are a person here who doesn’t care, you should – because even if you aren’t doing anything about your spiritual condition, you’re on an escalator towards judgment.
	+ What you need is Jesus. Divine intervention is the only way out.
* For the rest - think about people you know without Christ – are you conscious of how desperate the situation is for them?
	+ Do you pity the futility of the unbeliever’s plight? Are you desperate to help?
	+ I too pity the starving and poor, but a far greater evil awaits those who do not know Christ.
	+ Is Grace Bible Church desperate to reach the people of Roseville, of California, of the USA, of the Worldwide with the only sufficient cure for the vilest disease?
	+ Is this the motivation for your outreach?
	+ Is this the motivation for world missions?
* Are we desperate to preach the person and work of Jesus Christ to all people?
* We should be:
1. **Because the only hope for all people is Christ (v12-14)**

*But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins he sat down at the right hand of God (v12)*

* The hope that Christ offers is as an anchor to the soul, for those who align themselves to Christ.
* See what the text tells us about Christ’s sufficient priesthood:
	1. *Jesus’ offering was comprehensive: “****once and for all time****”*
		1. Retroactive: past, present and future
			1. all forgiveness is accomplished by Jesus
			2. No sin in history is covered except by Jesus
		2. What makes Jesus’ sacrifice sufficient?
			1. God’s pleasure in Christ’s obedience
				1. Sacrifices and offerings wasn’t God’s will or pleasure [10:5a, 6]
				2. God’s will and pleasure was in the offering of Christ [Heb 10:5b]

“a body YOU have prepared for me”

Isa 53:10 – “it was will of the Lord to crush him”

* + - * 1. Christ fulfilled God’s pleasure by obedience

In the incarnation

In his death

* + - 1. The value of Christ’s blood-shedding
				1. [Heb 1:2-3] – heir of all, radiance of God’s glory & the exact imprint of his nature, creator of the ages
				2. Thus, [1 Pet 1:19] – the precious blood of Christ
				3. Let me ask you a question:

If you wanted to improve your basketball , and I offered to help – how long would you remember those lessons? (maybe for all the wrong reasons)

If Kobe Bryant was visiting this church and he offered – how long would that story be repeated?

Who is offering makes all the difference.

* 1. *Jesus’ offering effected what the Old Covenant could not:*
		1. Therefore, “**a single sacrifice**”, no longer needing repetition
		2. The new covenant promised the removal of sin
			1. Quoting Jer 31:31
			2. Heb 10:17-18 (also 8:12) – “remembers no more”
		3. What does this mean?
			1. Where the Old could not remove a guilty conscience, Jesus does!
			2. When the Old could not promise forgiveness, Jesus does!
				1. You may remember, but he promises never to bring it up
				2. Why? Because it’s paid for!
			3. [Heb 10:18] – where there is forgiveness of these, there is no more offering for sin.
			4. Sufficient! God is fully pleased!
	2. *Jesus’ offering defeated Satan’s power and dominion once and for all:
	“he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ” (v12b, 13)*
		1. [Heb 10:2-3]: by virtue of who he is, his sacrifice was definitive victory, thrice over:
			1. As radiance of God’s ineffable glory
			2. As the sustainer of all things
			3. As the perfect sin-bearer
	3. *Jesus’ offering accomplishes everything men need to draw near to God*
	*For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. (v14)*
		1. Those who receive Christ are “sanctified” to God
			1. Hebrews uses “sanctification” in a ceremonial sense, in a positional sense (other scriptures inform us of ongoing sanctification)
			2. “being set apart for God”, like the vessels in the tabernacle [Heb 9}
			3. Taken in this light, the author is speaking of God dedicating some for his service.
			4. Implicit in this is God’s election, his eternal decree
				1. Those that God has set apart, they will receive mercy
				2. That God has set men apart is fuel for missions and evangelism. They will embrace Christ. You must preach Christ!
				3. If you belong to God, you are to be used for God alone.

Brothers and sisters, are you wholly offered to God? All who God saves are consecrated to him.

**Spurgeon again:** (speaking of the tabernacle vessels) No man had any right to take wine for his own drinking, and drink it out of the golden cups of the sanctuary. If he did so, he did it to his own destruction—witness Belshazzar. He took the cups, and the golden candlesticks, and so forth, and used them in his debaucheries, and lo! he was swept away, and the handwriting on the wall foretold his doom. Even so, beloved brethren, Christian men are not to be used for anything but for God. They are a set-apart people; they are vessels of mercy, they are not for the devil's use, not for their own use, not for the world's use, but for their Master's use. He has made them on purpose to be used entirely, solely and wholly for him. Now, that is what is meant in this text by "sanctified."

* + 1. Those who receive Christ are “perfect”
			1. Sanctification refers to consecration
			2. However, this does not allow access to God. To do so would be death. Here’s where Christ’s offering changes everything.
				1. Those who are set apart are also “sprinkled with the blood of Christ”, just as the articles in the sanctuary were purified
				2. This accomplishes cleansing.
				3. Implicit in this verse is imputation of righteousness, for only the righteous can enter the throne-room of God and the invitation is open to all whom Christ perfects:
				4. [Heb 10:19-22]
				5. [Heb 4:16] – not just general admission, but restricted access to receive *mercy* and *grace* from God!
			3. Notice perfection is a past, accomplished reality
			4. How do we have access? Through Christ’s perfection applied to us
			5. No longer does God see your sin, you enter because Christ has stamped you as his own
				1. Illustration of Shai Linne concert stamp
* Christian! You stand perfect in Christ!
	+ If you are a believer who is loaded with the weight of some besetting sin: draw near to God for mercy and grace. Repent! You are His, he is faithful and just to forgive, not condemn.
	+ If you are a believer struggling with indiscipline and apathy: you belong to God! Give up your idols and give him your life, he owns it.
	+ If you are an unbeliever sitting here this morning: you have no hope but Jesus. Turn to him an receive sufficient cleansing for all your sin,
		- no matter how much
		- no matter how bad
	+ And Grace Bible Church, preach the cross of Jesus! He is the only hope for the man across the street, as much as the one halfway around the world!
1. http://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/0232.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. O’Brien, PNTC 347 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)