

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Hebrews 10:1-18

Lesson 12

Our greatest problem is sin. By nature we are sinners, and by choice we prove it. It has been well said, "We are not sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners." Hebrews 10:1-18 addresses our need for a better sacrifice than what the Old Covenant offers. In these verses we will see Jesus, the *perfect, once and for all* sacrifice offered in order to *perfect* sinners.

DAY ONE: Read Hebrews 10:1-18

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. Hebrews 10:1-18 has been divided into three sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-4

Verses 5-10

Verses 11-18

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, covenant, one (once), and sacrifice(s)*
(include *offering(s)*)

New to this lesson: *sin(s)*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Hebrews 10:1-18. Remember, as you mark the words for *God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit* mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

3. Note the term of conclusion in verse 5. Mark it on your Observation Worksheet; record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

4. Hebrews 10:1-18 contains 4 contrasts (verse 3, 5, 12, and 15). Mark each time the contrasting word *but* is used. Choose one of the contrasts and briefly reflect on its significance.

5. Using the chart titled *Jesus*, list a few things that Hebrews 10:1-18 reveal about Him.

Challenge: Choose one of the key words in Hebrews 10:1-18 and make a list of what the text reveals.

DAY TWO: Read Hebrews 10:1-4

1. Hebrews 10:1-18 concludes the doctrinal portion of this epistle. The writer continues the theme of Christ's superior sacrifice that was introduced in chapter nine by contrasting it with the law and its sacrifices. What does Hebrews 10:1 reveal about:

a. *the law*

- 1.) The word *shadow* here indicates an outline or a sketch. The word *image* means clear likeness. The law is only a *shadow* of the real thing. Now think about the phrase *of the good things to come*. In what way does this speak to you about Jesus and the new covenant that He brought?

b. *these sacrifices*

- 1.) The word *perfect* means complete. Now observe Hebrews 10:1b NIV *For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship*. What does this reveal about the limitations of the law and its sacrifices?

2. In Hebrews 10:2-4 we see the inadequacy of these sacrifices and the necessity for their repetition. Choose phrases that reveal this from these verses. Use other versions if you desire.

3. The animal sacrifices of the old covenant provided a covering for sin but could not remove or take away sins. What was impossible with these sacrifices was accomplished through Jesus' sacrifice. Record how the following verses support this truth:

John 1:29b

Hebrews 9:26b

I John 3:5

4. The ineffectiveness and limitations of the old covenant and its sacrificial system is clearly revealed. Instead of a cleansed conscience there was a guilty conscience, instead of remission of sin there was a reminder of sin, instead of a permanent solution for sin there was a need for continual sacrifices. How should this have encouraged the readers to let go of the *old* and embrace the *new*, better covenant and sacrifice?

a. Share a way embracing the *new* is affecting you today.

DAY THREE: Read Hebrews 10:5-10

1. In contrast to the ineffectiveness of the animal sacrifices of verses 1-4 the writer now presents the better, sufficient sacrifice of Jesus Christ. In Hebrews 10:5-7 the author quotes Psalm 40:6-8. The quotation from Psalm 40 makes it clear that Jesus is the fulfillment of the old covenant sacrifices. The phrase *when He came into the world* (Hebrews 10:5a) is a reference to the incarnation of Jesus. In these verses we hear Jesus speaking to God, the Father. Write what He says:

Hebrews 10:5b

Hebrews 10:6

Hebrews 10:7

Challenge: The *volume of the book* is the Old Testament in which there are over 300 prophecies that refer to Jesus. Find and record one of these to share with your group.

2. Hebrews 10:8 refers us back to verses 5,6 concerning *sacrifices* and *offerings for sin*. Twice we read that God had *no pleasure* in these. In order to better understand what is meant by this, read I Samuel 15:(13-21)22. What do you see?

- a. What does this tell us about the importance of obedience?

3. What did Christ's obedience to God's will accomplish according to the following verses:

- a. Hebrews 10:9b

- b. Hebrews 10:10

- 1.) Define the word *sanctified*.

- c. Share what it means to you that you *are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ*.

4. Ponder for a few moments Jesus' complete submission to the Father's will through the offering of *His own body*. Write your thoughts.

DAY FOUR: Read Hebrews 10:11-14

1. What does Hebrews 10:11 declare about *every priest* (the Levitical priests of the Old Testament)?

2. Hebrews 10:11 NIV reads: *Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.* In contrast to the unfinished duties of the priests and the insufficient sacrifices, Hebrews 10:12-14 emphasizes the adequacy and finality of Christ's sacrifice. Choose words or phrases from these verses that prove the superiority of *this Man* (Jesus).

3. Psalm 110:1 is quoted in Hebrews 10:12b,13. Jesus is in the exalted place of heaven awaiting His final victory over His enemies. When He comes again He will overcome every enemy and establish His kingdom. How does this encourage you today?

4. According to Hebrews 10:14, what did Christ's *one offering* accomplish for *them that are sanctified*?

5. Prior to Jesus, many *lambs* were offered as sacrifices for sins. What did John the Baptist declare about Jesus in John 1:29?
 - a. Describe the phrase *take away* as it refers to your sins. Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.

6. After reading of all that Christ has done to *perfect* the believer, what is the believer's part in winning God's approval?
 - a. In light of this, why do you think Christians still feel like there is something they must do?

DAY FIVE: Read Hebrews 10:15-18

1. This paragraph brings to a conclusion the doctrinal portion of Hebrews. Hebrews 10:15 begins *But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us*. This could be translated *The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this*. The Holy Spirit spoke the truths of Hebrews 10:16,17 first through Jeremiah (see Jeremiah 31:33,34). This quotation revealed that the Lord would make a new covenant that would replace the old. The new would produce an inward change because it works from the inside out. How did the new covenant change the way God motivates His people to live for Him? verse 16
 - a. In what ways have you personally experienced this motivation?
 - b. What more does God promise through the new covenant? Use Hebrews 10:17 to answer the question.
 - 1.) What does it mean to you that your *sins and lawless deeds He will remember no more*?
2. At the time this letter was written, the temple in Jerusalem was still standing and the earthly priests were making daily sacrifices. However, the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ was sufficient to accomplish all that was necessary for the salvation of man. How does the following New Living Translation of Hebrews 10:18 prove that those sacrifices were unnecessary: *Now when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices*?
 - a. The author rests his case. All that the law and old covenant meant and foreshadowed has been fulfilled in Christ. Think for a moment about the impact this should have had on the Hebrew believers. What impact does this have on you today?
3. The study of these glorious truths concerning Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest, and the superiority of the new covenant should stir us to action. Since we have *such a High Priest* the writer now begins to challenge and exhort believers to respond. Look ahead to Hebrews 10:19-25 for a preview of next week's lesson to become acquainted with some of these exhortations. What is your initial response to these verses?

DAY SIX: Review Hebrews 10:1-18

1. Consider the contrast between the *old* and the *new* as you copy each of the following phrases under the appropriate side of the chart: (We have done the first one for you)

<i>Old Covenant and Sacrifices</i>		<i>New Covenant and Christ's Sacrifice</i>
<i>can never...make perfect</i> (vs. 1)	can never...make perfect	
<i>not possible...to take away sin</i> (vs. 4)		
<i>offering...once for all</i> (vs. 10)		
<i>can never take away sins</i> (vs. 11)		
<i>one sacrifice .for ever</i> (vs. 12)		
<i>perfected for ever</i> (vs. 14)		
<i>no longer an offering</i> (vs. 18)		

a. How should this have kept the Hebrew believers from returning to the externals of Judaism?

2. How has your study of Hebrews 10:1-18 enriched your understanding of the sufficiency and finality of Christ's sacrifice?

3. Recall one thing you learned about *forgiveness* from this lesson.

4. Share a verse, phrase, or thought from Hebrews 10:1-18 that ministers to you today and tell why.

*For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,
- 1 Timothy 2:5*

*through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand,
and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- Romans 5:2*