

Sovereign Grace Church

“Our Only Hope” outline

February 12, 2017

Hebrews 10: 11-18

As we return to our study of Hebrews we will finish the main doctrinal portion of the book. The book itself is a warning against giving in to the temptation to reject Jesus and return to the Old Covenant shadows of the law as a means to protect oneself from persecution....which Jesus had promised would accompany those who chose to follow Him. The warning is centered on the teaching that the Old Covenant sacrifices could not and were never intended to take away our sins or provide the power to transform our character from God-hating to God-loving. To this end the writer has contrasted the Old Covenant with the New Covenant and the Old Covenant sacrificial system with that of Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice.

This teaching is culminated in today's section and the direct application for us is to warn us against hiding behind the traditions and rites of the Church as a means of retaining social respectability and instead to abandon ourselves to Christ and His Kingdom for the purpose of the transformation of the kingdoms of this earth into the earthly manifestations of Christ's heavenly kingdom!

1. Old Covenant sacrifices could NOT perfect those for whom they were made. v.11
Heb. 10:4; Matt. 5: 23-24

2. Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice COULD! vv. 12-13
Psm 110:1; Matt. 28: 18; I Cor. 15: 26; Rom. 8: 29

**3. Jesus' Sacrifice and the New Covenant. vv. 15-18
Jer. 31: 33-34**

Questions for Conversation and Personal Study

- 1. How would you contrast the Old Covenant sacrificial system with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ? What were the purposes of each? What is their relationship to one another? Is it possible to continue to practice the Old Covenant ceremonies and sacrifices and still honor the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus? Why or why not?**
- 2. Why could the blood of bulls and goats not take away sin? Could they take away sin if they were offered in faith? Why or why not? Why do some churches seek to carry on the Old Covenant feasts and rites?**
- 3. What is a proper understanding of the New Covenant ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper for believers today? How do you explain the difference between them as a sign and that which is signified by them? What is signified by water baptism? What is signified by communion around the Lord's Table. Why do the Friends church (Quakers) not celebrate the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper? Is there a lesson in this for those of us who do?**
- 4. What is the relationship between forgiveness of sins and the Christian life (*sanctification or spiritual transformation*)? Is the Christian life optional? i.e., could one have their sins forgiven and skip trying to live the Christian life? Why or why not? Does the Christian life only concern our outward conduct or does it concern the inner motives and character which prompt such conduct? How can we successfully “put on” the character of Christ?**