

Incarnation and Sanctification The Trinitarian Conversation

Hebrews 10:5-10

5 Therefore, when He entered into the world, He said, Sacrifice and offering You do not desire, but a body You did prepare for Me. ⁶ You were not well pleased with whole burnt offerings and sacrifices concerning sin. ⁷ Then I said, Behold, I have come – in the roll of the book it has been written concerning Me – to do Your desire, O God. ⁸ Saying above, Sacrifice and offering and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices concerning sin You did not desire, nor were You well pleased (which are offered according to the law), ⁹ then He said, I have come to do You desire, O God, He takes away the first in order that He might establish the second, ¹⁰ by which desire we have been sanctified though the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all *time*.

Introduction:

One of the purposes for Christ's birth was to provide a *sanctifying* sacrifice. The sacrifice consisted of His own physical body, which needed to be a body that was perfectly designed and maintained. In the Levitical system, this perfection was symbolized by the careful examination of the lamb that was to be sacrificed on the day of atonement. But that Levitical lamb was not *actually* perfect. It did not voluntarily take upon itself the sins of the Israelite, but simply pictured the need for physical death for acts of sin.

In Hebrews 10:1-4 the writer shows that the Levitical sacrifices did not provide true sanctification for several reasons: 1) they are mere shadows of Christ's sacrifice; 2) because they are repeated they cannot make the one sacrificing mature, or they would have ceased; 3) the one sacrificing still had a consciousness of sins; 4) they simply reminded the one sacrificing of sins each year; 5) it is not possible for animal sacrifices to remove the consequences of daily sins.

Hebrews 10:1-5 deals with the need and effectiveness of Christ's bodily sacrifice for sanctification. In so doing, the author provides a rather detailed account of the process of the incarnation by an allusion to Psalm 40:6-8.

You may recall that the original Hebrew audience desired to re-enter the world of daily sacrifice according to the Old Testament Levitical system. It is the author's intention to prove that Christ's sacrifice is superior because it provides something that the Levitical sacrifice could not, that is, actual sanctification for the believer. And that could only be accomplished if the physical body were perfect, without sin, and the one sacrificing, and the one being sacrificed were also perfect. Christ, as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek provided the perfect One to make a perfect sacrifice. And Christ, the lamb of God, provided that perfect sacrifice.

Outline

Why, then, is Christ's sacrifice more effective than animal sacrifices?

- I. Because Christ Offered a Human Sacrifice. (10:5-7)
 - A. His Body was Specially Prepared. (10:5) (See also Luke 1:34-35.)
 - B. The Father Was Not Pleased with Animal Sacrifices. (10:6)
 - C. Christ Became Human to do the Father's Desirous Will. (10:7)
- II. Because Christ's Sacrifice Replaced Animal Sacrifices. (10:8-9)
- III. Because Christ's Bodily Sacrifice Sanctified Us Once for All. (10:10)