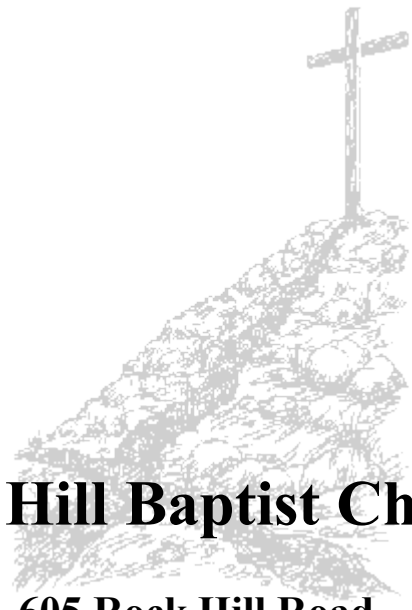


No More Offering For Sin

Hebrews 10:17-31



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FOCAL Hebrews 10:17-31 (KJV) "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. {18} Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. {19} Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, {20} By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; {21} And having an high priest over the house of God; {22} Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. {23} Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) {24} And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: {25} Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. {26} For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, {27} But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. {28} He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: {29} Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? {30} For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. {31} It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living

God."

I stood at the window of a certain "fast food" restaurant this week, waiting in line to get some *spicy chicken*. I won't tell you where I was, because I'm here to advertise Jesus and not chicken ... but it wasn't the *finger licking good* place! Anyway, as I stood there in line - and I'm sure you're all familiar with lines - the crowd seemed a little disgruntled. Often in America if we don't get our fast food within 30 seconds we're just not happy, but that's another sermon. Anyway, my turn finally came, and the lady smiled and gave me my order. As I turned to walk away I told the customer in front of me "Have a blessed day". She replied, "I will, if they ever serve me!"

I thought about that all the way home - "I will, if they ever serve me". Think about how strange this statement is. What this lady was saying was that *her happiness or blessedness was based on what another human agency did*. Now that is strange! I cannot base my happiness on what another human agency does. I cannot base my happiness on what you as an individual or you as a Church do. Now listen Beloved, because this is going to go deep, but I cannot even base my happiness on *what I do*. If my happiness is based on my own achievements, my own abilities, my own excellencies, then my happiness will never be very high.

Why?

Because we are *all sinners by nature*, and many times *sinners by choice*. If this were not true we'd be living in a virtual paradise today, with no prisons, no police, no armies, and no confusion. A large part of what drives the

medical industry in America today is the *bad personal decisions* that many of us make - particularly in the area of fast food. I enjoyed that chicken I ate, but my body also enjoyed the grease, the strange preservatives, and the flavor enhancers that are added to make the flavor so good. That chicken was delicious, but it may eventually be a contributing factor in my health later on in life. What we do has repercussions, even into our later life. What you do or fail to do today under the preaching of this message will have repercussions that will either bless you or curse you throughout the rest of your life. Let's look at our text.

1. Their Sins And Iniquities (Lawlessness) Will Be Remembered No More

In our focal text today there are a number of elements that need to be understood if we expect to understand this text. First let's look at the foundation of the text, and then build the house of interpretation from there. The foundation is:

FOCAL Hebrews 10:17-18 (KJV) "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. {18} Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin."

God said "I'll forget your sins and iniquities" like they never happened. Well now, that's a wonderful thing. How do we reach this state, Lord? What work can I do? What thing can I achieve for you? If I can get in that state where you have, as the Greek text says, *me eti*, **no more** remembrance of me as an enemy of Yours, **no**

more a reminder that I was not just as *sinner*, but I was also a *law breaker* - just as we all are sinners and law breakers.

Some of you might be thinking, "Well, listen to him! I'm not a sinner, and certainly not a law breaker. How dare he imply such a thing?!!" Well, let's just ask a few questions, and see how we stack up. Have you ever told *a lie*? How about you men? Has your wife ever went to the beauty parlor and returned from it with a *strange looking hairdo* and then asked you, "How do you like it?" Have you looked at her with a straight face and said, "You're always beautiful to me" with sincerity, while at the same time thinking to yourself "praise God that hair grows!?" How about you women? Have you ever told *a lie*, an untruth in your relationship with your husbands or boyfriends? A lie is a violation of God's *ninth commandment*, and when you lie you become - as our text tells us - both a *sinner* as well as someone *full of iniquity* - that is, a *lawbreaker*. What about *theft*, violation of the *eighth commandment* of God? Have you ever taken anything that doesn't belong to you? Have you carried as little a thing as *a paper clip or a pen* from your workplace? Have you stolen time from your company by *taking unauthorized breaks when you should be working*? God's Law condemns theft. Those who do it are both *sinners as well as lawbreakers*. What about *lust*, have you ever looked at a person and *lusted* after that person? That violates the *tenth and the seventh commandments*.

What about *pride*? Is *pride* a violation of God's Law? Not particularly, I don't guess - I don't remember a particular command against pride - and yet the Scripture

classifies pride as one of *the seven deadly sins*. We are told in the Bible:

Proverbs 6:16-19 (KJV) "These six things doth the LORD¹ hate: yea, seven are an abomination² unto him: {17} A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, {18} An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, {19} A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

that there are seven things the LORD, the Eternal Father finds to be **abomination² or disgusting** - and the very first one of these is **a proud look**. Are you proud? Preachers themselves get proud - you ought to hear the bragging that goes on at the Pastor's Conference every Monday! They tell me, "Boy, I've got the Sunday School up to so and so"! I have to confess to you that your pastor has to pull out the Big Gun, the Bible, and shoot my pride nearly every single day I wake up.

Listen Beloved: we're all sinners, we're all filled with *pride*. We have *feet that run to mischief*. You don't think so, let a fight happen in a Church, or someone fall into some type of malady, and many of us are quick to run and tell others about it. When we're attacked we often forget that, as our text tells us,

FOCAL Hebrews 10:30-31 (KJV) "For we know him that hath said, **Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense**, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord

1 LORD in the King James is always YHWH, the Eternal Name of God we translate YAHWEH.

2 tow'ebah {pronounced to-ay-baw'}, disgusting, morally repugnant

shall judge his people. {31} It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

and there are times when we are struck that we forget to *turn the other cheek* as our Savior commanded us to do,

Matthew 5:39 (KJV) "... whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

Oh Beloved - we're all full of *sin and iniquity, sin and lawlessness* - even the best of us. But the Father says in **verse 17 "their sins and iniquities will I remember no more"**. Oh Lord, How to get that peace? How can I get there? How can I get to that land of *forgetting*, a land where I can be your Child and not your Enemy? Our text tells us:

FOCAL Hebrews 10:14-16 (KJV) "**For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. {15} Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, {16} This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;**"

We are told **by one offering He, Father, has made us perfect or complete**. Oh Lord, what can I offer? What can I do?

I remember when I was a little boy I hated to take a bath! I just spent a long day playing in the fields and in the woods, running and climbing and jumping and climbing trees. I used to climb those pine trees and get that old

pine sap all over me, on my hands and feet, on my clothes. Oh, it smelt so good! I can still smell it. I'd come in at the end of the day, tired and happy, and momma would say "You go get in the tub". She's run the tub full of hot, soapy water - nearly scalding, and tell me "Get in the tub and get clean". You know what I'd do? I'd wait till momma went out of the bathroom, and I'd close the door. Then I'd *get in the tub and walk around* in it, splashing around, making sounds like I was getting clean. Then I'd get out, dry my feet off, splash a little of dad's cologne on, and head to my bedroom.

And I'd run smack dab into momma!

She's ask me, "Did you get a bath?", to which I'd reply "Yes, momma". She's thump me on the top of the head and say "No you didn't - get back in there! Then she'd take me and wash me from head to toe, scrubbing hard until all that pine tar came off and into the water. How did momma know I wasn't clean? I made all the sounds, I splashed the water, I used the towel and the rag. She knew because when she looked at me my head was still dirty, my hair gummed together, my upper torso was still marked by dirt. I might have done it *my way*, but my way didn't clean me!

So it is with God. It is not *my one offering* that causes me to stand before God clean enough to get into Heaven - it is **God's one Offering** that perfects us in His eyes. God *must do the work* in salvation. Look at the text:

FOCAL Hebrews 10:16 (KJV) "**... This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts,**

and in their minds will I write them;"

God has to do the work. He must **put His laws into our hearts and into our minds**. I can tell you all day long that you have to get clean to get to Heaven, but I am not the Parent in this household. There are certain things that I must do as a child of God, but are things that I cannot do - God must do them. We are told in Isaiah:

Isaiah 64:8 (KJV) "But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."

God must clean us up. We cannot wait until we feel like He's out of the room then splash around in the tub with our feet, hoping to fool Him. If you couldn't fool momma, do you think you can fool Him? Absolutely not! It is **by One Offering** that we are **perfected forever**. What offering is that?

2. What Is The Offering That Satisfies God? Nothing But The Blood of Jesus!

FOCAL Hebrews 10:18-20 (KJV) " ... there is no more offering for sin. {19} Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, {20} By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh"

What is the offering that satisfies God so much that He says **there is no more offering for sin**? The **Blood of Christ**, the Blood of Christ!

The *same phrase* is used in verses 18 and 26 of our text, tying the interpretation of these two verses *together*. In **verse 18** we read:

FOCAL Hebrews 10:18 (KJV) "Now where remission of these [sins] is, there is no more³ offering⁴ for sin. "

and in **verse 26** we read,

FOCAL Hebrews 10:26(KJV) " For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more³ sacrifice⁵ for sins"

I have heard people preach verse 26 out of context and say, "If you sin once you're saved, there **remaineth no more sacrifice for sins**. You will die and go to hell! You'd better not sin once you're saved!"

Well, I do believe that the Scripture teaches we should avoid sinning. Sin is destructive, not to God but to us. Sin is *an offense to God*, and an *offense to Christ* for sin is an appetite for things that *satisfy myself rather than satisfy God*. Jesus told Peter when the Apostle said that he wouldn't let the Lord die for our sins:

Matthew 16:23 (KJV) "... thou art an offense unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God,

3 ouketi {pronounced ook-et'-ee}, no more

4 prosphora {pronounced pros-for-ah'}, an act of expiatory offering

5 thusia {pronounced thoo-see'-ah}, sacrificial victim - refers to the sacrificial Lamb, Jesus Christ our Savior

but those that be of men."

Sin is an offense to God, and if you're saved you ought to be avoiding sin. But I want you to know the Scripture teaches that the *only thing* that will bring you into a right relationship with God is the *Blood of Christ*. The Bible tells us:

there remains no more sacrifice for sin

Because the Son offered Himself on that Cross for you and for me. If you have realized that you are *not only a sinner*, you are also *a lawbreaker*, and you have realized that *you are powerless to save yourself*, then you must also realize that salvation depends on *believing on Him*, trusting Him, committing your life to Christ as your Lord and Savior. There is nothing you can do to be worthy before God. There is no sacrifice you can make, no penance you can do, no work you can achieve.

Am I saying that the Christian *does not work* once he comes to God our Savior, believing on Christ for salvation? Absolutely not! We **hold fast the profession of our faith** by joining together as Christ's Church. We do what the Scripture says:

FOCAL Hebrews 10:23-25 (KJV) "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) {24} And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: {25} Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day

approaching. "

What do Christians do? Well the text is very clear. We **provoke** one another - not to anger, nor to despair ... but **to love and good works**. You see, the Christian is someone who realizes that **there is no more sacrifice for sins**. God looked at me and said *condemned, unable, unclean!* But God didn't stop there, but He went farther and said "**I will let David and whosoever will ...**

FOCAL Hebrews 10:19-20 " ... enter into the holiest [that holy of holies, Heaven itself] **by the blood of Jesus, {20} By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh ..."**

It was God's Eternal Purpose to offer salvation through One Lamb on One Cross - there **is no more sacrifice for sins**. The offering that satisfied God is the Blood of Christ. There is no Law I kept to get to salvation, no penance I did, no sacrifice I made *but of my will*. I came to Jesus and accepted Him as *my Lord and Savior*.

Now, I want to talk about that last statement for a moment. To accept Jesus Christ as *both Lord and Savior*. The title **Lord Jesus** occurs 115 times in the New Testament - and usually always in the context of salvation. We read the title in places like this:

Acts 15:11 (KJV) "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."

And when the Gospel was proclaimed, it was preached this way:

Acts 16:31 (KJV) "... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

And the Apostle Paul preached:

Acts 20:21 (KJV) "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:1 (KJV) "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

Romans 5:11 (KJV) "And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."

Romans 10:9-10 (KJV) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. {10} For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Romans 13:14 (KJV) "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."

1 Corinthians 6:11 (KJV) "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye

are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

and so on. I think you see where we're going with this. The only sacrifice that a person makes to get to Heaven is the *sacrifice of the will*. You come to God and present yourself to Him, surrendering yourself to Him for salvation, believing that there is **no more sacrifice for sin** but Jesus. You cannot work your way to God, but on the other hand you cannot say to God "OK, God save - me" and then continue to strive to live your life *apart from God*.

The Christian way of life is a *surrendered* way of life - and Christ is the One we surrender to. Charles Spurgeon wrote:

"There are some who seem willing to accept Christ as Saviour who will not receive Him as Lord. . . . How sad it is that some talk about their faith in Christ yet their faith is not proved by their works! . . . I cannot conceive it possible for anyone truly to receive Christ as Saviour and yet not to receive Him as Lord."⁶

In his booklet *Lordship Salvation, What Must a True Believer Believe* Bible Teacher Gil Rugh states:

"I would like to state up front that I am in full agreement with the position known as lordship salvation. I say this, not because I seek to be identified with any particular group, but because I believe it is the biblical position. It is the position I held when I

⁶ *The Royal Saviour*, Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, 1910, p. 617.

first became a pastor more than 25 years ago. It is the position I have consistently taught, though I have not always used the title “Lordship salvation.” In my 25 plus years of preaching this view, not once have I ever been accused of teaching that salvation is by works. I strongly believe that salvation is solely by God’s grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Yet, I also hold that when God grants a person saving faith, that faith will include a sense of personal sin and a desire to turn from sin and embrace Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. I also believe Christ’s person and work cannot be separated. He is both Lord and Savior. We cannot choose to have Him as our Savior but not as our Lord. I also hold that when saving faith has occurred, the result will include a transformed life evidenced by good works. All these beliefs characterize the view that has come to be known as lordship salvation.”

Pastor John MacArthur states in *the Gospel According to Jesus*:

"The gospel Jesus proclaimed was a call to discipleship, a call to follow Him in submissive obedience, not just a plea to make a decision or pray a prayer. Jesus' message liberated people from the bondage of their sin while it confronted and condemned hypocrisy. It was an offer of eternal life and forgiveness for repentant sinners, but at the same time it was a rebuke to outwardly religious people whose lives were devoid of true righteousness. It put sinners on notice that they must turn from sin and embrace God's righteousness. It was in every sense

good news, yet it was anything but easy-believism"⁷.

Now, rather than get in a debate that will only confuse many of us, let me see if I can explain salvation this way. Years ago *coal* was one of the major sources of energy in America. Coal was used for heating, for electric generation (if you had electricity), coal was even heated to produce *coal oil that you put in your lamps* so you could see at night. In order to supply America coal, men had to quite often go underground and work, mining coal in dark, deep, black caves. It was dangerous, dirty, and often fatal work.

No miner going into a cave ever thought of going to work without his light. The miners usually wore these lights on their foreheads, or strapped to steel mining helmets. They did this so, no matter where they looked, the light would go before their eyes so they could see where to go. If a man lost his light he had to rely on the light of the man next to him. The problem with this was you had to rely on another man to get where you were going. Your *happiness* or *ability to live* for that day depended on whether the person next to you was shining the light where you wanted to be. No Beloved, you need the Light yourself. You had to have your own Light, strapped to your own Life. You couldn't depend on another person's Light to get where you were going for, once you were alone in that dark, dreadful place, your willingness to cling to the Light and follow the Light meant the difference between life and death, happiness or misery, success or defeat.

⁷ Gospel According to Jesus, page 21

So it is with Christ! The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ came to:

Luke 1:79 (KJV) " ... To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

We are all like that coal miner, and though life looks light it is not. We quite naturally **sit in darkness and in the shadow of death**. Like the miner every day we awake we go to work into this cave called "life". A shadow looms over every person in this cave, and that is the **shadow of death**. Just like the miner we *need that Light*, the Lord Jesus Christ. We must *put on Christ*, not just on Sunday morning, but at all times. We must remember that *He is Lord, and He is Light, and He is Life itself*, and unless you have opened the door of your life to Him, believing in Him, trusting Him - then you still wander in darkness.

It is not what I do that saves me, but it is *Whom I trust as Lord and Savior* that makes all the difference in the world. You can choose to be saved *your own way*, but it would be as useless as a miner strapping a chicken on his head. Jesus said:

John 8:12 (KJV) "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

Who's guiding your life? Is it another *human agency*, what someone else does? Is it what you call *luck*, or *fate*?

Is it a *chicken strapped to your head*? Or are you, like the smart coal miner, walking in the Light? Have you turned your eyes upon Jesus, trusting Him with all your heart? That's the only sacrifice that God will accept for sin - and the only relationship that will keep you walking surefooted through the rugged terrain of this cave we call "life".

May God bless and plant His word in your hearts!