

## Hebrews 10

Hebrews 10:1 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of **the true form of these realities**, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

Reminder: Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians at a time when Christianity was seen as a sect of Judaism by the world and the reformation of Judaism by the church. The Author of Hebrews is laying out the new covenant theology in such a way that a practicing Jewish Christian could see what he must hold onto and what has become a distraction from his relationship with Jesus.

Is the Law a bad thing – no

But it is only a shadow or a representation of what God is like eg:

Jesus is the true form of Not only God but also of a life lived perfectly by the Law

In the absence of humanity the law is meaningless

The problem with the law is that it cannot make us perfect as it can only show us the difference between right and wrong

When we do wrong the law asks us to offer an animal sacrifice to pay for our sin debt

But these sacrifices were only shadows of the sacrifice that was achieved once and for all when Jesus died in our place

Now that this has happened no other sacrifices are necessary

But what does a sacrifice achieve?

Does it just get us back to a neutral spot where we get to make choices again or does it change us?

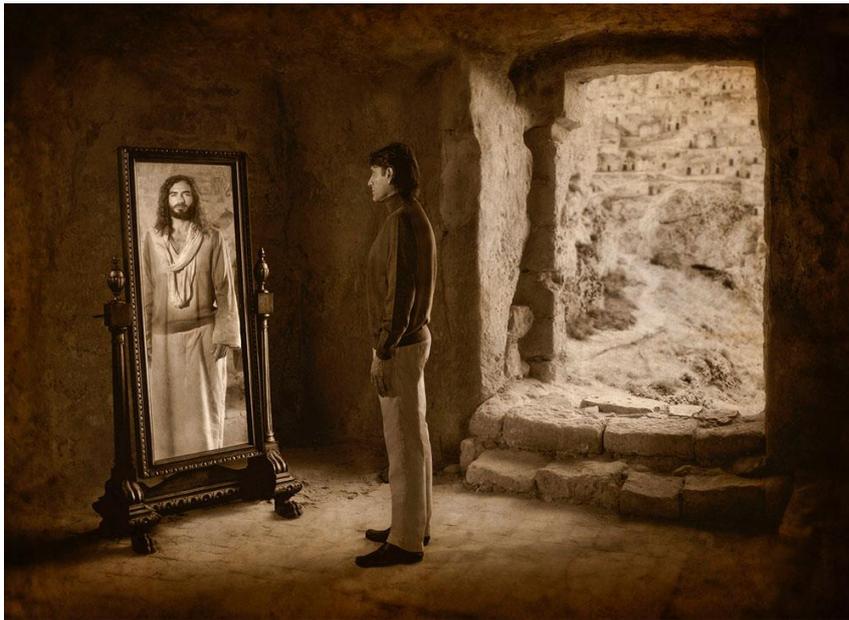
If you are interested in Jesus at all then you are one of *Those who draw near*

Is it you who guides your life?

### Under the Law



## Under Christ



This does not mean that Christians don't have to make choices and it certainly does not excuse Christians from adhering to the commandments of God, but it does mean we are not neutral. We are not on our own we can rely and trust upon a God who wants to get to know us. This is not a New Testament idea as it can be clearly demonstrated in the Old Testament that making good choices was based on one's relationship with God.

The idea that the sacrifices of the Old Testament get people back to a place that allows them to make good decisions is actually anti-Christian as we shall see later in the passage

*Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

*3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

*3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.*

Whether you are a first century Hebrew or a 21<sup>st</sup> century South Islander- It is our own understanding apart from the God of the Bible that will get us into trouble. Our natural tendencies to lean toward sin and this shines through in areas of our lives where we don't rely on God or build relationship with him.

10:11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

**10:12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,**

*10:13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.*

10:14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Perfect come from the Greek work to fulfil or complete

Sanctified means set apart

It can mean several things in the New Testament

1. Chosen
2. Set apart for a purpose

3. In the process of being made holy

In the context of this passage you could argue all three meanings apply

What the sacrifice of Christ achieved:

1. Position of Christ
2. Victory over enemies
3. Perfects those who are being sanctified

Reference to psalm 110:1

Psalm 110 is the most often quoted psalm in the New Testament

I believe that the early church was so influenced by this psalm that it was the key to their understanding of Christ

Hebrews 10:15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"

10:17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

10:18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

And so we see there is no need for the old style of worship, where we make sacrifices to appease God

Most religions teach that we must change certain things in our lives to carry favour with God

Only Christianity teaches that God accepts us how we are; but then it goes on to say that he changes us.

The Spirit is a crucial part of all our daily life

He restores the law to what it was meant to be; A desire for righteousness that come from within.

This desire to do good work and shun evil will go hand in hand with our forgiveness.

We are not just freed from the punishment for sin, but restored to a desire to do Good

*We don't do good things to try and make God happy, we do good things because it is the natural thing [for a follower of Jesus] to want to do them.*

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

10:20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,

10:21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

10:24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to ***love and good works***,

10:25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Here is the concept of drawing near again

Here is the application of the sermon

These are words of conviction

The conviction is based on the proximity to Christ

The initial drive is personal

The final emphasis is helping others know love and see the truth

Here is an important point: Keeping the law is not just about not doing bad things

Keeping the law of love is about doing the good things

## Fear

Hebrews 10:26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,  
10:27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Warning:

Fear does not always mean respect [there is something dreadful and awful and terrifying about believing in an all-powerful being who controls your destiny] any person who denies this either does not believe in God or has not properly thought through what the author of Hebrews is trying to convey.

Does this mean if I sin after I have been saved I lose my salvation?

The short answer is: No

What does it mean then: well the key word is deliberate. Now all sin is deliberate but as Jamie noted last week all of us struggle in some areas. We try not to do the wrong thing but we stuff up. But in the light of all truth we see that:

*1Jn 1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

*1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*1Jn 1:10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

So if we fall down and get back up again, or rather if we backslide and then ask forgiveness in humility and make amends; then we are living under the grace of the new covenant

10:28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

10:29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

10:30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people."

10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

After reading Isaiah; we saw that the Israelites thought the blessings they had from God were their right. But actually they (the blessings) were due to relationship with God. This was to be the result of listening to him and his Word. As they rejected him, they lost "his rest" and the nation was exiled.

So too the Israelites in the time of Jesus thought that they had 2000 years of history as God's people and yet they knew him not when he came.

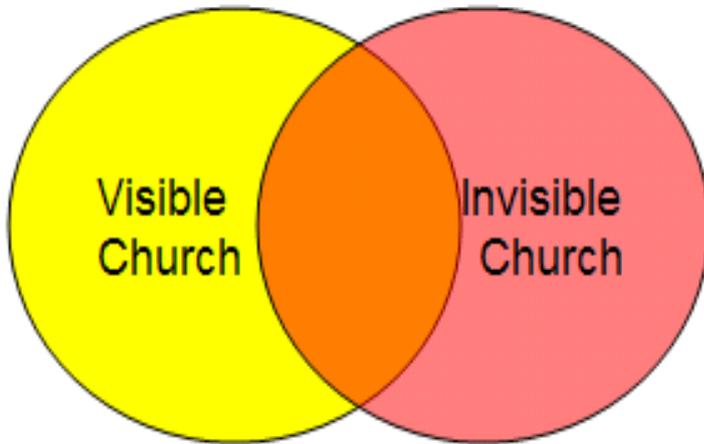
Today the world wide church has to take heed. We can claim that we have 2000 years of being God's people and we can even hide behind theological statements like: "God loves us" or "he is slow to anger" or "God's grace is sufficient" but these are meaningless words without basing them on a relationship with the living God.

This passage in Hebrews makes it quite clear that God gets angry

However if we hide our sin and pretend to be good or if we say that what God says is sinful is not sinful then we are clearly in violation of God's Law which is supposed to be written on our heart. This

would indicate that we could be in peril as we have gone against Holy Spirit inspired scripture by asserting we have a better point of view than God. God said don't eat the fruit [they said why should we be denied this experience]

Are you a believer or do you just go to church?



**Fig. 1. Augustine's visible and invisible churches. The visible church is the set of professing believers. The invisible church is the set of those who have been redeemed.**

## **Unbelief**

There is only one sin mentioned in the whole of the book of Hebrews: unbelief.

**Heb 3:12** Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

*Unbelief is the mother of vice; it is the parent of sin; and, therefore, I say it is a pestilent evil—a master sin.*  
*Charles Spurgeon*

I believe this is the unpardonable sin Jesus spoke of. Denying the work of the Holy Spirit [especially the Resurrection]

Signs of this sin include: Lack of the Holy Spirit's presence; rejecting the bible [inspired by the spirit]; embracing sin and arrogance.

*The only real argument against the Bible is an unholy life. When a man argues against the Word of God, follow him home, and see if you cannot discover the reason of his enmity to the Word of the Lord. It lies in some sort of sin.*  
*Charles Spurgeon*

We must commit to the message of Christ's sacrifice for our sins and not be led astray to replace that message with any other.