

**Subject: *The Offering of Christ's Body***

**Scripture: *Hebrews 10:1-14***

The Bible contains several main themes that can be thought of as threads running through a beautiful fabric. There is the black thread of sin and death, the golden thread of God's grace and glory, and the scarlet thread of redemption. It is a scarlet thread because it is redemption by the blood of Christ.

If we think of the Bible as one body of truth, you can cut the Bible anywhere and it will bleed, and the Book of Hebrews is like a main artery in that body. Hebrews reveals how Christ came to fulfill God's plan of redemption by dying and shedding His own blood for our sins.

### **1. Christ's body was a superior sacrifice**

Hebrews 10 is the climax of what the writer has been writing about for the first nine chapters about Christ being superior. He is superior to the prophets; He is superior to the angels; superior to Moses; superior to Joshua; superior to all the priests of the Levitical priesthood. He is the mediator of a superior covenant; He has entered a superior sanctuary; and He offered a superior sacrifice.

Hebrews 7-10 specifically draws a sharp contrast between the Old and New Covenants

<i>Old Covenant</i>	<i>New Covenant</i>
Repeated sacrifices	One sacrifice
The blood of animals	Christ's own blood
Sin was covered	Sin was taken away
For the Jews only	For all people (Jews and Gentiles)
High priest entered the Holy of holies in the earthly Sanctuary (tabernacle or temple)	Christ entered Heaven itself
High priest came out to bless the people	Christ will come to take His people to Heaven

The first part of Hebrews 10 focuses on Christ's superior sacrifice. A form of the word "offer" (as a noun or a verb) is found 12 times in Hebrews 10:1-14. In verses 5-7 the writer quotes from Psalm 40, and tells us what Christ said at His incarnation. His body was to be an offering for sin.

The importance of Christmas is that Christ became a man and had a human body. Several things may be said about His body: it was a body prepared by God (Heb. 10:5). This involved a special conception by the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary. It was a real human body. He ate and drank; He grew and developed from a baby to a grown man; He got hungry and thirsty,

and He got tired; He was limited by time and space; He suffered and died; He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven in His glorified resurrection body.

The writer of Hebrews is fixed on two things: Christ used His body to do God's will (vs. 7), and He offered His body as a sacrifice for sins. It was a superior sacrifice.

## **2. Christ's body was a sufficient sacrifice**

The animal sacrifices pointed to the perfect sacrifice of Christ. They were shadows of the real, substantial sacrifice that ushered in the good things of salvation (justification, sanctification, and glorification). The animal sacrifices covered the sins of the preceding year, but they could not do one thing. They could not make the worshipers perfect (complete). They could not deal completely with the guilt of sin and leave them with a conscience permanently clear and free from sin. If those sacrifices had been sufficient they would not have been offered time and time, year after year.

The work of Christ is sufficient. The Jewish priests always stood in the tabernacle and the temple because their work was never complete. By contrast Jesus offered Himself as the one sufficient offering for sins forever and then sat down at the right hand of God the Father.

*Hebrews 1:3* Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

*Hebrews 8:1* Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.

*Hebrews 10:12* But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.

*Hebrews 12:2* Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The fact that Jesus is sitting at the Father's right hand is not the rest of exhaustion, but the rest of completion. Jesus offered one sacrifice that was sufficient for all sins for all time. His sacrifice accomplished everything that ever needed to be done for us.

- His sacrifice sanctified (set apart) believers once for all (vs. 10)
- His sacrifice took away sin once for all (vs. 11-12)
- His sacrifice conquered Satan once for all (vs. 13)
- His sacrifice perfected believers once for all (vs. 14)

A permanent sacrifice was needed to deal permanently for sin. It was an offering of Christ once for all. Without the offering of Christ there could be no salvation from sin, and without the incarnation of Christ there could be no body to offer. The offering of Christ's body was the most costly offering. It was an offering given to God on behalf of sinners.