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The One Death That Made All the Difference; Hebrews 10:11-18

GPBC

1.30.22

Introduction – Today we remember the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf through observing the Lord's Table together.

This meal reminds us that when Jesus died on the cross, His broken body and shed blood was the final, perfect sacrifice for sin. You see our greatest problem is not the environment around us, but rather the environment within us. Our selfish depravity and determined rebellion against our Creator has left us broken, broken in life and separated from God. But if there was a way to adequately and properly deal with our sin, we could be forgiven, we could be pardoned, and we could be reconciled to our Creator. We are sinners, therefore, we need a Savior. We need someone to rescue us from sin's grip, sin's guilt, and sin's punishment. That requires a sacrifice, and there's only been one that is adequate for the task. There is one death that made all the difference.

- I. The Insufficiency of the Sacrifices of the OT
  - a. As you read through the OT, God delivers His people from slavery in Egypt. But Israel continues to rebel and doubt. So God established a sacrificial system of animal offerings to teach His people that the separation that sin creates between God and man can only be bridged through death. Death is the consequence for sin.
  - b. So rather than the sinner facing eternal death for the sin he has committed, God allows a substitutionary death in the sinner's place. Thus, the sacrificial system. (9:22) (Consequence. Substitution. Reconciliation.)
  - c. But it was never a perfect system. (10:4) The death of an animal cannot be the final substitute for a man. It meets the requirement of death, but it fails to perfect the sinner. Only man can pay for man's crime. So this sacrificial system was a temporary means of dealing with sin in the short term until the perfect substitute would come and deal with sin and with the sinner for the long term.
  - d. You see v11 says the priest stand daily and repeatedly offer the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

- i. You see that was the intended insufficiency of the animal substitute. It couldn't take away man's sin; it could only temporarily cover it.
  - ii. Sacrifices were offered daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly because today's sacrifice was to have forgiveness for yesterday's sin. But what about today's sin? What about tomorrow's sin? Well, you're going to need another sacrifice.
  - iii. The temple grounds were a slaughterhouse, a constant reminder that sin is a greater, graver issue than this system of sacrificial death can handle. There aren't enough animals to cover man's sin.
- e. We need a sacrifice that will not only finally and fully remove our sin, we need a Savior that will finally and fully change the sinner.

## II. The Sufficiency of the Sacrifice of Christ

- a. V12 rings the truth loud and clear. Jesus offered Himself as our perfect substitutionary sacrifice for sin. He died for us. But because He was sinless and He was God, death couldn't keep Him. He rose. Then He ascended back to the Father's right hand in heaven. The work of redemption was finally and fully accomplished. So He sat down. The work is finished, complete. There's nothing lacking, nothing missing, nothing further to do. There is no need for another sacrifice. His death was sufficient to meet and defeat the power, presence, and punishment of sin.
- b. V13 – He's just waiting. Calvary was D-day. There is coming a V-day. Satan's days are numbered. Sin has an expiration date. Jesus will reign forever. When Jesus returns He will fully enact what He fully accomplished.

## III. What Makes the Sacrifice of Christ Sufficient

- a. V14 – The death that made all the difference.
  - i. "a single offering" – the OT offerings were single offerings for single sins. This offering is for this sin. But the death of Christ was a single offering for every single one of our sins – every single one. III. Post it notes
  - ii. V14 means that those Christ died for, His sacrifice is so sufficient that their eternal perfection in glory is already sealed

and certain. And you know who those people are because right now in the here and now, they are the ones who are being sanctified – meaning who are being made to look like Christ!

1. Your glorification is guaranteed at the moment of your regeneration. Your regeneration is evidenced and proven by your sanctification.
  2. If you are not being sanctified, you have not been perfected. If you are not following Christ and growing in Christ, you have never truly embraced Christ and trusted in His death on your behalf.
  3. But if you love Christ and earnestly seek to know Him and follow Him, He has made certain your eternal address in paradise!
- iii. His death doesn't just deal with the sin; it changes the sinner.
- b. But – in vv15-18 – when His death does deal with our sin, it deals with it fully and completely.
- i. V16 – quoting Jer 31 – the new covenant promise. The OC under Moses said “Do this and live” but we couldn't keep the law because we are sinners by nature. Something had to change inside us. That's the promise of the NC. You see, we have to be changed. The OC worked from the outside in and that doesn't work for sinners. The NC works from the inside out and that's what sinners need – a change of heart that produces a change of life.
  - ii. When NC grace changes the heart of sinner and frees him or her to see their need for Christ and love Christ, God pledges “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”
  - iii. When God says I will remember your sins no more, it doesn't mean that He forgets we have sinned. It means He doesn't hold them against us. In fact, it's as if all of my sins were entirely removed from my record.
  - iv. How can God do that? How can a just and righteous and holy God just wipe the sins off my chart? Because Jesus came down from heaven 2000 years ago, took every one of my sins upon His shoulders, and sacrificed Himself to pay for them all.
- c. That's why at the Last Supper, Jesus lifts up the cup and says take and drink, this is the cup of the NC in my blood. Do this in

remembrance of me. We remember Christ's sacrifice at this table because it is through Christ that God remembers our sins no more.

- d. V18 – What makes the sacrifice of Christ sufficient.
  - i. Where there is forgiveness of these (sins and lawless deeds), there is no longer any offering for sin.
  - ii. Did you catch that? We no longer need an offering for sin because they've all been forgiven.
  - iii. In other words, the sacrifice of Christ accomplished what the OT sacrifices could never accomplish. He didn't temporarily cover our sins; He takes them away.

Conclusion – ill. Snowfall is like the OT sacrifices. When it covers the ground, it's clean and pure and pretty. But soon we start traveling the roads and pushing it around. And that pretty clean snow gets awful dirt and messy. It doesn't take us long to dirty things. And all that trash on the roads that was covered up, starts to show up again. You see, the pretty snow didn't remove our dirt and our trash; it just covered it up – but not for long. If we want it to stay that way, we need another snow.

But there's a different kind of snow mentioned in Isaiah 1:18 – though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow. You hear that. That's not covering up; that's taking away. That's not just dealing with the sin; that's changing the sinner. That's the power and grace of the death of Christ for your sin!