

Sunday, March 12th sermon: "No Sacrifice for Our Priest -- A Short Communion Sermon (Pt 8)"

Preached at the Lord's Table at Grace Bible Church in Greenwood, MS,
by John Pittman Hey

Hebrews 5:1-3; Hebrews 10:14

We have been considering the glorious truth about our Lord Jesus, through the incarnation, being made both a perfect sacrifice in our place for our sin, and Himself being made our High Priest Who presents His sacrifice for us unto God!

Because Jesus suffered being tempted like us, yet without sin, He is declared to be a suitable man to represent us before our God as our High Priest.

Because Jesus was compassed with infirmities, like His people, He can have compassion upon us

There is a crucial distinction between Jesus our High Priest, and all other earthly priests: whereas Christ's people need an offering for sins, Jesus does not.

All other priests had first to offer sacrifices for their own sins, before they could offer up sacrifices for their people's sins.

But the drumbeat of the text as it relates to Christ, is that He was tempted like we are, yet without sin, yet without sin, yet without sin!

Christ has no sin, He has never sinned, He is perfect in all His ways! He never succumbed to the temptations like we all do, and like Christ knows very well that we all do.

Thus, Christ's offering for our sin is different in yet another way from Aaron's, because it needs not to be prefaced with an offering for the priest's sin.

At the crucifixion, Christ goes straight to the cross to offer Himself a sacrifice for us as God's Lamb, and there is no stopping off anywhere for Him first to make an offering to purify Himself, for He is always pure, spotless, and undefiled.

As the physical types of Christ's sacrifice, the Old Testament animals had to be physically perfect before they could be offered to God.

Their perfection was determined by an external examination by the priests.

The Lord Jesus had to be spiritually, morally pure.

Some people accused Jesus of sin, particularly at His trial. They convicted Him of blasphemy when He told the truth about Who He is – God's Messiah, the Son of God, and in fact, God Himself in the flesh.

They were wrong when they claimed Christ had any moral defect or sin of any kind.

Some false teachers today claim that Christ would no longer be pure if God laid our sins upon Him at the cross. They seek thereby to overthrow the substitutionary atonement that Christ and the prophets proclaimed.

But our sins were laid on Jesus by imputation. He was not turned into a sinner, as other false teachers claim, but rather He bore our sins spiritually and morally, and was treated as guilty for our crimes.

He is a Lamb without spot and without blemish, morally and spiritually, and therefore He is qualified to be the sacrifice to take away our sin.

Were it not so, Christ would have had to first make a sacrifice for His Own sin, but what could He have offered? No animal would do, because animals could never take away sin.

This is why it is so important, that Christ was tempted like we are, yet without sin. He never sinned, not a single time.

This is the astounding truth of Christ's offering. It may be easy to find a lamb that is physically perfect, but it is impossible to find a man that is morally and spiritually perfect to die for us.

But Jesus is that very man -- He was perfect in spite of the fact that He was tempted like we all are, but He never sinned like we all do.

Therefore, Jesus Alone is worthy to be God's Lamb for us, to take away our sins forever.

He was hung between two thieves on the cross that day. He was presented to the world as "just another one of those criminals." He was "numbered with the transgressors."

Even Pontius Pilate adjudicated Christ to be without fault at all, yet like the crooked, craven, cowardly politician that he was, Pilate put Jesus to death to satisfy the ravings of the mob that day.

Christ's suffering being tempted without sin, is the proof that He is both a suitable Lamb of sacrifice, and the perfect High Priest to offer Himself up to God for us.

This is why Christ's offering is perfect, and takes away our sin, and never has to be repeated.

Our High Priest does not have to be purged of sin by the blood of bulls and of goats, nor any other sacrifice.

At the Lord's Table, we celebrate by symbols the physical body and blood of our Redeemer, that took away our sins. We think about His body and blood, which are pure morally and spiritually, that our Lord Jesus laid down as His offering for our sin.

His offering "forever perfected us!" It cannot be undone, or lost, or taken away!

False churches teach that believers can lose their justification by sinning, which must be recovered by the sacrament of confession, and performance of various rituals such as penance and the "sacrifice" of the mass.

If saved people can lose their justification, then they must always be busy about working to gain it back again!

But God's Word teaches otherwise: God will not impute our sins to us who have trusted in Jesus! By the one offering of Jesus, He has forever perfected His people!

Praise God, Jesus never spoiled Himself as our perfect offering, and our perfect High Priest, by sinning as He suffered being tempted!