

Outside the Camp

Sermon 56 in the Hebrews Series

Hebrews 13:10-16

I. Our Altar (the sacrifice of Christ) v. 10

The altar is the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself – the whole sacrificial action of Christ which saves us from all our sins.

Altar is in opposition to tabernacle (tent) or temple.

The work of Christ is set in opposition to the work of the OT Priests.

The priests who refused to accept Jesus as Lord and Messiah have no right to enter into the privileges brought about by the death of Christ on Calvary.

II. Outside the Camp, Gate, Camp v. 11-13

v. 11 – Bodies of sacrificial animals burned “outside the camp”.

v. 12 – Jesus suffered “outside the gate”

v. 13 – we should go to Him “outside the camp”

The author is referencing the Day of Atonement (as he did in ch. 9)

Propitiation is the **satisfaction of God’s wrath** because of a substitute.

Expiation is the **taking away** (removal) **of sin**.

Leviticus 16:26-31 -- The bull and goat on the Day of Atonement

Heb 13:11– The animals – Their blood is sacrificed to God in the Holy of Holies their bodies are burned outside the camp.

Heb 13:12 – Jesus offered his blood outside the gate of the city of Jerusalem.

Phillip Hughes says, in regard to suffering outside the gate: “While we are unable to draw near to God because of our sin, God draws near to us in the person of the Holy One who on our unholy ground makes his holiness available to us in exchange for our sin which he bears and for which he atones on the cross (ie double imputation). Through the shedding of his blood outside the gate he sanctifies his people, he makes them holy – the concept of sanctification here, as elsewhere in the epistle, “being that of rendering acceptable to God” through the removal of defilement and guilt, and thereby of setting apart as holy unto the Lord, those who by their disobedience and ingratitude, having alienated themselves from their Creator. Heb. 2:11, 9:13ff, 10:10, 14.”

Heb. 13:13 – Outside the Camp -- begins the application

III. Applications v. 13-16

The direct applications to his readers, and the timeless applications to us.

A. No Jew wanted to go “outside the camp” v. 13

“Outside the camp” was the world of Gentiles.

But now, the gospel has gone to the Gentiles – and the truth was no longer “in the camp”.

Jesus, suffered outside Jerusalem -- He wasn't dying just for Jews. **John 11:49-52**

We too must go to him “outside the camp” (of our wicked culture)

Christianity has always been “outside the camp” – and when it has wedded itself with secular authorities – such as Rome – it has always been to the detriment of true Christianity.

B. We have “No Continuing (lasting) City” Here. v. 14

Everything we see will be destroyed by the coming of Christ.

We are strangers here – temporarily here until we reach our home.

C. We Are to Offer New Testament Sacrifices v. 15-16

Calvin notes: If the Christian were not allowed to offer any sacrifices, he would occupy an inferior position to the OT saint.

1. Praise to God
2. “Giving thanks to His name” is more literally rendered “Confessing His name”
3. Doing good
4. Sharing (not hoarding)

Augustine says, “That which in common speech is called sacrifice is only the symbol of the true sacrifice. Now mercy is the true sacrifice, and therefore it is said, “Such sacrifices are well pleasing to God.” All the divine ordinances, therefore, which we read concerning the sacrifices in the service of the tabernacle or the temple, we are to relate to the love of God and our neighbor, as it is written, “For on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”