

Guilt for Sin!

Hebrews 10: 1-18 NLT

¹The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. ²If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared. ³But instead, those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year. ⁴For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God, “You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer. ⁶You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin. ⁷Then I said, ‘Look, I have come to do your will, O God— as is written about me in the Scriptures.’” ⁸First, Christ said, “You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them” (though they are required by the law of Moses). ⁹Then he said, “Look, I have come to do your will.” He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect. ¹⁰For God’s will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.

*¹¹Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. ¹²But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand. ¹³There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet. ¹⁴For by that one offering he forever made perfect those **who are being made holy.** (A process)*

*¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so. For he says, ¹⁶“This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the Lord: **I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.**” ¹⁷Then he says, **“I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds.”** ¹⁸And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices.”*

So, let me ask you something, **“What is guilt?”** and **“Where does it come from?”**

Guilt - **“feelings of culpability, especially for imagined offenses or inadequacies.”**

Another word I want to look at briefly is Culpability?

Culpability - **“blameworthy, meriting blame because of doing something wrong.”**

When we feel guilt, within our lives, we are admitting that we have done something, which merits some kind of blame on our part, within our lives. That we are “Culpable” for something we have done. Knowing that we have wronged the Lord, or others, in some way, or at least there is the possibility of wrong existing.

In the Old Testament, one could simply go to the Temple, and make an offering for their guilt, and that was supposed to take care of the matter. That was it, they were no longer guilty. But that didn’t actually remove the guilty feeling.

However, Jesus reminds us in John chapter 9, ***"If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."*** JOH 9:41

What this is telling us is, that the guilt feelings we sometimes have, or feel within us, are not easily removed from our lives. This passage is telling us that in reality, these onetime offerings in the Temple, did not, could not, remove those feeling. In part, because those things which are causing the guilt within our lives, have not changed. That means thus, that we have not allowed the Spirit of God to lead us in this matter concerning the settling of our guilt. We are simply trying to cover it up. Implying that we may not have asked for true and full forgiveness, offering ourselves fully unto the Lord's forgiveness for the sins within our lives. We just go through the motions, make some sacrifice and think that's it, it's over and gone.

How often do we feel guilty about something? I would dare to say, more often than we may wish. I heard someone say one time, ***"Since you must live with yourself, be sure you have good company."*** That's very good advice.

Illustration: Francis A. Schaeffer, wrote in "Death in the City," *"People often say to me, "What would you do if you met a really modern man on a train and you had just an hour to talk with him about the gospel?" And I've said over and over, "I would spend forty-five or fifty minutes on the negative, to really show him his dilemma - to show him that he is more dead than even he thinks he is; that he is not just dead in the twentieth century meaning of dead (not having significance in this life), but that he is morally dead because he is separated from the God who exists. Then I'd take ten or fifteen minutes to preach the gospel."*

I believe that much of our evangelistic and personal work for the Kingdom today, is not clear, simply because we are too anxious to get to the answer without having a man realize the real cause of his sickness, which is true moral bankruptcy filled with guilt (***and not just psychological guilt feelings***) in the presence of God. ***We often love to hear the Good News, we dislike hearing about the reasons why we need to hear it.*** Thus, the guilt never seems to fade away. It would be like a doctor telling us we are having surgery, without explaining why we need surgery. We're not going to do it or allow it.

The Hebrew writer begins this section of scripture by restating the fact that Christ's sacrifice, not the Law, is the only way to find salvation. We can begin to live by the Law, once we accept the sacrifice! That Christ's death was once for all, that this sacrifice of His Son, would no longer leave a guilt residue in our lives for sin. That happens for us, once we have believed, accepted forgiveness and submitted our lives to Christ in every area of living, every day.

The writer speaks of what the Lord said, when He came into the world, concerning how we are concerning living our lives for the Lord.

Let's look at this passage more closely...

First - Burnt offering and sin offering are not pleasing...

⁵ That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer." ⁶ You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin. (vv.5-6)

God was not, and is not, pleased when we try to offer sacrifices of things, or animals, for our sins. ***Lord, I'll give up this, or that, for such and such a time, if you will remove this sin and it's guilt.*** Going back to the altar year after year, time after time, with such offerings or sacrifices, which hold little or no value, is not what the Lord is seeking from us. Yes, He may and most likely will lead us to remove these things from our lives, once we accept His forgiveness, but they are not what actually saves us. The animals they offered in the old days, did not, they could not, take away the sin... Why?

First - They were not of the same nature as us, as humans. It was human beings who stood in sin before God, and it would take a human being to stand for the penalty. Thus, Jesus came in human form.

Second – Their values were not significant enough to satisfy the penalty, to pay the price for the wrongs we humans have committed before God. They do not live in the same reality we live in.

Third - The beasts being offered up to God, could not consent themselves to this offering. They were forced or given without consent. Therefore, they did not stand voluntarily in the place of the sinner. The atoning offering must be made by one capable of consenting, acknowledging, and then submit to God, and must voluntarily sacrifice self for the wrong deeds. That is why we are told that a price will, and must be paid, once acceptance of wrong doing is acknowledged. These animals, or in our case, these things we offer, cannot do this.

There was a time, fixed and foretold, that the sacrifices and offerings man was making, would no longer be acceptable to God. ***That time is now.*** In our world today, it seems as though we don't offer animals, we offer money, we offer a day of servanthood, we offer an extra hour in the sanctuary - suffering through another sermon. Thinking ***"I have to, to pay for my sins."*** We may even offer putting up with our family, or neighbors as a sacrifice. All of these things may as well be like burnt offering of old. They are not the sacrifices God is looking for. But what the Lord is trying to help us understand, is though these sacrifices and offerings are good and often needed, they are not going to remove the guilt for our wrong doing.

The action we make today as our offerings unto God, should be an action of our making a living sacrifice of our lives unto the Lord. Wholly committing ourselves to Him, in every area of our lives.

Second - By His will, we have been made Holy.

⁹ Then he said, "Look, I have come to do your will." He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect. ¹⁰ ***For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.*** (vv.9-10)

Two things I want to point out in this portion of the text.

1) Jesus sets the example again, "I have come to do your will..."

Exactly who's will, are we following? Many of us are strong-willed individuals, thus we tend to follow only those we wish to follow. Often it is our own will. At other times, it may be the will of the wrong people, yet, whoever we are following, it often seems to meet a need in our lives at the moment. Who does He tell us we are to follow, Jesus! Not the strong person next to us.

John reminds us, "***The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.***" 1JO 2:17 There isn't one of His children who isn't seeking eternal life, that is why we are seeking after Him, in part, peace in life and eternal life with Him. John states clearly, the ***man who seeks to do the will of God, he is the one who will find what we are seeking for.***

Jesus came to do His father's will, and so should we.

2) By His will we have been made Holy. If we seek after holiness, and I pray we are, as if it is something we can obtain without getting our hands dirty, we have missed it. It is when we invite Christ in, and He has gotten into us, that we begin to live out His will, by His Word guiding us within our lives. And at times, that means getting down and dirty. That is when holiness comes to our lives. Why? Because as we get closer to Him, who is holy, we become more like Him, thus, more holy. Living a life which is more right in His sight. This should be one of our goals as a Christian, a child of the King, to be Holy, for He is Holy.

Illustration:

A working man was strongly drawn toward a beautiful vase he saw in a stall down in the town market. He bought the vase and brought it home. The vase was so beautiful, that it made his front room look drab, dull, and indeed, just plain ugly. So, he got new paint, and transformed the whole room. Then, he bought colorful curtains to match the paint, a brightly patterned carpet, and he even stripped down and varnished the furniture. Because of the beauty of one vase, the whole room was totally transformed.

When Jesus enters into our hearts, our living rooms, when He comes into our lives, the areas in need of attention become, oh, so obvious. The path toward holiness begins when He enters our hearts, and we begin to realize that everything else needs remodeling.

Thirdly - His law is in our hearts and upon our minds

The truth is, we know what we should do.

"This is the covenant I will make with them, after that time, says the Lord. I will put My laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds. Their sins and their lawless acts I will remember no more." (vv.16-17)

Once Jesus entered the world, the world changed. Nothing was left unturned. When Jesus becomes our Savior, we don't even have to read the entire Bible, before we know right from wrong. Much of which is already written upon our hearts. He even tells us here, that He now writes His word upon our hearts and minds. In plain English, we will begin to realize even

before we have read His Word, that some of the things in our personal world are wrong. They need remodeling. In fact, that they are corrupt and displeasing to God, thus, we will be compelled to remodel them. We just can't take them any longer.

When God pours out His Spirit upon us, to give us wisdom, we will also discover His will and power, which He writes upon our hearts. His law should make our duty plain, easy and pleasant. He demonstrates His grace to us by telling us that, ***He will no longer remember our sins and iniquities.*** Thus, He once again demonstrates just how good, His sacrifice is, and how complete, it is for those who accept Him as Savior. For there shall be no more remembrance of our past sins against the true believers. Praise the Lord! No more shame, no more condemnation, thus, no more guilt. That is the only way to remove the guilt. This is much more than any earthly sacrifice could ever offer, or provide, for those who follow Him.

What does this mean for us?

- It means that we will begin to realize that this world is strange to us. That we seek to live a life that many, if not most, do not understand, have, or want to discovered.

- It means that we will begin having little battles within our own hearts and minds, as Satan tries to convince us that ***"it's alright!"*** Our hearts will try to tell us, ***you don't have to give up*** those things which are holding you to this world. It's ok! You don't have to stop practicing habits which keep you captivated and control by evil. It's ok! You don't have to start living by intentional effort - living as Christ lived, speaking as Christ spoke, or, searching as He searched for the lost, teaching and proclaiming the truth. It's ok! What takes place once we accept and yield is, we start feeling as though we need to start living the right way! We simply need to listen to and follow His leading.

When the Spirit of the Living God resides within us, His law, His will, His love, fills our lives, and we change. If we do not see that change, if others do not see that change, more than likely, that change hasn't happened. So, keep praying.

We have two choices:

1)Embrace that change... or,

2)Push it aside.... The later will result in failure after failure... Guilt after guilt, piling up...

The first choice will provide a peace, happiness and joy, like we have yet to experience, the second choice brings about the same old routine in life, with all of its boredom, heart attacks and massive struggles. More than any of us needs. ***Which will we choose?***

- There is no burnt offering which is acceptable to Christ, only our life unto Him.
- His will is that you become holy. Seek to live as He lived.
- The only way for this to happen is to invite Him in, and allow Him, and the Holy Spirit, to control our live.

Then, the guilt which has been hanging around, he will be removed. ***Closing Prayer:***