

## HEBREWS

### “NO TURNING BACK”

#### Hebrews Lesson 15

**Ice Breaker:** Have you ever had a relationship with someone who would regularly offend or betray you, then try to be nice, buy gift, or do some favor to try and smooth it over? How did that make you feel? If you are the one who tries to smooth over your offenses, how does it make you feel?

**INTRO:** When someone consistently offends or betrays another then tries to do something to smooth it over, it only proves they don't really care about the one they are hurting. The only goal they have is to keep the one they hurt from being angry with them. This leaves the one offended feeling used and the offender feeling guilty and insecure. The writer of Hebrews says that's what people's relationship with God looked like when they were living under the Law. The worshippers didn't really love God; they just didn't want Him to punish them. It was a dysfunctional relationship that left everyone unhappy. Jesus put an end to the dysfunction of religion and opened the door to real relationship between God and man.

#### **READ: Hebrews 10:1-18**

***1** The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. **For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.** **2** If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and **would no longer have felt guilty** for their sins. **3** But **those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins**, **4** because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*

***5** Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “**Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; **6** with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.** **7** Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God.’” **8** First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them” (although the law required them to be made). **9** Then he said, “**Here I am, I have come to do your will.**” He sets aside the first to establish the second. **10** **And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.***

***11** Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **12** But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, **he sat down** at the right hand of God. **13** Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, **14** **because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.***

***15** The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: **16** “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.” **17** Then he adds: “**Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.**” **18** **And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.***

Q: Verses 1-4 tell us why the Law was “*only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves*”. Why was the law not good enough?

- Under the sacrificial system of the law, worshipers knew God was not ok them... their sins hadn't been paid for or forgotten!
  - Vs. 2 says that if the law had been good enough, the worshipers wouldn't have been left feeling guilty.
    - *“For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and **would no longer have felt guilty** for their sins.”*
  - Judaism, like all religions, was about going ahead with living a life focused on yourself, then hoping your sacrifice would make up for it.
- The worshipers were motivated by guilt.
  - In fact, the sacrifices were just an annual reminder that they were still offending God and He was still angry.
    - Vs.3 *“But **those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins...**”*

Q: Verses 5-10 tell us how Jesus responded to the shortcomings of the law and it's system of relying on ineffective sacrifices. Jesus says, “*I have come to do your will*” in verse 7 and again in verse 9. Why is this significant?

- It was never God's will for His worshippers to live guilt-ridden lives trying to make up for the bad things they had done.
  - Vs. 5 *“**Sacrifice and offering you did not desire...**”*
  - Vs. 6 *“**with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.**”*
- It was God's will for Jesus to take away the need for worshippers to be motivated by guilt when He paid for sin.
  - Vs. 10 *“**And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**”*

Q: How can Christianity be turned into a guilt producing religion, just like Judaism?

- By living your life the way you want, then trying to make things right with God by keeping certain rules and rituals.
- By trying to win God's approval by our performance.
  - Trying to be good enough always backfires and makes us feel more guilty and insecure.

Q: What reassurance can we get from verse 14?

- We have been made perfect for God... He accepts us!
  - We don't have to work for God's approval, have a guilty conscience, or be motivated by guilt.
  - The law has been satisfied and the charges against us have been dropped!
- Because we are perfect and accepted by God, we are now in a process of being molded... we are being made holy.
  - We are not being made holy so we can become perfect; we are being made holy because in Christ, we are perfect!
  - Being made Holy is about how we function in body of Christ... He is transforming us into functioning parts of Christ.

Q: In verses 16-18, the writer seems to review some of his main points. How would you explain the main point in each verse?

- Verse 16: *“I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”*
    - As real Christians, we don't need external laws to restrain us from sin or force us into obedience... He has put His will into us so that we want to please Him. We live to do His will!
  - Verse 17: *“Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”*
    - God isn't keeping records of our sins anymore.
  - Verse 18: *“And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.”*
    - Because of Jesus' sacrifice, God is satisfied and isn't accepting any more sacrifices!
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APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT: *Answer the following questions as best you can, then get with your discipler/discipleship group and discuss your answers.*

1. How much are you motivated by guilt?
2. Have you been more focused on doing God's will or pleasing Him with your sacrifices?
  - a. What is the difference between these two? (Re-read verses 5-10 for help)
3. Which statement better describes you:
  - a. I am learning to obey God so He will accept and bless me.
  - b. I am learning to obey God because He accepts and blesses me.