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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

Hebrews 10:1

For the law having

a shadow of

good things to come,

and not the very image
of the things,

can never with those sacrifices

which they offered

year by year

continually

make the comers thereunto perfect.

- The whole concern of sacrifice was only a pale copy of what real worship ought to be.
- The business of religion was to bring a man into a close relationship with God
- And that is what sacrifices could never do.

- The best that they could do was to give him a distant and spasmodic contact with God.
- He uses two words to indicate what he means.
- He says that these things are only a shadow.

- The word he uses is skia (<G4639>), the Greek for a shadow,

- It means a nebulous reflection, a mere silhouette, a form without reality.

- He says that they do not give a real image.

- The second word he uses is eikon (<G1504>), which means a **detailed reproduction.**
- It actually does mean **a portrait,**
 - And would mean **a photograph,** if there had been such a thing.
- In effect he is saying: **Without Christ** you cannot get beyond the shadows of God"

- **An effective thing** does not need to be done again;
- The very fact of the repetition of these sacrifices **is the final proof** that they are not getting the job done.
 - They are only **a reminder of sin.**

- So the writer to the Hebrews goes on to say:
 - The sacrifice of animals is powerless to purify a man and give him access to God.
 - All they can do is to remind a man that he is an uncured sinner
 - So far from erasing his sin, they underline it.

- The only effective sacrifice is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

- To make his point he takes quotes from Psalm 40:6-9.

(Revised Standard Version)

which is close to
the original Hebrew.

- **Psalm 40:6-9.**

**"Sacrifice and offering
thou dost not desire;**

- **but thou hast given me an open ear.**

- **Burnt-offering and sin-offering
thou hast not required.**

- **Then I said:**

Lo I come;

**In the roll of the book
it is written of me.**

I delight to do thy will,

O my God.

- **thy law is
within my heart"**

- **"Thou hast given me an open ear,"**
means, "

- **It is the obedient ear**
of which the psalmist is thinking.

- **"A body you have prepared for me,"**
really means,

- "You created me that
in my body and
with my body
I should do your will."

- Every **temptation** he entered into, every **problem** that came his way, he referred back to what God had said,
 - "**It is written,**" "**It is written,**"
"**It is written...**"
 - That response took him **to the cross,** calling on him to lay down his life.

- The writer to the Hebrews has taken the words of the psalm and put them into the mouth of Jesus.

- What they say is that God

does not want
animal sacrifices

but obedience to his will.

- In its essence sacrifice was a noble thing.
- It meant that a man was taking something dear to him and giving it to God to show his love.

- Every sacrifice was a life laid down, and by it God is saying, this is the quality of life that pleases him, a life laid down, self-giving, not self-loving.

- But human nature being what it is it was easy for the idea to degenerate

- And for sacrifice to be thought of as a way of buying God's forgiveness.

- The prophets had long ago shown how sacrifice had degenerated
- Telling the people that what God wanted was not the blood of animals
 - But obedience.

- "And Samuel said, has the Lord as great delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord?
- Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (**1 Samuel 15:22**).

- "For thou hast
no delight in sacrifice;
were I to give a burnt offering,
thou wouldst not be pleased.

- The sacrifice
acceptable to God
is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart,
O God,
thou wilt not despise."
(**Psalm 51:16-17**).

• **Isaiah 1:10**

Hear the word of the LORD,
ye rulers of Sodom;
give ear unto the law of our God,
ye people of Gomorrah.

1:11 To what purpose
is the multitude
of your sacrifices unto me?
saith the LORD:

• **Isaiah 1:11**

• **and I delight not**

in the blood of bullocks,
or of lambs, or of he goats.

• **1:15** And when ye

spread forth your hands,

I will hide mine eyes from you:

yea, when ye make many prayers,

I will not hear:

your hands are full of blood.

- **Isaiah 1:16**

Wash you,
make you clean;
put away the evil
of your doings
from before mine eyes;
cease to do evil;

• **Micah 6:6**

**Wherewith shall I come
before the LORD,**

and bow myself

before the high God?

shall I come before him

with burnt offerings,

with **calves** of a year old?

• **Micah 6:7**

- Will the LORD be pleased
with thousands of rams,
or with ten thousands of
rivers of oil?
shall I give my firstborn
for my transgression,
the fruit of my body
for the sin of my soul?

• Micah 6:8

- He hath shewed thee,
O man, what *is* good;
and what doth the LORD
require of thee,
but to do justly,
and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly
with thy God?

- Nothing but obedience

could open the way to God;

- Disobedience

set up a barrier

that no animal sacrifice could ever take away.

- Jesus was the **perfect sacrifice** because he **perfectly** did God's will.
- He brought to God **what no man had been able to bring**
- **Perfect obedience,**
 - And that was the **perfect sacrifice.**

- God has no interest in ritual, in candles, in prayer books, in beads, in chanting, in any ceremony.

- Ceremonies

mean nothing to God.

- What he wants is a heart that is his, a life that is his, and a body that is available to him.

- That is why Paul, in Romans

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

(Romans 12:1 KJV).

If we are ever
to have fellowship
with God,
obedience
is
the only way.

- **Hebrews 10:11**

And every priest stands daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

- Every morning

and

- every evening

a male lamb of one year old,
without spot and blemish,
was offered as a burnt-offering.

- Along with it there was offered a
meat-offering,

- There was also a drink-offering.

- In addition there was an offering of incense before these offerings in the morning and after them in the evening.
- There was no end to this process
 - And it left men still conscious of their sin and alienated from God.

- **In contrast,**
Jesus had made
a sacrifice
that neither could
nor need be
repeated.

- There is something unrepeatable about any great work.

- It is possible to repeat the popular tunes of the day.

- Certain things can be repeated;

- But all works of genius
have a
unrepeatable quality.
 - Such as the
Gettysburg Address.
 - Works of art.
 - It is so with the
sacrifice of Christ.
 - Perfection
need never be repeated.

- The life and death of Jesus was an act of perfect obedience
 - And therefore, the only perfect sacrifice.
 - Perfection cannot be improved upon.

- In Jesus there is at **one and the same time:**
 - **The perfect revelation of God**
 - **The perfect offering of obedience.**
- **Therefore his sacrifice**
cannot and need not
ever be made again.

- Jesus task **is accomplished** and his victory won.
- His life is **incomplete** without his death;
- His death is **incomplete** without his resurrection;
- His resurrection is **incomplete** without his return to glory.

- He is not simply
a saint
who lived
a lovely life;
- Not a martyr
who died
a heroic death

- Hebrews is the book that distinguishes clearly between the shell of Christianity and the real meat of it.

- It helps us to see the difference between shadow and substance, the picture and reality.

- The author of Hebrews declares that Christianity **is not a mere set of rules.**

- Christianity **is not something you do** for your country, or yourself, or even for God.

- **Christianity**
is what
God does
in you
and
for you.

- The keywords of chapter 10

are

year by year

and

day by day

as contrasted with

continually and forever.

- Repetition means **imperfection.**
- Each day and each year they had to offer the same sacrifices **over** and **over**..
- How different from us, who have heard Jesus say, ***“It is finished”!***

- Jesus glorified the Father in His attitude

“Not my will, my Father, but thine.”

- Reminding us of the ancient custom of boring fast to the door the ear of the servant, who desired never again to leave His master's service.

- David expressed this idea in **Psalm 40:6.** (NASB)
- “**Mine ears hast thou bored.**”
 - If a servant wanted to **remain with the master,** the servant was marked in the ear and would remain in the household for life. (**Deu 15:17, Psa 40:6.**)
 - The custom of boring the ear as a mark of slavery **appears to have been a common one in ancient times,** observed in many nations.

- **Exodus 21:5**

*And if the servant
shall plainly say,
I love my master,
my wife, and my children;
I will not go out free:*

21:6 *Then his master shall....
bore his ear through
with an aul;
and he shall serve him
for ever.*

- What does all of this have to do with us?

- Hebrews 10:16

"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 *"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.*

- Jesus has come to cleanse us and make us fit to be presented to our heavenly Father.

- As we have worked our way through the book of Hebrews we have seen over and over again the ineffectiveness of the sacrifices offered at the tabernacle and in the temple to deal with the pressing problem of sin.

- Jesus would have **never come to earth** if it were not for **the problem of sin.**

- We would not have any of the problems that we experience today if it were not for the **problem of sin.**

- Sin is destroying
countless lives today.

- Guilt that is
not recognized
for what it is
and dealt with quickly
will cause us to rot away
in our very soul.

- **America is rotting away.**

- There is rot
in our society

- that no political party can solve.**

- Slow it down, maybe.

- Cure it, no!**

- God has
high standards.

- After Christ gave Himself paying the price for our sin,
 - He now offers us **the opportunity** to allow Him to live through us,
 - As John says, "***that we might live through Him.***"
{**1 John 4:9**}

- The shed blood
of the animals
was symbolic
of the
high price of
sins penalty.

- How many folks in the Church today are **burdened** and **wearry** with carrying their sin?
- **When there is a Deliverer** who has come to deliver us from the power and consequences of sin.

- One of the main reasons
for this phenomenon
is that we try
every remedy under the sun
to absolve us
of our guilt
before we go to God.
- Is God a last resort?

- None of our solutions
will work
apart from Christ.

- Hebrews 10:1-5
says as much.

It can never...

*make perfect those
who draw near to worship*

- When Passover took place as many of 300,000 lambs were sacrificed for the sins of the people within a week.
- If all of those slain animals couldn't completely cleanse the people of their sin then could there be any hope for you and me?

- Hebrews says that the sacrifices couldn't make the people perfect,

- But how do you define "perfect."

- Perfect for many of us today is doing our best.

- But God has a totally different standard.

- **In Genesis 17:1**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said,

**"I am God Almighty;
walk before me and be blameless."**

- **In Deuteronomy 18:9-13**

God spoke to the **entire Jewish people** and tells them to be blameless, or perfect before Him.

- **In the New Testament,**
God continues to
require the same high standard.

- **In Hebrews 12:22-24**
we learn that
God
is the one who
makes us perfect,
or acceptable
in His sight.

- **Hebrews 12:22**

**But you have come to Mount Zion,
the city of the living God, the
heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads
of angels, to the assembly**

- **12:23 and congregation of the
firstborn, who are enrolled in
heaven, and to God, the judge of all,
and to the spirits of the righteous,
who have been made perfect,
(Net Bible)**

- It is God's work through Christ,
- Not by lambs sacrificed at the tabernacle or temple, that we are made perfect,
 - That is without blemish before God.

- **Ephesians 5:27**

That he might present it
to himself a
glorious church,
not having
spot, or **wrinkle,**
or any such thing;
but that it should be holy
and without blemish.

- **Romans 8:1**

There is therefore now

no condemnation

to them which are

in Christ Jesus,

- **who walk not**

- **after the flesh,**

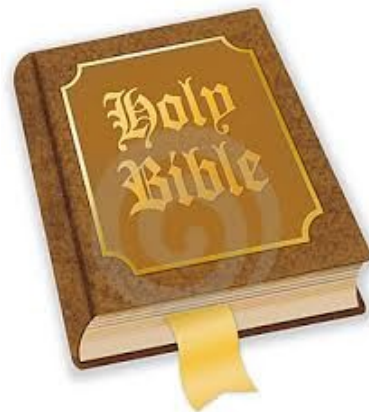
- **but after the Spirit.**

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 11-20-22 Tryon, NC

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