

Heb 10:11-18

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 and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. 14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect for ever 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, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

I wonder if you get weary of the 'same old same old'? Perhaps you feel trapped, or helpless not just because we're locked down, but because somehow the same problems gnaw at you. I wonder if there are things that you wrestle with every day. You may be especially aware of it at the moment, with so few things to go out for. Someone sent me a message that they were checking the weather for their weekly trip to take the bins out. Joking aside, we could easily find the repetitive feel of the moment as a drain. It may even be that it provokes your own weaknesses. I know that lockdown doesn't reveal the best in me at times!

Last time I wrote about Jesus' willingness and his perfection. Here, in verse 14, we read that Christ has made perfect those who are being sanctified. It sounds like repetition, like rinsing dishes before they go in the dishwasher. Why if made perfect do we need to be further sanctified? Like the rest of Hebrews, the illustration draws heavily in worship in the tabernacle.

In the tabernacle were many golden vessels used for worship, they were set aside for God, that is they were sanctified. But to be made perfect in God's sight, they needed washing, the sprinkling of atoning blood. Like them we are set aside for God's purpose, but we are not perfect, our **character** so often betrays us. Yet here we are, set aside by God. Unworthy, unclean, unholy. The vessels were made only acceptable for worship by the sprinkling of sacrificial blood. Likewise we can approach the throne, because we have been washed and sanctified by the one person who was perfect, himself a perfect priest, so that God sees Christ's character instead of ours.

What that translates to here is the gradual work towards who we will one day be, our sanctification. One day, we will stop wrestling with sin, its power will be gone. We will not need to worry about money, or what people think of us. We will know we are loved, we won't strive for position, we will have all that we need.

That same day, we will be good.

We will be clean

We will approach the throne

Made like Christ.

A fully alive child of God.

And we will be with him.

But in the meantime, we can be reassured by Christ's continual giving of himself in our weaknesses, working out the power of his salvation in us day by day.

Prayer

Almighty God, our light in darkness, our Strength in weakness, our hope in sinfulness and our eternal home, be unto us merciful, long-suffering and patient; that we, who be slow of growth, may hope to come at last to Thy likeness; and, being upheld by Thee, may by thy mercy go from strength to strength, until, through the waste and dreariness, through the joy and duty of this earthly life having safely passed, we through the fullness of thy mercy may come into the land of eternal peace - **Amen**.