

Text: Hebrews 10:5-10

Theme: To do His Will

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation today is the Epistle Lesson from Hebrews chapter ten verses five through ten.

Boys and Girls, how are you doing this morning? Warm and good? Excellent! What do I have here? I have here a dirty cloth. It is really dirty. It is stained. How can we make it clean again? Can we keep using it? Will that make it clean again? No! We would need to wash it to make it clean. Just like how we cannot make this cloth clean by using it again and again, we need Jesus to make us clean. How does Jesus make us clean? Our text for today tells us. Ponder this as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

Sacrifice after sacrifice, all of the OT sacrifices

Our text begins today with the word “Consequently” It is logical argument based on what has come before. What has come before our text in verses one through four is a question and an explanation of the Old Testament sacrifices. The question is, can the Old Testament sacrificial system take away sin? The answer is a resounding no. It cannot take away sin because if they could take away sin, then they would not have to be offered again and again, “since the worshipers having once been

cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins.” All of the sacrifices, all of the bulls, lambs, doves, pigeons, grains, and much more, none of them could ever take away sin.

It would be the same as us using a dirty cloth over and over again. Thinking that by doing so, we can make it clean. Can we? No, that would never happen. How much more for our own sins? Can we make ourselves clean by trying to do the same things over and over again? All of the times that we have violated the law of God. Stolen, cheated, coveted, put our trust in other people, things, or possessions rather than God. Our hands, like the Old Testament people are stained by sin. We have blood on our hands that cannot be taken away, no matter how many sacrifices we offer or good things that we try to do.

For what? Couldn't take away sins

So, what then is the purpose of the sacrifices if not to take away sin? They are to be a constant reminder to the people of their sins. Year after year, whenever the people see the sacrifice of the Lamb on the Day of Atonement after hands have been laid upon it transferring to it the sins of the people. Every time the people came to offer up sacrifice after sacrifice. A sacrifice for thanks, for atonement, for reconciliation Their job is to be a reminder of the sins of the people, as they point forward to the ultimate redemption to come.

Christ came to do the will of the Father

An ultimate redemption provided solely by the will of the Father. We get a glimpse into a conversation between the Father and the Son. The Father has prepared a body for the Son for our

redemption. The Son has come to do the will of the Father as it has been written of Him in all of the Old Testament promises. The Son has come in Jesus Christ. He is perfectly, wholly obedient the will of the Father. The Father has literally, dug out or opened His ear, to do His will. What is the will of the Father? The will of the Father is that the Son be perfectly obedient for our salvation. That He perfectly fulfill the Law on our behalf. The Father's will is done when, as John writes, "The Word became flesh." Jesus is born of the blessed Virgin Mary for us. God in the flesh, He enters into His creation for us. He lives a perfect life, never sinning, on our behalf, culminating in His sacrifice for us on Cross. There, He suffers, bleed, and dies, dying once for all, once as the perfect sacrifice on behalf of the sins of all people across all of time and space. He takes our sins upon Himself and makes us clean, giving us His righteousness and His Holiness. He then does what no other sacrifice has ever done for us. He is risen from the dead as proof that our sins are forgiven, our guilt atoned for. He gives to us life everlasting with Him forever.

Forgiven, we live.

Having been thus sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all, we live for Him. Just as Jesus did the will of the Father who sent Him, so we live as His people and do His will. He gives us His Holy Spirit to empower and enable us to do the good things that He has given us to do. This means that we do our best to resist our sinful nature. We show love to those around us. We help those who are most in need of help, comfort, and support. When we do sin, we repent of our

sins, looking towards God for grace and mercy, shown to us by the death and resurrection of Jesus, looking forward to the Day when He will come again and make all things new, as the will of the Father has directed Him.

Dear Christians, as we look forward to Christmas and the celebration of the Word made flesh, let us always remember that He became flesh for us men and for our salvation, to live a perfect life for us that we may be His own now and forever.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.