**Greater Than All - wk 11 – Completely!**

**Theology can be a scary or divisive word. “Study of God” Hebrews has a lot of theology. What we believe matters! Bad theology can lead to…**

**The primary arch - don’t give up but grow up!**

**They wanted to go back… the writer is, “Why!?!”**

**The challenge of this series – the cultural disconnect – the repetitive nature of the conversation. This is final part on theology foundation.**

**Hebrews10:1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming - not the realities themselves. (The old order – is a copy, picture, illustration, image, reflection of the real thig. Why chase a shadow?)**

**Why talk to a statue of me – when you can talk to me?**

**For this reason (because it’s a copy) it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. (It just can’t do it! they have to do it again and again) 2 Otherwise, 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. (The system reminds us that we have a problem! We have sin! Did you wake up this morning – we are quickly reminded we have sin issues!) 4 It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (The work to cover our sin – just does not work!!)**

**\*\*It is impossible to save yourself! - Our best efforts are just not enough - we can’t do it - we have a serious sin problem.**

**No church or service, being good, reading bible, praying, serving, witnessing, baptism, communion, meditation, long drives, mountain top retreats, or rehab – they cannot take away the sin problem! None of that can fix it.**

**This is a major problem - sin separates us from God - as long as we are, we will never understand our purpose & know peace.**

**5 Therefore, (The answer) 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, my God.’” (Ps 40:6-8)**

**A few things between the lines – we can learn:**

* **The scriptures used by Christ and apostles was the Septuagint (Gk translation of OT) means “70” - reference to 72 translators.**
* **Jesus is giving the Psalms (OT) authority - that it’s from God.**
* **Jesus is giving the Gospels (NT) authority. Newly written.**
* **Jesus is giving the apostles who wrote them authority.**

**(The writer breaks this down) 10:8 First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law.**

**Even though God said to do it – it was not enough – it was like a bandage on a hemorrhaging soul. The OT is not the fix – it is an ambulance – that takes us to the cure.**

**9 Then he (Jesus) said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second.**

**Jesus using Ps 40 taught the disciples, God desires obedience over sacrifice. But we don’t obey well - so Jesus says, “Here I from eternity to fix the problem.” To fulfill the plan of God!**

**10 And by that will, we have been made holy *(sanctified)* through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (This one verse tells us few things)**

**\*\*We are saved by the will of the Father - “By that will…” (the will of God)**

**Our salvation is not based on our will**

**John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood (parents) nor of the will of the flesh (our choice) nor of the will of man, (marriage) but of God.**

**Our salvation is not based on our actions, sacrifices, choices, family, affiliation, or preference. But by the sovereign will of God, drawing us, and given through the sacrifice of Jesus.**

**\*\*We are saved absolutely - “We have been made holy… (sanctified)”**

**We are made holy at salvation – by faith. Nothing else is needed.**

**You are a new creation – “made holy” by Jesus at salvation. Sanctification – “set apart for a sacred purpose” = made holy**

**If you are truly made new – you are holy… right now, forever.**

**You cannot be made unholy – or un born-again! (1 Cor 5:12)**

**\*\*We are saved by the cross of Jesus Christ alone!**

**“we have been made holy through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ”**

**The cross was a purchase / a swap - Our sin was placed on Christ - the righteousness of Christ was then placed on us.**

**2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

**The great exchange. Jesus the perfect one – took our sin for the imperfect us, so we could be made perfect in Christ.**

**And unless you think this was because of your worth - Heb 10:10 …we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ...**

**Not by works, our actions, or by ritual – not by our worth or value. But through the sacrifice of the cross of Jesus Christ!**

**Jesus did not die for you or love you because you’re worthy / valuable. If that was true – you have merit and erases grace = unmerited favor.**

**While we were sinners and enemies of God – Christ died for us – Romans 5:8-10**

**Some teach: Faith (in Jesus) + Works (our value) = Salvation**

**But it is: Faith (in Jesus) alone = Salvation.**

**It is thru Jesus, because of Jesus - period.**

**Hebrews 10:11 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. (34 years after Jesus resurrection – temple still there – day after day – year after year – so many are still stuck in a religious cycle – maybe you)**

**12 But when this one (this priest, this man, this Christ - Jesus) had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, (that’s the cross) he sat down at the right hand of God, (that’s resurrection) 13 and since that time he (Jesus) waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. (That’s the return and judgment) (Ps 110)**

**Jesus’ fav verse 14X - quoted a lot in Hebrews (right hand of God) Authoritative work (seated) finished work of forgiveness**

**Mark 14 - Jesus told the Pharisees – that he would sit at God’s right hand and come as the judge (I am the authority of God who will end your roles) - their response was to kill him!**

**\*\*We are saved from the treadmill of religion – “offered for all time one sacrifice for sins” // “Day after day” // “year after year”// “Once for all!”**

**Once for all Repeated 11X in Heb (15X in NT) 7X in this chap.**

**1 Pe 3:18, Ro 6:10, Ju 1:3, 5, He 7:27, 9:12, 26, 28, 10:2,10,12, 14,18,22,12:27**

**A distinctive trait / doctrine of Christianity – found nowhere else.**

**One great event brought salvation to all who believe in history past, present & future! It is done! All other faiths are dead religion.**

**That one act did what other religions, people, and efforts have failed to do. Forgive sin, unite us w/ the father, & heal the heart**

**The issue of universalism – Jesus saved everyone “once for all”**

* **Everyone eventually be saved (regardless of location or religion)**
* **There is not eternal punishment (Hell) – all are saved.**
* **Verses are used out of context included these in Hebrews**

**Very popular – even among Christians.**

**Problem - It is not biblical and leads millions to a false faith. (John 14:6)**

**Christ and the apostles preached the reality of losing one’s soul / Hell**

**(Mark 8, Matt 13, 24, 25, Luke 16, John 3, 2 Thess 1, Rev 14, 20)**

**Christ and the apostles preached that Jesus is the one and only way to**

**(Acts 4, 1 Tim 2, Eph 4, John 3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 1 John 4, Hebrews, Col, Romans)**

**Christ and the apostles preached the necessity for faith in this**

**(Rom, Ephesians, Philippians, Galatians, Colossians, Hebrews, 1 Peter, 1 John)**

**Romans 10:9 - IF you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.”**

**We are “Saved by faith” (Eph 2:8) a conscience decision to trust**

**“To those who believe” “whosoever believes…” said over and over in the NT– a prerequisite for this relationship (active faith).**

**That’s narrow-minded, intolerant - hateful - bigoted - arrogant - all the billions of people in the world... "Jesus is the only way? I can’t believe that." Many people stumble in their faith over this truth...**

**People are willing to tolerate any viewpoint, except one that claims to be uniquely true. Only 12% of American's claim their religion is true. 57% of Christians believe there are many ways.**

**John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, to them he gave the right to become children of God…**

**If I had mill dollars for you, that does not mean you are a millionaire? You have to believe it and come get it by faith.**

**\*\* And if the writer was saying all are saved – then why even write a letter at all - let them believe what they want!**

**Back to - Hebrews 10:14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.**

**\*\*We are saved to grow in maturity and holiness**

**We are saved to growing into who God has called us to be.**

**The second part of Sanctification.**

**Part 1 - You are made holy forever (sanctified)**

**10:10 … we have been made holy *(sanctified)* through the sacrifice… (of Jesus)**

**To those sanctified, when the Father looks at you he sees the sacrifice – sees Jesus! Ro 8:1 – there is now no condemnation…**

**Part 2 - You are being made holy (being sanctified)**

**10:14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. (ESV - He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified)**

**If you are set apart (salvation) you are being sanctified.**

**The work of the HS is at work in us to act like Jesus.**

**We are Sanctified (holy) and being sanctified (becoming holy)**

**\*\*Set apart forever right now – and being set apart right now!**

**Faith + Works = Salvation vs. Faith alone = Salvation + works.**

**If you are truly a follower of Jesus – where the HS is at work in you – you will start to think, act, and live different.**

**You will have sanctification. Why? The HS in a true believer leads and shapes us. Holiness will follow.**

**\*\* Antinomianism – “against the law” Takes a biblical teaching to an unbiblical conclusion = leads to false assurance…**

**\*\* Sanctification here does not mean we become sinless. The false notion of Christian perfectionism. Sinless perfection. Pelagianism. We will not be sinless in this life – but as we grow and will sin less.**

**1 John 1:8** **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.**

**Only Jesus is without sin. There is no one w/out sin - no one!**

**The Holy Spirit in us – leads us to different way of life and actions.**

**10:15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. (HS is clearly referred to as LORD – Yahweh) First he says: (Jeremiah 31 - authority of the prophets are from God) 16 “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the LORD. (Yahweh) I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” (Used in Heb 8 – a new covenant - God working from the inside out)**

**We have a wonderful trinitarian God!**

**The work of the Trinity in redemption - in Heb 10**

**The Will of the Father – Heb 10:9 – Jesus doing the will of the Father God**

**The Work of Christ – Heb 10:12 – Jesus the authority and image of God**

**The Witness of the HS – Heb 10:15 / 9:14 – The HS work in us testifies to it**

**The Covenant of Redemption. God’s love is an expression of his love within himself. (God is love = 1 John 4:8)**

**\*\*Father loves the son giving him an inheritance and rule over all**

**\*\*Jesus loves the father – all he does is for the glory of the Father (including the cross) done out of love and glory for the father.**

**\*\* HS loves the Father and Son – who is the expression of this love in all creation and enables the work to be known and experienced. He is applying redemption to those for whom Christ died.**

**Our salvation is the work of the love God has within himself – poured out to us.**

**(last two verses) Hebrews 10:17 Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” (Jeremiah 31 - One of the most beautiful things you can ever hear) 18 And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.**

**\*\*We have complete forgiveness!**

**Three most wonderful things to hear: 1. You name, 2. dinner is ready, 3. you are forgiven. - All of it!! Gone completely!!**

**Covering a stool with a sheet - Atonement - It only covered – it did not take it away - covered but still there. Only Jesus can take it away - removes the sin problem completely.**

**You are really forgiven! Nothing else is necessary!**

**Eternal forgiveness does not erase earthly consequences.**

**There is a difference between forgiveness and consequence.**

**But good news - you can stand before God righteous in Christ!**

**This section - ends the theological argument for Jesus as the finished work. Next week – encouragement to faith and faithfulness!**

**I want to end with a verse I read earlier - 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

**Who’s in the house?**

**The points: Jesus is greater than all of heaven, angels, earthly priests, temple, even the law - the creator greater than all creation - has come to save us! Jesus is greater than SIN!**

**Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place (Heb 4-5) by the blood of Jesus, (Heb 8-9) 20 by a new and living way (Heb 8) opened for us through the curtain, (Heb 5-6) that is, his body, (Heb 9) 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, (Heb 4-8)**

**(Knowing this) 22 …let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, (Heb 10) having our hearts sprinkled (with blood - Heb 9) to cleanse us from a guilty conscience (Heb 9 - thought and actions) and having our bodies washed with pure water. (A public declaration of an inside cleansing. A life that reflects Jesus.)**

**No priesthood needed – Jesus the better and final high priest**

**No more temple needed – Jesus is and sits in the better temple.**

**No more sacrifice is needed – Jesus is the better sacrifice satisfies what is needed. It is finished, a new and living way has come!!**

**So let us draw near – the problem of sin and separation from God has been settled – It’s jesus!!**

**This is the end of the writers 10 chap theological argument (doctrinal foundation) for the new covenant. What follows is encouragement to keep this faith (practical application)**

**Up to this point a doctrinal foundation was poured – now a practical application – very practical…**

**Knowing this what do we do? Draw near to God… (v22)**

**With humility and transparency - With a sincere heart**

**With assurance and trust in the work of Christ - full assurance of faith**

**Live a life that honors the one who forgave us - having our bodies washed**

**Stir each other to love and good works -**

**Keep meeting together - get in community**

**Encourage one another - Encourage one another**

**We need each other!!**

**I think - If you are going to restaurants, movies, and sports events – you can come to church.**

**Justification chapter 11**