

**HOLDING FAST TO THE
PERFECT, FINISHED
WORK OF CHRIST**

**SAVED BY GRACE IS
SAVED BY GOD!**

FINISH

**JESUS CHRIST
FROM START TO FINISH!**

START

1

ONE APPEARANCE

ONE BODY

ONE SACRIFICE

1) **ONE APPEARANCE: Christ appeared one time to deal with sin, 9:24-28.**

- (Hebrews 9:24–28 ESV) For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. 25 Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, 26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. **But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.** 27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

A. Christ has entered into the holy places in heaven to appear in the presence of God on our behalf, 9:24.

B. Christ entered the holy places, not repeatedly, but once for all, 9:25-26.

C. He will appear a second time to save—not to deal with sin, 9:27-28.

The focus here is on “those who are eagerly waiting for him”—the saved. Christ will bring judgment on those who are not eagerly waiting for him, but for the saved, sin has been dealt with once for all.

- (Romans 5:1 ESV) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (Romans 8:1 ESV) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2) **ONE BODY: Christ offered one body for the perfecting work of God, 10:1-10.**

- (Hebrews 10:1–10 ESV) For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw

near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshippers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, **but a body have you prepared for me**; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’ ” 8 When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” **He does away with the first in order to establish the second.** 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A. The works of the law are only shadows of the reality of the work of Christ, 10:1-4.

The reality is that Christ’s sacrifice of his body is the one and only work that accomplishes the necessary perfection for the person who draws near in worship. Christ’s work must “do away with the first” in order to establish the second. When a person clings to their works, they are not only not doing away with the first, but they are giving the first precedence.

Adding any human deed to be done for salvation does not complement the work of Christ but directly conflicts with and undermines the very clear biblical instruction concerning the finished, perfecting work of God through Jesus Christ.

The Biblical Instruction and the Practical, Spiritual Significance ...

- i) **Preaching based on the shadows ...** presents the distorted, dangerous and spiritually damaging idea that more is necessary (and even more spiritual) for cleansing and taking away sins, 10:1.

Word Study– Hebrews 10:1 ... 10:10 ... 10:14 ...

***Hebrews 10:1 ... **make perfect** ... 5048 τελειώω [teleiōō] ... to make perfect, complete; to carry through completely, to accomplish, finish, bring to an end. [Enhanced Strong's Lexicon.]

***Hebrews 10: 10 ... **sanctified** ... hag-ee-ad-zo/] ... **to set apart; to make holy**; to separate from profane things and dedicate to God; dedicate people to God; to purify. [Enhanced Strong's Lexicon.]

***10:14 the words for **perfected** and **sanctified** as used in 10:1 and 10:10 are both used in 10:14. And the same word for **perfected** is used in John 19:30 ... "it is finished" ...

- (John 19:30 ESV) When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, **"It is finished,"** and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Perfected ... **"finished"** ... to be fully accomplished; to be or become thoroughly or entirely accomplished; becoming perfect or complete. [Enhanced Strong's Lexicon.]

"for all time"

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- ii) **Preaching based on the shadows** ... corrupts the conscience with lies, rather than clearing and cleansing the conscience with truth, 10:2.

Instruction based on the finished work of Christ redeems our conscience.

- (1 Timothy 1:5 NASB95) But **the goal of our instruction is love** from a pure heart and **a good conscience** and a sincere faith.
 - (1 Timothy 3:9 ESV) They must hold the mystery of the faith with **a clear conscience**.
 - (2 Timothy 1:3 ESV) I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with **a clear conscience**, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.
- iii) **Preaching based on the shadows** ... reminds and increases the burden of unresolved sin, 10:3.
- iv) **Preaching based on the shadows** ... reveals, not a more spiritual path, but the impossible nature for our works to take away sins, 10:4.

B. Only one body–the body prepared for Christ–could be offered for the necessary perfecting work for the worshiper, 10:5-10.

- Christ came into the world in the body prepared for him by God, 10:5-6.
- Christ came into the world in that body to do the will of God, 10:7 (from Psalm 40:6–8).
- Christ came into the world to do away with the first (the old covenant) and to establish the second (the new covenant), 10:8-9.

Please note the irony ... preaching based on the shadows ... is an attempt to resuscitate the "ministry of death" ... "the ministry of condemnation"–the old covenant–and a refusal to accept the new covenant promises–the ministry of righteousness through Christ. (See 2 Corinthians 3.)

- Christ fulfilled God's will to make us holy by offering his body once for all, 10:10.

3) **ONE SINGLE SACRIFICE: Christ offered a single sacrifice to take away sins for all time, 10:11-18.**

- (Hebrews 10:11–18 ESV) And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 **But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins**, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 **For by a single offering** he **has perfected** for all time those who **are being sanctified**. 15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," 17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." 18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

A. **The repeating of sacrifices to take away sins shows clearly the failure of the sacrifices to take away sins, 10:11.**

B. **Christ offered a single sacrifice to perfect those who are being perfected forever, 10:12-14.**

C. **The Holy Spirit testifies to the true things of the**

New Covenant—the spiritual reality based on the finished work of Christ, 10:15-18.

Those who **believe in** and **live by** the new covenant—the saved ...

- i. Have God's word on their hearts and minds.
- ii. Believe God when he says he will not remember our sins.
- iii. Trust God for the work of the new covenant—the finished work of Christ and the forgiveness of sins.

A DANGEROUS RELIGIOUS TRAP: BELIEVING "MORE" IS NECESSARY ...

- (Hebrews 10:10 ESV) And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

If a person believes that more is necessary ... If a person feels the need to do

more to gain acceptance with God or to maintain his right standing with God, then, whether he realizes it or not, he believes that the work of Christ was not enough ... not complete enough ... not finished ... insufficient ... God did not finish the job!

So what can you do? Begin here ...

First, find out what God says in his word and learn to fully trust God and what he says.

- (Proverbs 3:5-7 NIV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

Second, train yourself to always lean on God's understanding. How do you do that? Submit to God by submitting to the authority of the Scriptures. And believe God. Always. Always accept the teaching of Scripture whether it "makes sense" to you or not. Never waver from the biblical instruction.

Mere religion is ...

Humans trying to do their best. Humans doing what makes sense to them. Trying to be good enough. Trying to be spiritual enough. Trying to work hard enough. But in the end it is merely humans trying to accomplish what can only be done by God himself. Mere religion reminds you of your sin but does not save you from your sin. Mere religion damages our ability to trust and believe God. Mere religion is remaining unforgiven and dead in our sins. Being deceived by good works and religious words. Collapsing under the weight of guilt and sin. Remaining lost in the darkness. Not believing God and his word. Corrupting the conscience and deceiving the heart.

