



Jesus Christ's sacrificial death on the cross is God's offering to God —the just payment for our sins.

Everything else is dead works.

GOD'S OFFERING TO GOD

DEAD WORKS



The once for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross is the one time for all time sacrifice for our sins that was predetermined in eternity past by the sovereign will of God and carried out on earth in the human body that God had prepared for him.

This once for all offering sets aside, cancels, supersedes, invalidates, nullifies and renders irrelevant and obsolete all other offerings (read good works, good deeds, etc.) to God based on and by virtue of the superiority and uniqueness of the sacrifice offered — Jesus Son of God — according to the written testimony of God himself in his holy word.

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1. God's offering to God—the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross—was a once for all, one-time event at the consummation of the ages, 9:23-28.

- (Hebrews 9:23–28 LSB) Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter holy places made with hands, mere copies of the true ones, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy places year by year with blood that is not his own. 26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

A. Jesus Son of God offered himself once to God the Father to put away sin and to bear the sins of many.

B. This saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross is represented throughout the New Testament as a once for all, one-time event.

- (Romans 6:10 LSB) For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all, but the life that He lives, He lives to God.
- (Hebrews 7:27 LSB) Who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because

this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

- (Hebrews 9:12 LSB) And not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy places once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.
- (Hebrews 10:10 ESV) And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- (1 Peter 3:18a LSB) For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that He might bring you to God.

C. Christ's sacrifice cleansed our way to enter the holy places of God.

D. His death on the cross was at the consummation (end) of the ages—the precise moment in time which God had determined before he created this world.

- (1 Corinthians 2:7–8 LSB) But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom which has been hidden, which God predestined before the ages to our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

E. Christ came into our world to bring everything together at the fullness of the times.

- (Galatians 4:4–5a LSB) But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law.
- (Ephesians 1:7–10a LSB) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our transgressions, according to the riches

of His grace 8 which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and insight, 9 making known to us **the mystery of His will**, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Him 10 **for an administration of the fullness of the times**, that is, **the summing up of all things in Christ**.

F. As humans are destined to die once and face the judgment so Christ died once to bear the sins of many and save us from the judgment.

G. Christ will appear a second time for salvation for those who eagerly await him.

2. The sacrifices under the Law could never accomplish the final reality of perfecting the worshiper and taking away sins, 10:1-4.

- (Hebrews 10:1–4 LSB) For **the Law**, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, **can never**, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, **make perfect those who draw near**. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have consciousness of sins? 3 **But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.** 4 **For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.**

A. The Law was only a shadow of the reality of the good things to come and could never perfect those who draw near by taking away their sins.

B. If the Law could do this, then the sacrifices would have ceased—mission accomplished .

C. The continual sacrifices served to remind them of their sins, but not to forgive their sins, because it is impossible for the sacrifice of the blood of animals to take away sins.

3. Jesus Christ came into the world with a body prepared by God to do the will of God in offering that body as a sacrifice for sin, 10:5-9.

- (Hebrews 10:5–9 LSB) Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, **BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME**; 6 IN BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE. 7 "THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME, IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME, **TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.**'" 8 After saying above,

"SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE in them" (which are offered according to the Law), 9 then He said, "BEHOLD, **I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.**" **He takes away the first in order to establish the second.**

A. The **only** sacrifice that God desired and that he would take pleasure in was the sacrifice of Jesus (God) offering the body that God had prepared for him.

B. This was the will of God as recorded in Scripture.

- (Psalm 40:6–8 LSB) **Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired**; My ears You have opened; **Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required**. 7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 **I desire to do Your will, O my God**; Your law is within my inner being."

C. The sacrifices and offerings of the first covenant were neither what God ultimately desired nor took pleasure in because they could not make the worshipers perfect to draw near to God.

- (Hebrews 9:9 LSB) which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both **gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience**.

D. These sacrifices and offerings were now dead works in the eyes of God.

Any thoughts that the sacrifices and offerings of the first covenant were helpful or necessary needed to be repented of (6:1) and cleansed from the conscience (9:14) of the worshipers so they could receive the one offering of God—which is Christ alone—and by which they could draw near to God.

When a person's conscience has been cleansed by the blood of Christ he comes to realize that all other sacrifices and offerings other than the sacrifice of Christ will never make him or her ready to enter the presence of God or ready to serve and worship God.

- (Hebrews 9:14 LSB) How much more will **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

E. Christ successfully completed the will of God and gave his body as a sacrifice so that we might have forgiveness of sins.

- (John 4:34 LSB) Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish [τελειόω] His work.”

F. When Christ fulfilled God’s will and sacrificed his body to pay for our sins, he established the new covenant and took away the old covenant.

4. **It is God’s will that by the once for all sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ we are being sanctified—being made holy, 10:10-18.**

- (Hebrews 10:10–18 LSB) **By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.** 11 And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; 12 **but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time,** SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, 13 waiting from that time UNTIL HIS ENEMIES ARE PUT AS A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. 14 **For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.** 15 And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, 16 “THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM,” He then says, 17 “AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.” 18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.

- Our sanctification rests on the once for all time sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, 10:10.
- In contrast to the daily offerings of the Levitical priests, Christ offered once sacrifice for sins for all time, 10:11-13.
- By this one offering he has perfected forever all those who are being sanctified, 10:14.
- Speaking to those who are being sanctified, the Holy Spirit testifies that the LORD will put his laws on their hearts and write them on their minds, 10:15-16.
- And the Spirit testifies that the LORD will remember their sins and lawless deed no more, 10:17.
- When sin has been forgiven, there is no longer offering for sin, 10:18.

5. **CONCLUSION:** Summarizing our thoughts and drawing some conclusions as to what we have learned so far in Hebrews.

- A main emphasis of Hebrews has been the perfection of the worshiper—the completed, finished work of God—that allows him or her to enter God’s rest and draw near to God.
- The gospel—the death of Jesus Christ on the cross—is the way in which those who believe can enter God’s rest and draw near to God.
 - (Hebrews 4:2–3a NLT) **For this good news—that God has prepared this rest**—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn’t share the faith of those who listened to God. 3 **For only we who believe can enter his rest. As for the others,** God said, “In my anger I took an oath: **They will never enter my place of rest.’**”
- The offering of Christ renders every other offering obsolete and useless—even the God-given requirements of divine worship in the old covenant.
 - (Hebrews 7:18–19a LSB) For, on the one hand, there is a **setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness** 19 **(for the Law made nothing perfect).**
- The offering of Christ makes all other offerings—biblical and otherwise—to be dead works.
- All good works, good deeds, religious expressions of worship, etc. are dead works for which the person needs to repent or face the coming judgment.
- So we should deduce that any act we perform in our service and worship by which we believe we gain favor or merit with God is a dead work for which we need to repent.
- Only those who have come to God by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone are able to please God in service and worship.
- Our proper service to and worship of God are directly related to our belief in the true gospel.