

Becoming parent = becoming professional photographer

Love looking at pics of my kids....but pics of my kids are not my kids.

I love spending time with my kids even more, no contest.

Perhaps nowhere else in the bible as in these 3 chapters (8-10) is there so much *repetition*- about how these symbols and pictures in the O.C. point towards the fulfillment of those things- JESUS.

As if God really wants us to get this: **the pictures of Jesus aren't Jesus.**

OUTLINE:

- ***The failure of 'the law' in us (V1-4)***
- ***The fulfillment of 'the law' in Christ (V5-9)***
- ***The foreverness of the work of Jesus (V10-18)***
- ***The fruit of the work of Jesus (V19-25)***

V1-4 The failure of 'the law' in us

Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come, and not the reality itself of those things, it can never perfect the worshipers by the same sacrifices they continually offer year after year. ²Otherwise, wouldn't they have stopped being offered, since the worshipers, purified once and for all, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? ³But in the sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year after year. ⁴For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

People were trapped in this hamster's wheel of rituals and ceremonies and sacrifices and rules that could not address their deepest guilt and shame- and so they had to keep running. That's all they knew.

How many of us find ourselves running in circles? Doing the same things over and over hoping something at some point will change?

'The Law' was a pic/ shadow of the real thing- because of that:

- **It could not clean, only condemn**
- **The unending sacrifices for sins highlighted the ultimate need for a savior**

That's where Jesus comes in-

V5-9 The fulfillment of 'the law' in Christ

⁵Therefore, as he was coming into the world, he said:

The author of Hebrews is about to quote Psalm 40 and claim that Jesus said it. Why is that important?

It shows us that the human authors were being divinely inspired when writing the Bible

You did not desire sacrifice and offering, but you prepared a body for me. ⁶You did not delight in whole burnt offerings and sin offerings. ⁷Then I said, "See— it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, God." (Hold up.... weren't those things God's idea; wasn't that His will???)

⁸After he says above, **You did not desire or delight in sacrifices and offerings, whole burnt offerings and sin offerings** (which are offered according to the law), ⁹he then says, **See, I have come to do your will. He takes away the first to establish the second.**

The idea of a better covenant is not only a New Testament deal, but had always been God's ultimate will, even in the old testament. Paul points this out:

Ephesians 3:5-6 This was not made known to people in other generations as it is now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

E.R. – overheard a man describing he had been self-administering antibiotics creams for this horrible rash.

The doctor explained that what he was taking was **not the appropriate remedy** for his issue.

Antibiotics are for bacterial infections, but he had an *allergic reaction to a poisonous plant* that he kept coming into contact with at work (was given steroids and a docs note to his employer).

The law wasn't taking away the poison in our souls, in God's perfect will and plan He sent Jesus.

V10-18 The foreverness of the work of Jesus

¹⁰By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all time**. ¹¹Every priest stands day after day ministering and offering the same sacrifices time after time, which can never take away sins. ¹²But this man, after offering one sacrifice **for sins forever**, sat down at the right hand of God. ¹³He is now waiting until his enemies are made his footstool. ¹⁴For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are sanctified.

In v14 'sanctified' is in the *present participle* (being sanctified), but in v10 the word "sanctified" (made holy) here is grammatically in the *perfect tense* in Greek. It refers to a completed action with ongoing implications..

While God is progressively sanctifying us, we stand positionally sanctified already.

We are being saved yet are securely saved already.

(V11-12) There was no chair in the tabernacle; while on duty the priests would never rest because they were never done. But Jesus finished his atoning work. Now he sits and waits until all his enemies are under his feet (V13).

That language comes from **Psalm 110**; the point being that Jesus sits in a position of power and authority, and that God will not only defeat his enemies but he will utterly and completely crush them (**Genesis 3:15**).

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

We might be tempted to only think of Jesus as a mild sacrificial lamb and forget that he is also the ferociously terrifying Lion of Judah who will tear apart his enemies. (Matt Chandler-Timothy Treadwell/ Grizzly Man- lost reference)

¹⁵The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. For after he says: ¹⁶**This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, the Lord says, I will put my laws on their hearts and write them on their minds,** ¹⁷and **I will never again remember their sins and their lawless acts.** (Quoting the book of Jeremiah- covered it few week back)

¹⁸**Now where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.**

Take a second to dwell on that magnificent reality! Let me put it this way:

In Jesus, all of your sin (public, private, past, present, and future) has been permanently dealt with

This is very good news! But do we believe it? Or do we keep putting ourselves on timeout every time we think we blew it.

God's not accepting offerings for sins, yet how many of us keep bringing our bull (or goat or sheep)?

"I'm going to do this for you God; I'll give this; I promise I'll make up for my bad behavior; etc."

Let me remind us of something we would do well to remember: You have nothing to offer Him for your sin.
Just COME to Him; just ABIDE with Him; just ENJOY His grace

The message of Grace Alone makes every religious bone in my body protest to God:

“but it’s dangerous to tell them past, present and future sins are forgiven if they are in Christ!”

To which I think God would reply:

“it’s more dangerous that they would not know and continue to vainly toil for my love/ approval”

it’s the kindness of God leads to repentance- [Romans 2:4](#)

He doesn’t want your self-approved performance or your self-propelled progress, He wants you.

He doesn’t want your service he wants your surrender. He doesn’t want your stuff He wants your affections.

We’ve been getting a lot of good truth to sink our teeth into, but not much on what we do with it.

In the following verses we finally get some idea of what it means to live in that grace, some instruction.

Note: *first* grasp the realities that the last 3 chapters kept hammering away, otherwise you will approach these next instructions as a **means** to get right with God all the while forgetting that the sacrifice of Jesus’ life is the only thing that accomplished that.

Whatever good we do now, whatever efforts we set off on, are only in *response* to having internalized grace.

V19-15 The fruit of the work of Jesus

¹⁹Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus—

We have access- the place that once slain down sinner (God’s presence) is now our refuge

²⁰he has inaugurated for us a new and living way through the curtain (that is, through his flesh)—

Remember the veil you had to go through, though none of us would be allowed?

The moment Jesus breathed His last it tore from top to bottom. The idea is this: He was destroyed to make a way.

²¹and since we have a great high priest over the house of God,

Jesus supersedes any restrictions religiosity had put on us. On account of all of those great realities-

²²**let us draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.

Under the old covenant to be clean you had to ritually wash and wash and wash, and be sprinkled with blood;

The work of Jesus is the reality of those things that were only pictures.

And the big crescendo after all this dense doctrine we’ve been getting hammered with is this:

Draw Near to God! **The fruit of the forever work of Jesus is Confident Closeness to God’s presence**

How do YOU draw near? What stirs your affections, **what pulls you towards God?**

The **Word** and **Prayer** are the 2 BIG gravitational pulls overlapping for all of us.

But then there’s 1,000 little tugs, and those all look different for all of us.

i.e. for me: *hearing sermons; beholding home; In-N-Out; being in nature*

(Here’s the caveat: some things that you may claim draws you near to God just don’t. if it’s contrary to scripture stay away: “*getting high/drunken makes me connect with God*”- no you’re just intoxicated)

The other question that must be asked is this- **what pulls you away from God?** what robs your affections?
(don’t say your husband) [Hebrews 12:1](#) ...let us lay aside every hindrance...

²³ **Let us hold on to the confession of our hope** without wavering, since he who promised is faithful.

What is the confession of our hope?

That Jesus is Lord and Savior. That He will never leave me nor forsake me.

***That He is coming back to rule with justice and goodness, and until He does,
He will provide me with everything I need for life and godliness.***

Society will give you every reason to give up on what you believe. A lot of our culture finds Christianity ridiculous, ludicrous, or offensive or crazy. This is why it is so important that you know what you believe and why you believe it.

And look at the motivation we're given to not give up hope. It's not the tenacity of our confession, but rather that *the one who promised us his faithful*

The fruit of the forever work of Jesus is Firm Faith in God's promises

You can trust His promise because of His person- what He says because of who He is

*"His oath, His covenant, His blood, Support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay
On Christ the solid rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand"*

²⁴ And **let us consider one another** in order to provoke love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

You are *here* this morning, so this will be more of an encouragement to you but an intended rebuke to those who have made church community optional.

As believers, we are NOT made to walk alone; we are designed to journey TOGETHER towards Jesus.

To think that you don't need church community and still be within God's will for your life is asinine.

Everyone I know that claimed their independence from the church wrecked their spiritual life.

DON'T GET ME WRONG!...Church isn't the hour and a half we get together once a week.

It's not less than that- but it is far more than that!

"...consider one another in order to provoke love and good works... encouraging each other..."

The fruit of the forever work of Jesus is Rooted & Rich Relationships with God's people

It is Community with a *CAUSE*; Community that *CHANGES* and *CHALLENGES* & CARES

How do we provoke one another to love and good works? **Gathering Habitually; Encouraging Increasingly**

Encouraging- made up of 2 Greek words: "make a call" (*kaleo*); "close-up and personal" (*para*)

As a pastor I'm trying to figure out how to better do that, because honestly, although there are pockets of deep fellowship here and there, overall, I see much room for improvement. (Celebrate Community)

Rooted- gathering habitually

Rich- provoking one another to love & good works & encouraging one another

Go deep in community while you still can- many of our older folks aren't here because they don't have the strength, yet they long for this. (*Invitation to Robertas house this Tuesday @ 6 for a mini service)

The fruit of the forever work of Jesus is: Confident Closeness to God's presence;

Firm Faith in God's promises;

Rooted & Rich Relationships with God's people.

Q: *Where is there room for growth in my faith journey?*

Real Christianity is not just claiming Jesus- that's the foundation, yes- but then we grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18)

Grow in *closeness*; grow in the strength of our *confession*; grow in *community*

Illustration- tree that would not grow- IT'S NOT DEAD, BUT IT'S NOT WELL

The danger is very real that you would be planted close enough to keep you engaged, but not nearly deep enough that you would bear much fruit

Just enough to make you feel guilty about sin but not enough to feel secure in grace.

*CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM

Do you bear the side effects of grace?

Are you planted well in Christ?

- Ask God to help you grow in the areas your stunted in
- If never made a commitment to surrender- ask God to save you and forgive you based on the work of Christ

I'll end with this statement:

Where there is grace internalized, there is growth externalized

Do you bear the side effects of grace?

BULPEN-

The moral law (10 commandments)- most simplest of morality tests....they failed

The ceremonial law (sacrifices and rituals)- how to worship....they failed

The judicial law (most of the do's and don'ts)- rules for living in a just society...they failed

One of the weirds things that happens when you become a parent (and no one can explain this, it's a mystery) is that you suddenly become a professional photographer. The storage on our phones is running out because we have 10,000 pictures of these little rugrats that most of the people we know don't really care to see!

I love looking at pictures of my kids, the detail is so good on these new phones.

But the pictures of my kids are not my kids. I don't take myself and a picture of them to picture to Disneyland! In fact, pictures can't really do them justice!

They stir me to long for the real thing, to go home from the office early.

Ephesians 2:12-15 At that time you were without Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In his flesh, ¹⁵he made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that he might create in himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace.

We're meant to bring out the best in each other, not the worst, to encourage and build up, not critique and tear down.