

SOUL FOOD

MAY 5, 2017

HEBREWS 10 PERFECTED FOR ALL TIME

In the Old Testament we see many things that point forward to the coming of the Messiah. We especially see this through the many types of sacrifices that were a part of the regular worship patterns. These sacrifices and the shedding of blood reminded God's people about the seriousness of sin and about the provisions that God had made for their sin. The amount of blood was so great that there were rivers of blood from all of it. However, these sacrifices were but a shadow of the one, final sacrifice to come. The Old Testament sacrifices provided for ceremonial cleansing. They could not pay for nor take away the sin. But, they pointed to the final sacrifice that would.

Jesus came to do the Father's will. Jesus did not come to offer burnt offerings and sin offerings. No, what God desired would occur through the means of the sacrifice of the body that God had given to the Son. Through this means all of the sins of His sheep would be paid for and covered. This cleansing would also go so deeply that it would also cleanse consciences. The blood of bulls and goat could not do that. However, **"and by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."**

How do I know that I will be changed and will ultimately be conformed to the image of Jesus? How do I know I will be sanctified? God's will says that I will and the offering of the body of Jesus says that I will. This sealed, finished work of Christ on my behalf is the source of and motivation for my growing in holiness. According to this passage, through the will of God, I have been sanctified. **For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**

In Christ, I am sanctified and I am being sanctified. There is both a definitive and progressive aspect to this. This tells us that God is far more committed to our growth in holiness than we are. For, God is going to bring to completion the work that He has begun in us. He does it through the means of His immutable will and the perfect sacrifice of Jesus. So, when you are struggling in your walk with Christ think about God's will and the resurrection of Jesus. This will feed your faith and will enable you to place your confidence in God and not in your own efforts at trying to be a good person or better yourself.