

A GOSPEL REFLECTION OF
HEBREWS 10:4-10



CHRIST IS MORE THAN ENOUGH

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How are sinners made right with a Holy God? That question is not some abstraction, something better left for the philosophers to endlessly debate. It presses into real lives, into quiet moments, into restless consciences. Thankfully, the precious Scriptures do not leave us to guess. From the earliest pages of the Old Testament, God gave His people a system of sacrifices, offerings, and priestly mediation. Yet even then, something deeper was being said. Those sacrifices pointed beyond themselves. They whispered of something greater still. They pointed to the finished work of Jesus the Christ.

Hebrews 10:4–10 brings that reality into full light. It shows us both the weakness of the old covenant sacrifices and the perfect sufficiency of Jesus Christ. This passage calls us to lay down every false hope and to rest fully in what God has done for us in His Son.

The Inability of Animal Sacrifices

The writer of Hebrews speaks with clarity: “For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”

The sacrifices of the old covenant were not meaningless. They were given by God. They had purpose. They taught the seriousness of sin and the necessity of atonement. But they could never actually remove guilt. They reminded the worshiper that sin was still present and that a final sacrifice had not yet come.

This truth runs through the Old Testament. David confesses in Psalm 51 that God does not delight in sacrifice apart from a broken heart. Isaiah records the Lord’s weariness with outward offerings that lack true devotion. Micah asks whether even the most extreme sacrifices could ever satisfy God, and the answer is no. The issue was never the quantity of offerings. It was the inability of any offering to truly cleanse the sinner.

Paul brings this into sharp focus in Romans 3:20. The law exposes sin, but it cannot justify. It shows us what we are, but it cannot change us.

That truth still confronts us. Many people live as though effort, discipline, or religious commitment can make them right with God. But these are only modern versions of ancient sacrifices. They cannot take away sin. They cannot quiet the conscience.

The Incarnation and the Will of God

Into that hopelessness comes the purpose of God in Christ.

Hebrews tells us, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me.” These words, drawn from Psalm 40, are placed on the lips of Christ. We are allowed to hear something of the eternal plan of God unfolding.

The Son comes into the world with intention. He comes to accomplish redemption.

John writes, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Paul tells us in Philippians 2 that Christ took on the form of a servant and humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross. This was not accidental. It was necessary.

A body was prepared so that it could be offered.

This is the heart of Sovereign Grace. God did not react to human failure. He ordained redemption from the beginning. Christ is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Everything moves according to God’s Divine purpose.

The Limits of Repeated Sacrifices

Hebrews continues by saying that God took no pleasure in burnt offerings and sin offerings in themselves.

That statement might seem surprising at first. After all, God commanded those sacrifices. But the point is not that God rejected what He had instituted. The point is that those sacrifices were never the final answer. They pointed forward. They prepared the way. They could not satisfy divine justice on their own.

Their repetition made that clear. Day after day, sacrifices were offered. Year after year, the same rituals continued. If they had truly taken away sin, they would have stopped. But they did not stop, because the problem remained.

Hebrews 9 tells us that Christ entered the holy places by His own blood and secured eternal redemption. It also reminds us that He did not suffer repeatedly. He appeared once for all to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

This has a very personal edge. We are often tempted to think that if we just do a little more, try a little harder, or become a little better, we will finally have peace with God. But those efforts cannot accomplish what only Christ can do.

The Obedience of Christ

Then comes a turning point that changes everything. “Behold, I have come to do your will, O God.”

Where sacrifices failed, Christ succeeds. Where the law reveals sin, Christ alone fulfills all righteousness.

Jesus Himself said that He came not to do His own will, but the will of the Father. He did not come to set aside the law. He came to fulfill it completely. He is the “end of the law for righteousness to those who believe!”

His obedience was complete. He lived the life we failed to live, perfectly honoring God in every thought, word, and action. Then He gave Himself in death, bearing the full weight of sin.

Philippians tells us that “He was obedient unto death, even death on a cross.”

This is where our hope rests. Romans 5:19 tells us that “by the obedience of one man many will be made righteous.” Our standing before God is not built on our obedience. It rests entirely on Christ’s obedience in our place.

The Once-for-All Sacrifice

Hebrews 10:10 brings everything together. “And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

There is a quiet strength in those words.

“By that will” reminds us that salvation begins with God. It is His purpose, His plan, His work.

“We have been sanctified” speaks of something already accomplished. Those who are in Christ are set apart. They are made holy in Him.

“Once for all” declares the finality of Christ’s sacrifice. Nothing more is needed. Nothing can be added.

When Jesus said, “It is finished,” He meant it. The work of redemption was fully completed. Hebrews and Peter both affirm that Christ suffered once for sins. The work does not need to be repeated because it was perfect the first time.

This is the foundation of assurance. If Christ has finished the work, then our hope is secure.

A Call to Rest

This passage does not leave us neutral.

It confronts every attempt to deal with sin on our own terms. It exposes the emptiness of self-reliance. It shows us that no amount of effort can reconcile us to God.

At the same time, it calls us to rest from our labors.

Not in ourselves. Not in our progress. Not in our sincerity.

In Christ.

Scripture calls us to abandon confidence in the flesh. It assures us that there is “no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” It reminds us that salvation belongs to the Lord.

From beginning to end, salvation is of Sovereign Grace. The Father purposed it. The Son accomplished it. The Spirit applies it to the hearts of God’s people.

So lift your eyes.

Look away from yourself and look to Jesus. He is the author and the finisher of our faith. He is the perfect offering. He is the sufficient Savior. Christ is enough. Hallelujah! Christ is More than enough!



*At the heart of Redeemer's ministry is the pastoral leadership of **Jason K. Boothe**, who serves as pastor of Redeemer Church in Piketon, Ohio. Known for his warm, Gospel-centered preaching and careful exposition of Scripture, Pastor Boothe consistently points listeners to the finished work of Jesus Christ as the foundation of the Christian life. His ministry emphasizes the sufficiency of Christ, the comfort of God's promises, and the assurance believers have through faith alone. Through preaching, teaching, and pastoral care, he seeks to help ordinary people see the extraordinary grace of God at work in His Word and in their daily lives.*

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