

***“The Breastplate of
Righteousness: Part III”***

Ephesians 6:10-20

May 31, 2009

A Review...

1. God is infinitely holy and will not, cannot, tolerate sin.
2. To the extent that we let the weight of our sin land upon us we actually gain the ability to see the glory of the grace of God.
3. Our sin is relational in nature.

In Order to Reconcile us...

1. God had to make atonement for all of our sins so that he could bring us into a state as though we had never sinned—this is called the doctrine of substitutionary atonement.
2. God also had to make a way to look at us as though we had always and only obeyed him at every turn—this is called the doctrine of the imputed righteousness of Christ.

Hebrews 9:22

“...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”

Hebrews 10:1-14

“¹ 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 worshipers, 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.”

Hebrews 10:1-14

⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. [Now, in saying that, the author of Hebrews is not saying that their blood had no effect because he says it does in chapter 9; he's simply saying here that their blood could not permanently remove sins and thus it had to be offered again and again.]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;

Hebrews 10:1-14

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."

Hebrews 10:1-14

“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.

Hebrews 10:1-14

¹¹ 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,

Hebrews 10:1-14

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.”

Two Facts...

1. God, in his wisdom and mercy, designed something called substitutionary atonement whereby one could die on behalf of another and so make atonement for sins.
2. The blood of goats and bulls did this only imperfectly but the blood of Jesus Christ has done this with infinite perfection so that there is no longer any need for sacrifice.

On Faith...

When we look to Christ for the forgiveness of our sins we acknowledge that...

1. God is holy,
2. We have sinned,
3. We are unable to make atonement for ourselves,
4. God has made a way in Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

“¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”