

Sunday October 8th sermon: "Begone, All Other Sacrifices! The God of All Comforts (Pt 36)"

Preached at the Lord's Table at Grace Bible Church in Greenwood, MS,
by John Pittman Hey

Hebrews 10:19-24; John 19:23-37

God comforts us by the oath He made to Christ, appointing Him our high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

The Holy Ghost is witness to the fact that Christ perfects all His people by one offering on the cross. That occurred when the Spirit disclosed the New Covenant for God's people.

According to that New Covenant, God promised that one day, He would perfect His people Himself.

Christ's sacrifice takes away all remembrance of the sin of His people, just as the Holy Ghost and Christ had promised!

And where sins are forgiven by the sacrifice of Christ, there can be no more offering for sin! The sin offering cannot be repeated, because it is finished!

The consequence for us is astounding: being made perfect by Christ's sacrifice, and having our High Priest in the Holiest place, where He sprinkled His Own blood for our sins, we are commanded to enter with boldness into that holy place before our God!

We are commanded to enter with true hearts of full assurance, being made pure by Christ, and to hold fast the profession of our faith, because God is faithful to keep His promises!

But there remain false priests, and blasphemous sacrifices, that Christ has done away with. There are still many who defy Christ, when He has

told us that all of the other sacrifices for the forgiveness of sin have been done away with.

The only sacrifice is Christ upon the cross, and the only priest is Christ before the throne of Heaven for us!

Plenty of people in this world defy the living God in these matters. Whenever they offer up their own "good works," like Cain did, or whenever their religion appoints fallen men as so-called "priests," and other rituals and masses as propitiatory sacrifices, they are trampling upon the blood of Jesus, usurping His priesthood, and overthrowing His offering.

The Jews did this after Christ arose. Their Aaronic priests kept on offering animal sacrifices, which Christ has abolished already.

But soon, God cut off their animal sacrifices completely. He used the Roman tyrants to destroy their temple, and stop their sacrifices in 70 AD.

But some people are still hard at work trying to restart those sacrifices in these days.

There is an entire movement of Jews today plotting to recommence offering animal sacrifices at the original temple site in Old Jerusalem. One such zealot was arrested just last week, caught with a goat, walking towards the Dome of the Rock, intending to sacrifice the animal to reclaim the temple site from the Muslims.

Some believers rejoice at such foolishness, based upon their eschatological beliefs, but we ought to be appalled at this blasphemy, defiance, and rejection of the Lord Jesus.

The tragedy is that the people in Christ's day were screaming that He be crucified. The only One Who could save them from sin and death and hell, the only perfect sacrifice, how they despised Him so.

They rejected the promised King of Peace, the King of Righteousness, the High Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek, and chose Caesar instead, their tyrannical brutalizer.

One day soon, the Romans would destroy their preferred animal sacrifices, which could never save them.

On the cross, when He had paid all the price for the saving of His people, Christ cried out, "it is finished!" He surrendered up His life in our place at Calvary!

From that point on, there has been no other sacrifice for sin, and no other priest but Jesus.

All other sacrifices, all other priests, are in actual defiance of Christ, usurpers and pretenders, as another Christ.

The people were very punctilious to have Christ taken down from the cross, so they could celebrate their Passover sacrifice. They never realized that the paschal lamb was only a picture of Christ's bloody sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin.

In doing so, they unwittingly carried out what the Scriptures had promised about Jesus: not a bone in Him would be broken, and one day, they would look upon Him Whom they had pierced, and they would mourn for Him.

That will happen one day, after their reinstated animal sacrifices have been taken away once again, this time by Antichrist in the terrible tribulation, and they face doom, complete annihilation.

By the Holy Ghost, they will remember Messiah, and what they did to Him, and how stubborn they all were for thousands of years, scheming and plotting to restore the animal sacrifices, which now, once again, had proved to be worthless to save them.

Christ is their only hope to save them, and when they mourn for Him, even though they had pierced Him so long ago, He will come and save them!

After that, all the world will overthrow animal sacrifices, and every other sacrifice, and trust only in the obedience and blood of Jesus.

How merciful has God been to open our eyes to see these truths, to tear us away from all other hope but Jesus.

There can be no comfort from God's oath to Christ to make Him a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek, so long as we cling to worthless sacrifices, and to false priests