

## Eternally Clean

10:1 *The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming-not the realities themselves.* For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, *make perfect those who draw near to worship.* 2 If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. 3 But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, *4 because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*

5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

*"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; 6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.* 7 Then I said, 'Here I am-it is written about me in the scroll- I have come to do your will, O God.'" (Ps 40:6-8)

8 First he said, *"Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"* (although the law required them to be made). 9 Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. 10 And by that will, *we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. 13 Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, *14 because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

16 *"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."*

17 Then he adds: *"Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."* (Jer 31:31-33)

18 And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

19 Therefore, brothers, *since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,* 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having *our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

*26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.* 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, *"It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"* (Dt 32:35) and again, *"The Lord will judge his people."* (Dt 32:36) 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

32 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. 33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. 36 *You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.* 37 *For in just a very little while,*

*"He who is coming will come and will not delay. 38 But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."* (Hab 2:3-4)

39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

**Ps 40:6-8**

6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced ; (but a body hast thou prepared for me; - Septuagint) burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.

7 Then I said, "Here I am, I have come-- it is written about me in the scroll.

8 I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

**Ex 21:2-6**

2 "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free, without paying anything. 3 If he comes alone, he is to go free alone; but if he has a wife when he comes, she is to go with him. 4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the woman and her children shall belong to her master, and only the man shall go free.

5 "But if the servant declares, 'I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,' 6 then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.

**Isa 66:2-4**

"This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

3 But whoever sacrifices a bull is like one who kills a man, and whoever offers a lamb, like one who breaks a dog's neck; whoever makes a grain offering is like one who presents pig's blood, and whoever burns memorial incense, like one who worships an idol.

They have chosen their own ways, and their souls delight in their abominations;

4 so I also will choose harsh treatment for them and will bring upon them what they dread.

For when I called, no one answered, when I spoke, no one listened.

They did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me."

**From the Song of Moses**

**Deut 32:34-43**

34 "Have I not kept this in reserve and sealed it in my vaults? 35 It is mine to avenge; I will repay.

In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."

36 The LORD will judge his people and have compassion on his servants when he sees their strength is gone and no one is left, slave or free.

37 He will say: "Now where are their gods, the rock they took refuge in, 38 the gods who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offerings? Let them rise up to help you! Let them give you shelter!

**Hab 2:2-5**

2 Then the LORD replied:

"Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.

3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

4 "See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright- (if he shrinks back, my soul shall have no pleasure – Septuagint)

but the righteous will live by his faith-

5 indeed, wine betrays him;

he is arrogant and never at rest.

Because he is as greedy as the grave

and like death is never satisfied,

he gathers to himself all the nations

and takes captive all the peoples.

**Eccl 5:4-7**

4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. 5 It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.

6 Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the [temple] messenger, "My vow was a mistake." Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands? 7 Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore stand in awe of God.