

Jesus Was Successful

Hebrew 10:11-18

Halifax: 7 May 2023

Introduction:

Please take a look at Hebrews 10:11-18.

- This is the passage I am preaching from today.

Last week in Heb 10:1-10, we saw how Jesus declared that He had come from heaven and was given a human body that He might do God's will.

- We saw what was meant by "doing God's will" in the context.
 - It meant doing what God required to be done to save guilty sinners from their sins.
 - The whole human race fell under God's condemnation when we rebelled against Him just after we were created.
 - God's call from the beginning of creation was that we would multiply and labour to fill the earth with human worshippers, people who loved Him as their God and who lived under His bountiful provision in sweet harmony with each other and with His whole creation (even with nature itself).
 - You only need to look around to see how far away we are from that.
 - Increasingly in our modern world, we are seeing hostility against any ordinance of God—
 - Certainly against worship, against the seven day cycle of worship and rest, against the ordinances of worship; but also against multiplying and filling the earth, against marriage and marital fidelity (actually celebrating sexual perversion), against owning private property, against honouring authority, and even against our own body and our God-given gender.

Nevertheless, God promised that despite our fall from His original calling, He would bring forth out of our ruined race (by His grace alone) a godly people who would eventually fill the earth.

- From the time of the fall, He promised to bring forth of us a Son who would do His will to restore people to Him... a Son to do all that was required to restore us.
 - God sent prophets who were given divine messages, oracles of God, about the Son who would come.
 - He called out a people to become a nation for Him, to be a depository for His promises, to walk in His ways, to maintain rituals that would show His way of salvation in shadows, to be the ones to whom this promised Son was born.
- And one of those oracles, written a thousand years before He came (the oracle we looked at last week), declared that when He came into the world, He would declare:
 - Heb 10:5-7: **"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. ⁶ In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.' "**
 - This oracle showed that He would do what the ritual sacrifices revealed must be done—make an atonement for sin—not just ritually but in truth.
 - He would do the will of God to actually atone for His people's sins.

The passage we are looking at today (Heb 10:11-18) was written to assure us that Jesus was successful.

- He came to do the will of God, all that God required to save sinners, and He did it.
- Listen to these wonderful words of hope. Heb 10:11-18. This is God's word:

Hebrews 10:11-18: And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. ¹⁵ But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, ¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," ¹⁷ then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." ¹⁸ Now where there is remission of these, *there is no longer an offering for sin.*

May the LORD add His blessing to the reading and exposition of His holy word.

It is very important for us to know that Jesus was successful in doing the will of God—all that God required to restore sinners to Him.

- It is important because whoever wishes to be restored to God is required to trust in Him and in what He did to reconcile us to God. You will perish if you don't.

This passage, Heb 10:11-18, brings to a climax everything we have seen about Jesus in Hebrews from the very first verse. It sums everything up to prepare for the practical section of Hebrews that begins at 10:19 with the word *Therefore* and runs to the end.

- We have seen in these first ten chapters how Jesus was the Son of God sent from heaven to be the great apostle and high priest of our faith who reconciles us with God.
 - In Hebrews 1:1 – 2:18, we saw that He is God's ultimate revelation to us of what man is supposed to be. He is the Son of God sent from heaven in our flesh to be the Captain of our salvation. He became flesh and He leads the way into life.
 - In Hebrews 3:1 – 4:16, we saw that He is the great Apostle of our faith who builds the house of God and leads us into God's rest. He restores us as God's people under God's blessing forever.
 - In Hebrews 5:1 – 6:12, we saw that He was the man of true compassion who gave Himself to save us, and we were warned against being detached and uninterested.
 - In Hebrews 6:13 – 8:6, we saw Him as the priest after the order of Melchizedek, a priest who is also a king. His origins are from everlasting as God the Son and now having come in human flesh as our priest and king, He will reign forever, keeping us secure in God's blessing forever.
 - In Hebrews 8:7-10:10, we saw how He is superior to the priests of old because He is the one who actually carries out what their rituals only signified. By Him, we are truly pardoned and sanctified, He is the true priest who has come before God in heaven with Himself as the true sacrifice to take away our sin and who comes with true prayers of intercession that are accepted by God...
- And today, in 10:11-18 which completes this section of Hebrews, we are given assurance that He was successful in accomplishing all that the Father sent Him to do.

- We can count on Him to secure God's blessing of salvation for all who put their trust in Him.

I. The Son's success is seen by His sitting down after He offered His one offering.

A. His sitting shows that He finished His work of offering a sacrifice for sin.

1. The purpose of a priest's offering is to take away sin.
 - We are reminded again in verse 11 that the priests under the Old Covenant stood and that they offered daily sacrifices that could never take away sin.
 - Taking away sin is the goal, but their offerings did not and could not do that.
 - v. 11: **And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.**
 - They were appointed to keep on offering their sacrifices because they only symbolised the sacrifice that was needed. That is what they were appointed for, so they were to keep doing them over and over.
2. Jesus is set in sharp contrast with that.
 - v. 12: **But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,**
 - Instead of repeatedly offering, He offered only the one true sacrifice and then sat down, having finished His work.
 - He sat because His offering was successful in taking away the sins of those it was offered for.
 - Verse 14 says: **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**
 - To perfect them is to take away their sin so that they can come to God.
 - They are called, "those who are being sanctified" because they together are the bride of Christ who is being prepared to live with her husband in His Father's house when the great wedding feast of the Lamb comes.
 - His offering has taken away her sin—that is, her guilt—so that she has been fully pardoned and accepted—made righteous before God.
 - He has taken away their sin forever, and now they are being prepared for His house of glory.
 - Jesus will never have to make another offering for their sins.
 - He has completed the work.
 - There is no more of that work to be done, so He can sit down.
 - If He were like the priests of the Old Testament, and His sacrifice was only a symbolic offering of the blood of bulls and goats, Jesus would have to continue ministering like they did.
 - But His work was successful. It took away our sins. He sat down.

➤ But notice further...

B. It is noted that He sat down at His Father's right hand.

1. We have seen that the priests only went into a tabernacle made with men's hands that only represented God's true tabernacle in heaven...
 - It was only a copy of the true.
 - But Jesus is said to have gone in before the Father and to have sat down at the Father's right hand!
2. This shows that the Father fully accepted His sacrifice.
 - If that were not so, there is no way that He would have been allowed there!
 - The Father has received Him.
 - Because He had a sufficient offering to take away His people's sins, the Father said, "Sit at my right hand."
 - He would not have done that if Jesus had not been successful—if His offering had failed.
3. This is meant to give you additional encouragement.
 - Jesus not only sat down, believing that His work was done, but the Father received Him into the highest heaven to sit at His right hand because He agreed that His work was done when it came to offering a sacrifice for our sin.
 - This is written that we who have fled to Jesus, we who have trusted in Him, might have strong consolation and good hope that our sins are pardoned.
 - The offering of Jesus, our great High Priest, has been received and approved. Our sins are taken away.

II. The Son's success is seen in that He is waiting for His enemies to be made His footstool.

- This is shown to us in verse 13. I will read from verse 12 to give you the context:
 - **Heb 10:12-13: But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.**
- A. The great aim of Jesus' work is that His enemies will be made His footstool—that they will be brought under His feet, as it is sometimes said.
1. Everything must be made *visibly* subservient to Jesus Christ in the end.
 - Since the world was created, it has all been under His sovereign hand. The Bible tells us that He works all things after the counsel of His own will.
 - Even the wicked are subservient to His purposes, but they are not visibly subservient or consciously subservient to Him as in bowing down before His sovereign majesty in awe of Him.
 - The point is that everything must be brought visibly to its place under Him.
 2. When everything is brought under His feet, God's original purpose for creating the world will be accomplished.

- What I mentioned in the introduction: the earth will be filled with worshippers of God—nothing but worshippers of God who love God as their God and who live under His bountiful provision in sweet harmony with each other and with His whole creation.
 - Yes, the wind and the waves, the sun and the moon, the animals, the trees, and all things will be brought under Him as a Prince—as man.
 - Since dominion was given to us in the beginning, it will be given to us again.
 - But best of all, in that day we who have fled to Christ for refuge will be perfected in holiness.
 - Every last vestige of sin will be completely taken away so that we will all serve Him in a world of perfect worship and perfect love.
 - That is what it will look like when we are brought to our appointed place under His feet.
- But what about the wicked?
- 3. Satan, the demons, and all those people who remained in rebellion against God and did not come to trust in Christ will be cast into the place of outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 - Jesus warned His hearers about this repeatedly during His ministry on earth, and so He continues to warn them through the pages of scripture and the preaching of God’s word.
 - When they are brought under His feet, it will look very different than when we who have come to Him for salvation are brought under His feet.
 - For us, it will be all that our sanctified desires have craved; for the wicked, it will be all that their unsanctified desires dreaded.
- So everything will be brought under the feet of Jesus.
- B. The fact that after He offered His offering, Jesus sat down to wait for this shows us that His offering was successful.
 1. He could have no expectation that all things would be brought under His feet as the head of the church if His offering for our sins had failed.
 - There could be no expectation of such an outcome.
 - But He has such an expectation.
 - We are told that He is waiting for this glorious outcome when everything is brought to its proper place.
 2. We can have confidence in His offering because He does.
 - Wait with Him for the blessed outcome
 - Take heart, dear Christian, Jesus had completed His work and He knows that it has been accepted—
 - And He is waiting with us until God’s name is hallowed, His kingdom comes, and His will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

- His kingdom will come because His offering has taken away His people's sins.

III. The Son's success is also seen in the benefits of His offering promised to us by God the Holy Spirit.

A. Notice how verse 15 says, "But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us."

1. We just saw how the Son recognises that His sacrifice removed our sins...
 - He sat down at the Father's right hand, waiting until His enemies are made His footstool, because He knows that His sacrifice was accepted for our sin.
2. But now, to give us additional confirmation, we have the testimony of the Holy Spirit that Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient.
3. The Spirit's testimony is that once Jesus' work is complete, the promises of the New Covenant will come into effect. They will be a sign of that.
 - The Spirit gave this testimony centuries before Christ came of what would happen when Jesus finished His work.
 - Indeed, when the Holy Spirit says in Jeremiah, "**This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days.**" The words "**after those days**" refer to the time after the Old Covenant dispensation is ended.
 - The New Covenant was established over the time of Christ's ministry...
 - It began with the preaching of John, was furthered in the coming of Christ in the flesh and His public ministry declaring that the time was at hand, was solemnly enacted and confirmed in and by His death; was further confirmed by His resurrection, was further ratified and established when the Holy Spirit was poured and gospel was preached, and fully confirmed by the ministry of the apostles and the establishment of New Testament gospel worship.
 - The Spirit's witness was that the New Covenant promises would become the benefit of every believer and their elect children as a result of Jesus' accepted sacrifice for our sins—because His sacrifice was accepted.
 - And that was fulfilled after Jesus completed His work.

B. And what are those covenant promises that the Holy Spirit said would be ours after Christ completed His work? Let's review them.

1. First, there is the Covenant promise of verse 16: "**This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them.**"
 - This speaks of the revelation by the Spirit about God and His ways so that we are enabled with our heart and mind to truly know Him in a saving way.
 - He makes Himself and His ways known to us, and gives us both the desire and the ability to walk in them.
 - When we see His laws with true knowledge with our mind and heart, it means that the light of His truth truly gets into our soul.

- We will be looking at this in detail in our afternoon service, but suffice it to say that there is a great deal of difference between knowing the commandment that says, “you shall not steal,” without the light of the Holy Spirit, and knowing it as by the Spirit where you see what a selfish, grasping wretch you are and how generous and gracious Jesus is, so that you cry out to Him for mercy and deliverance.
- When the Holy Spirit writes God’s law in your heart, you are compelled to go to Jesus for mercy and transformation—and you grow.
- The Spirit certainly did this work in a powerful way at Pentecost when the house of Israel and the house of Judah began to realise through Peter’s preaching that they had crucified their own Messiah.
 - This outpouring of the Spirit was a testimony that Christ had finished His work of making an offering for sin.
 - The Spirit continues to do this work in all the elect.
 - It is most evident in the New Covenant, though it was done in all the elect in the Old Covenant as well. It simply became more widespread under the new.
 - Compare Israel in the wilderness with the early church under persecution and you can see the difference.
- 2. The second promise that is brought to fullness on account of Jesus’ completed offering for our sins is the forgiveness of sins.
 - Verse 17, the Spirit says: **“Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”**
 - There certainly was forgiveness in the Old Testament—ask David, ask Solomon, ask Manasseh!
 - But it was not until Jesus came and offered Himself for our sins that real atonement was made.
 - You might say that individuals who believed were all forgiven in the Old Testament, but the whole church was not actually forgiven and justified until Jesus came and offered Himself for our sins.
 - If He had not done that, there could be no forgiveness.
 - Therefore, after He offered Himself for the remission of our sins, we are able to fully proclaim forgiveness and show sinners what was done to accomplish it.
 - The Spirit gives a greater assurance to us than they had of old, and we are able to come to God with a greater boldness and confidence as those who are fully cleansed by Christ. We are able to say, “Abba, Father.”
 - There is such a confidence and assurance of our acceptance, an assurance that we really are forgiven, when we see what Christ has done.
 - We are able to see the glory of God and the mercy of God more fully,

- to know Him and to accept His holiness and justice that would otherwise frighten us if we got too knowledgeable of it.
- We are able to see God's righteousness and His wisdom that made such a way to save us.
- So, once again, the Spirit promised that this blessing would be ours upon the completion of Christ's atoning work...
 - And He has delivered that promise to all who believe.
 - We know ourselves to be a marvellously forgiven people.
 - Indeed, there are low times in the church when the LORD withdraws our comfort and turns our children over to apostasy, but there is still assurance of forgiveness in those who come know Christ.
 - There are also times when we may lack personal assurance, but as believers we never lack assurance that there is forgiveness with God of His church through Jesus' offering.

TRANS> So the Spirit's witness that the LORD would give us a new heart and remember our sins no more once Jesus finished His work on the cross prove that His work on the cross was successful. He has accomplished our redemption.

- So now, lastly, I want you to consider that:

IV. The Son's success means that there is no longer an offering for sin.

- Verse 18 says: **Now where there is remission of these [that is, forgiveness of sin] there is no longer an offering for sin.**
- A. When it says there is no longer an offering for sin, it means that there is no longer an offering that is appointed by God.
 1. People often do unauthorised offerings based on the authority and advice of misguided and sometimes greedy church leaders.
 - Churches claim to offer up the body of Christ for sin again and again, but they cannot offer anything to God unless He has authorised it.
 - If He has not appointed their rituals, then their offerings for sin are not offering for sin at all. Whatever they are, they are not that!
 - Some even collect money or services of various kinds as an offering for sin, but when God's word tells us that there is no longer an offering for sin, these are only offerings for sin in their imagination.
 2. In Hebrews, the offerings referred to are actually offerings that God *did* appoint but has now removed.
 - In the Old Covenant, there were offerings for sin that were offered every day, but now those offerings are no longer authorised.
 - They are not authorised because now Christ has offered Himself on the cross and His offering puts an end to all other offerings for sin.
 - Of course, there are still offerings of worship, service, and money, but there are no more offerings for sin.

- B. The rest of the epistle to the Hebrews tells us what to do instead of offerings for sin. It tells us to trust in Christ—that is, to live by faith in His finished work on the cross.
1. That's right. At this point in Hebrews we have a transition from teaching about what Christ did for us to declaring to us how we ought to respond to what He did.
 - This is something that we find in many of the letters in the New Testament.
 - There is a doctrinal section, then a practical section.
 - One very familiar example in the epistle to the Romans.
 - Paul tells us how righteousness is obtained by the grace of God in the first 11 chapters, and then chapter 12 opens with the words, **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”**
 - The rest of the letter focuses on our service to God.
 - You have a similar transition in Ephesians at chapter four.
 - This is sometimes referred to as a change from the indicative (where we are told what God has done) to the imperative (where we are commanded to do what God want us to do in response).
 - In Hebrews, we have this transition from the indicative to the imperative at Hebrews 10:19.
 - It is marked by the word *therefore*, and from that point on, the focus is how we ought to respond to what we have seen in the first ten and a half chapters.
 2. It is not surprising that the imperative part of Hebrews is essentially a call to live by faith.
 - When the first ten and a half chapters is about Christ and what He has done to save us, we would expect to be called to live by faith in Him.
 - The Old Testament certainly was a time to live by faith, as Hebrews 11 will show us, but it was a time of offerings, and trusting God to provide.
 - The message of Hebrews is that now God has provided, so the New Testament is contrasted with the Old as a time of faith—so much so that in Galatians, Paul speaks of the Old as the time before faith came.
 - They did not have the finished work of Christ to trust in, but now we do.
 - Lord willing, we are going to see what it looks like to live by faith in the weeks to come...
 - In summary, we will see that it means to rely on Christ and the work that He did to save us.
 - We rely on Him for full forgiveness and rely on Him to transform us so that we put off the old man with his sinful passions and desires and put on the new man that is renewed in the likeness of Christ, in the image of God.

Conclusion:

The great summation of the first ten and a half chapters of Hebrews is that Jesus has done the will of God when it comes to being a priest who offers Himself for our sins.

- Hallelujah, He has done it!

- There is no more offering for sin because there is no need for any more offering for sin.
- Now we honour God, not by bringing many offerings for sin,
 - but by trusting in the offering He has provided in such a way that that trust radically reshapes the way we think about God and the way we live—that is, so that Christ reshapes us because we trust in Him.