**Jesus, Our Great High Priest**

**Hebrews: Hearing and Obeying God’s Son**

**Hebrews 10:1-18**

**Perfect!**

**Or, Jesus, the Ultimate Offering, makes sinners acceptable to God.**

[The New Covenant has made the Old Covenant Obsolete:] (8:1-13)

[Tabernacle Worship (priests, sacrifices) only reminded us of our sin, but never eradicated it. This, Jesus did. 9:1-28 But how?]

Remember: Tabernacle sacrifices under the Law of Moses were mere shadows of spiritual realities like forgiveness and reconcilia-tion. Animal sacrifices could never take away sin! 10:1-4

But Jesus, as the predicted Messiah, sets aside the Law’s sacrificial system when He takes on flesh, and in that body, dies for sinners who are now righteous in God’s sight. 10:5-10

While the Law’s priests stood daily, endlessly offering sacrifices, Jesus, our Great High Priest and Sacrifice, sits, accepted by God, awaiting vindication on all who refuse Him. 10:11-13

This is how, in a single offering, Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, has perfected His people by the New Covenant which puts away sins and forgives sinners once for all. 10:14-18

***Are sinners now perfect?***

***1. Why is there so much of an emphasis upon perfection?***

Nothing short of perfection could exist in the white-hot glow of God’s holiness. So how can sinners, who not only are “imperfect,” but also are rebellious, ever enter Heaven? Through Jesus, who became one of us by the Incarnation, God has perfected a people for His name. Although we live in between the first and second appearing of Jesus, we will be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. “The Son of God became the Son of Man so that sons of men might become sons of God.” Isaiah 6:1-7; 1 John 3:2

***2. How did sinners become “perfect”?***

As strange as it may sound to us, this has been our author’s point from the beginning: to show how the Law made nothing perfect (7:11, 19; 8:6, 7, 13; 10:4, 11), but Jesus, the Perfect One, perfects His people (that is, makes them holy, and eventually fit for Heaven (9:9; 10:12-14; 11:40; 12:23). The Apostle Paul argues for “justification by faith” in Romans, and our author is arguing “sanctification by faith” here. In both cases, God is providing the remedy; it is ours to say “yes,” and then “thank you.”

***3. What are sinners supposed to be doing in the mean time?***

God does not save us so that we can keep sinning. On the contrary, when God justifies us, He begins to sanctify us, which involves our choices and maturity. God has placed us “in Christ,” and the Holy Spirit within us, and now we are to “keep in step with the Spirit.” When we do, we turn our backs on the works of the flesh and put sin to death, that is, pursue (desire, discipline ourselves for) holiness. Rom. 6:1-ll; Gal. 5:16-26; Heb. 12:14