



Church of the Resurrection

Date: Oct. 7th, 2012

Theme: "To Obey is Better"

#12 in the Series on the Book of Hebrews

1. Insufficiency of animal sacrifices
 - a. The yearly sacrifices by the High priest along with the continual sin offerings demonstrate that they were not good enough to solve man's sin problem.
 - b. The life of an animal does not equate to the life of a man.
2. Christ fulfills God's will
 - a. In the beginning we read about how God prepared a place for Man that He may remain in communion with them forever. It was a love relationship where we see the courtship between God and Man in Genesis, finally consummated in the book of Revelation (cf. Rev. 19:7-9).
 - i. Jewish wedding
 - ii. Similarities between the Garden and the Temple
 - b. Sacrifices and offering were not God's original desire, but were the means to maintain the communion. What He desired was much deeper and satisfying – a mutually loving and intimate relationship.
 - i. 1 Sam. 15:22, *"So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."*
 - ii. Hos. 6:6, *"For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."*
 - iii. Ps. 51:16-17, *"For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart – these, O God, You will not despise."*
 - iv. Mt. 23:23-24, *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!"*
 - v. Story of the "Lost Son," more about the lost relationship than about his squandering the inheritance.
 - c. Man is unable to fulfill the righteous requirements of God without God's help. Therefore, something radical had to be done.
 - i. Eph. 2:8-9, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*
 - ii. Phil. 2:5-8, *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."*
 - d. Behold the Man!
 - i. Jn. 6:38, *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."*
 - ii. Jn. 10:10-11, *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."*
 - iii. Jn. 10:17-18, *"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."*

3. Christ's offering was perfect and final.
 - a. The previous OT priests offered sacrifices continually
 - b. Christ offered His sacrifice and then sat down; Jn. 19:30, *"So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, **"It is finished!"** And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."*
 - c. As promised the covenant moves inward; Jer. 31:33, *"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*
 - i. We are being sanctified by God; it is not of ourselves (or others.)
 1. Eph. 5:26-27, *"that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."*
 2. Jude 1:1, *"To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:"*
 - ii. God is author and finisher of our faith. Heb. 12:2, *"...Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross..."* He intends to finish what He's begun.
4. Therefore, hold fast to your confession. Reminder of the Roman persecution of Christians and the "safety" of Judaism.
 - a. Enter into His presence with boldness; His flesh is the new veil.
 - i. Gal. 4:6-7, *"And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."*
 - ii. 2 Tim. 1:7-9, *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began..."*
 - iii. 1 Jn. 4:17-18, *"Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."*
 - iv. Eph. 2:15, *"having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,"*
 - v. 1 Jn. 4:2-3, *"By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world."*
 - vi. 2 Jn. 1:7, *"For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."*
 - b. Draw near with a true heart. Ps. 119:10, *"With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!"*
 - c. Full assurance of faith
 - i. The blood of His perfect sacrifice cleanses us from the bondage of sin.
 1. Heb. 9:13-14, *"For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"*

- ii. The water of His word keeps us clean in our daily living.
 - 1. 2 Cor. 7:1, *"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*
- d. Hold fast the confession
 - i. James 1:6, *"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."*
- e. Consider "one another"
- f. Do not forsake assembling together
 - i. Mt. 18:20, *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."*
 - ii. Acts 2:42, *"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."*
 - iii. Jude 1:19, *"These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit."*
- g. Exhort "one another"
- 5. Deacons Ordination

1 Kings 8:22-45, "Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said: "LORD God of Israel, *there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts. You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day. Therefore, LORD God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk before Me as you have walked before Me.'* And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father. "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive. "When anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes *and* takes an oath before Your altar in this temple, then hear in heaven, and act, and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness. "When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and when they turn back to You and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication to You in this temple, then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to their fathers. "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance. "When there is famine in the land, pestilence *or* blight *or* mildew, locusts *or* grasshoppers; when their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities; whatever plague *or* whatever sickness *there is*; whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, *or* by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men), they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers. "Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who *is* not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for Your name's sake (for they will hear of Your great name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this temple, hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as *do* Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name. "When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, wherever You send them, and when they pray to the LORD toward the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name, then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause."