

Scottie Alvarez 11-17-2024
HEBREWS: PERSEVERE, HOLD ON, BELIEVE TILL THE END
PART 10A: ONCE FOR ALL

Good morning CVCHURCH! It's great to be with you today! Pastor Scott Wood asked me to give you an update. He's on medical leave healing from a painful digestive issue that's not life-threatening. He's working with specialists on a non-surgical treatment. Pray it works and that he's back with us soon. He misses all of you, loves all of you dearly, and appreciates the time we're giving him to heal so that he can return. Until then, I'll continue teaching through Hebrews, verse by verse, until our Christmas series in December. Today, we'll start Hebrews Chapter 10 and next week, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we'll finish Chapter 10. There are only 13 chapters in Hebrews, so we're in the home stretch of our series entitled **PERSEVERE, HOLD ON, BELIEVE TILL THE END**. If you're with us for the first time here on-site or online, I'll catch you up with a summary of my teaching last week that I called "The Eternal Sacrifice". We learned about Jesus' shed blood that He willingly gave as a sacrifice of Himself for us on the cross. His own blood sacrifice unlocked His entry into Father God's presence in Heaven to present Himself to Father God as the final sacrifice to end the system of sacrifices. Jesus completed the old system that started with Moses cleansing with the blood of animals and entering God's presence on Mount Sinai, that continued every year with the Old Testament Levitical high priests also cleansing using the blood of animals to enter God's presence inside the tabernacle, the tent where God's presence lived among the ancient Israelites. Jesus completes that old system by presenting His blood sacrifice once for all—for all time and for all people who receive His sacrifice on their behalf by faith. If you missed any of that teaching, go to our **website cvchurch.com**, our **YouTube channel** or our **Facebook page** both are **@cvchurchla**. I'm hearing from many of you who are sharing the video links with friends and applying the Sunday teaching to your lives in our small groups that meet throughout the week. You're accessing the scripts & notes and taking them into your small group gatherings to apply them in order to grow in your relationship with Jesus and with others in your church family. Before we read today's passage, let's re-focus on Jesus. Let's pray: *"Jesus, I seek Your transformation today. Thank You for offering Yourself as the perfect sacrifice to Father God. Help me understand the truth of Your Word, Lord. I surrender to the totality of Your sacrifice for me. Open my heart and mind to Your Word. Transform me today, Jesus. In Your mighty, worthy Name, AMEN."*

Follow along in your notes as I read the 1st of our 3 sections for today, Hebrews Chapter 10, verses 1-5. As I read, ask yourself: **"How can I apply, to my life today, the finality and totality of Jesus' sacrifice for me?"** This will allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us about persevering, holding on, believing till the end. Follow along with **Hebrews 10:1-5 – Christ's Sacrifice Once for All – ¹THE OLD SYSTEM UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES WAS ONLY A SHADOW, A DIM PREVIEW OF THE GOOD THINGS TO COME, NOT THE GOOD THINGS THEMSELVES. THE SACRIFICES UNDER THAT SYSTEM WERE REPEATED AGAIN AND AGAIN, YEAR AFTER YEAR, BUT THEY WERE NEVER ABLE TO PROVIDE PERFECT CLEANSING FOR THOSE WHO CAME TO WORSHIP. ²IF THEY COULD HAVE PROVIDED PERFECT CLEANSING,**

THE SACRIFICES WOULD HAVE STOPPED, FOR THE WORSHIPERS WOULD HAVE BEEN PURIFIED ONCE FOR ALL TIME, AND THEIR FEELINGS OF GUILT WOULD HAVE DISAPPEARED. ³BUT INSTEAD, THOSE SACRIFICES ACTUALLY REMINDED THEM OF THEIR SINS YEAR AFTER YEAR. ⁴FOR IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND GOATS TO TAKE AWAY SINS.” To persevere, hold on, and believe till the end, confess Jesus’ one sacrifice as the final and complete solution to your sin problem. Here’s the first fill-in in your notes: **I. The OLD solution to my sin is INSUFFICIENT.** and, below that, part **A. Religious RITUALS can only REMIND me of my sin problem.** First, let’s define exactly what the term ‘sin problem’ means. It comes straight from Hebrews 10:4 we just read: **“For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. In other words, my sin problem is my human tendency to fall short of God’s perfect standard.”** When I do this, I feel guilty. My conscience is stirred that I have done something I know is wrong. That awareness of right and wrong comes from God. No matter what I do, I cannot live a life without sin. I cannot live more than a few hours without failure in some area of my life. Think through the aspects of your life, we call this acronym **SERFVIPPS: spiritual, emotional, relational, financial, vocational, intellectual, physical, political, sexual.** My ‘sin problem’ is my awareness that I cannot fix my own flaws, foibles, or failures. The Hebrew word for ‘sin’ literally means to ‘miss the mark’ or ‘miss the target’ as if I were shooting an arrow at a bullseye. Sin is not just my isolated acts of wrong but my overall failure to live up to God’s expectations. Because I sin, or miss the mark, I am a sinner. I am someone who misses the mark. Before I chose to accept Jesus as my solution to my sin problem, my sins piled up so high that they weighed me down. My conscience was so heavy that I acted out in all sorts of ways. I used success and money as a way to rationalize to myself that I was ‘a good person’, which didn’t work. My conscience was still not clean. Then I used all sorts of addictions and compulsive behaviors to shut off and numb my conscience, but that didn’t work either. Without even knowing it, I was living under the old solution for sin. I was using external, material, physical things to solve an internal problem. Those behaviors and mental rationalizations became like a religious ritual, and they only served to remind me how big my sin problem was. This is what was happening in ancient Israel under the Old Testament solution for sin. As we’ve been covering throughout this series, the preacher of Hebrews is masterful in showing us the transition from the old system of cleansing to the new, revealing how Jesus fulfills and surpasses every aspect of the old. The preacher of Hebrews starts this section comparing the annual repetition of the animal sacrifices under the old system (old covenant, old promises) to Jesus’ new system, His once-for-all solution to sin under His new covenant (new promises). To comprehend fully the ‘new system’ described here, the new way of cleansing that Jesus pioneers for us, we must go back in time to the ‘old system’, the old ways of cleansing under the Old Covenant found in the Bible’s Old Testament. The ‘old system’, the Old Covenant, in summary, promised that if the Israelites obeyed Father God and worshipped Him alone, He promised blessings; if they didn’t, He promised consequences. In other words, if they didn’t sin, He would bless them, but whenever they failed, or sinned, the sins carried consequences. **[Show the High Priest Graphic]** We’ve looked at this image for weeks now, but now I want you to see it through the lens of sin. The old system of cleansing called priests, specifically the lead priest, the high priest, to cleanse himself and the people. After making animal

sacrifices for himself and the people, the high priest brought the blood from the sacrifice to the Ark of the Covenant that held the sacred Ten Commandments guarded by the presence of God Himself. The high priest sprinkled the blood on God's 'throne' atop the Ark to make atonement for (to pay for, to reconcile, to cleanse) his own sins and the people's sins for that year. I want us to focus today on the cleansing of sins, meaning that the blood that the high priest sprinkled on the Ark in this image **CLEANSED SINS**—removed them—which made the high priest pure enough to enter God's presence. Sins, our human sinful flesh, cannot come into God's presence without cleansing. The animal blood sacrifice temporarily wiped away the sins of the high priest, granting him access to our holy God. The blood made his unholy flesh holy and able to relate to Holy God—but only for one day, the Day of Atonement ceremony. After that, he had to stay outside of God's presence. The rituals under the old covenant, the old system of cleansing, were insufficient because they had to be repeated year after year, making the high priest and the people ceremonially clean on the outside but still weighed down inside by their sin. The rituals could never provide perfect cleansing inside and out. They served as a reminder of sin, not a solution. They made the people keenly aware that they were hopeless sinners in need of a savior, but the high priest was not their savior. The high priest symbolically points them to their savior, Jesus! The next fill-in, part **B. Rituals cannot CLEANSE or transform my CONSCIENCE**. The old system of cleansing can only remind me of my sins, it can never remove them. Religious activity and rituals are insufficient to solve my sin problem. They only show me how powerless I am over my tendency to sin and how much I need Jesus to rescue me. American professor Craig Koester elaborates: **"First, sin constitutes one barrier to the fulfillment of God's designs for people. Hebrews argues that the Law did not bring God's purposes to completion. The Law established the Levitical priesthood and prescribed sacrifices that cleansed the flesh, but it did not bring the conscience to completion. Instead of removing sin from the conscience, its repetitive sacrifices actually brought sin to consciousness, reinforcing the sense of separation from God rather than bringing about a complete relationship with God. Hebrews will speak of completion as a present reality for those whose consciences have been cleansed by Christ's self-offering."** Are you like I was, stuck in a cycle of success, performance, achievement, anything external in order to rationalize that you're a good person to quiet your guilty conscience? Jesus wants to be your rest. He wants to be your Prince of Peace. He wants to cleanse you. Are you like I was, trying to numb and shut off your conscience through addictions or compulsive behaviors? It's not working, is it? It didn't work for ancient Israel, and it doesn't work for us. If you are a follower of Jesus and still struggling with stubborn sins, behaviors you cannot seem to change no matter what you try, I have a place for you: **Celebrate Recovery, Fridays 7pm**. We bring our hurts, habits, and hangups to Jesus, systematically admit how we're living under the old system and powerless to fix it, and together we receive His cleansing. If you are interested, write CR on your friends card or email info@cvchurch.com.

Flip back to the 2nd section for today and follow along as I read **Hebrews 10:5-10**:
"⁵That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer. ⁶You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin. ⁷Then I said,

‘Look, I have come to do your will, O God—as is written about me in the Scriptures.’⁸First, Christ said, ‘You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them’ (though they are required by the law of Moses).⁹Then he said, ‘Look, I have come to do your will.’ He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect.¹⁰For God’s will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.” Here’s the next two fill-ins: **II. Jesus OFFERS a new SOLUTION to my sin** and below that, part **A. Jesus gave his BODY in obedience to God’s WILL**. To understand this section, we must examine the Old Testament passage that the preacher of Hebrews quotes. It’s Psalm 40:6-8 in which Israel’s hero, King David, gives thanks to God for saving him from his enemies. David is a key figure to Jews and Christians. **[Show the King David Graphic]** He’s revered as a heroic king, a fierce warrior, a sensitive poet, and a humble prophet, and the original Jewish Christian audience of Hebrews would’ve understood how David illustrates a complex relationship with God through David’s intense devotion to God despite David’s significant sins. He models both repentance before God and the boldness of receiving forgiveness from God. Many of our modern worship songs are adaptations of David’s Psalms. He’s a prophetic forerunner and ancestor of Jesus. For the original audience of Hebrews, the preacher quoting David personified obeying God from the heart rather than following rituals. In this Psalm, David also declares that God has given him an open ear to hear His Word. Listen to **Psalm 40:6-8** **“6YOU TAKE NO DELIGHT IN SACRIFICES OR OFFERINGS. NOW THAT YOU HAVE MADE ME LISTEN, I FINALLY UNDERSTAND—YOU DON’T REQUIRE BURNT OFFERINGS OR SIN OFFERINGS. 7THEN I SAID, “LOOK, I HAVE COME. AS IS WRITTEN ABOUT ME IN THE SCRIPTURES: 8I TAKE JOY IN DOING YOUR WILL, MY GOD, FOR YOUR INSTRUCTIONS ARE WRITTEN ON MY HEART.”** The preacher of Hebrews quotes this Psalm but changes it into a statement made by Jesus upon His incarnation, His becoming human and putting on flesh like us. In other words, Jesus is speaking to us prophetically through King David roughly 1000 years before Jesus is born! Jesus is saying to us, “I fulfill God’s Will.” The preacher of Hebrews re-interprets this Psalm to mean that Father God desires obedience to His will over animal sacrifices and that Jesus offers a new solution to my sin. The old sacrificial system is insufficient to address the roots of my sin, so God prepared a body for Jesus to offer. Jesus’ sacrifice of his body through his life and death on the cross fulfills what God desired from the beginning as His final solution to my sin problem. Our next fill-in: part **B. His flesh SACRIFICE makes us HOLY once for all**. Holy simply means pure, clean, undefiled, set apart for God. The animal sacrifices prescribed by the old system do not and cannot satisfy our need for cleansing of our hearts and minds. Where do you need cleansing? Accepting Jesus’ offering of His body makes you pure, holy. Do you rely on ritual, religion, or repetition? That’s the old system. Jesus came to free you from that. He fulfills the will of Father God by finishing the old and launching the new, final system. His body offered once for all time and for all people—for you. You can accept his gift, today.

Our 3rd and final section for today: Flip back and follow along as I read **Hebrews 10:11-18: 11UNDER THE OLD COVENANT, THE PRIEST STANDS AND MINISTERS BEFORE THE ALTAR DAY AFTER DAY, OFFERING THE SAME SACRIFICES**

AGAIN AND AGAIN, WHICH CAN NEVER TAKE AWAY SINS. ¹²BUT OUR HIGH PRIEST OFFERED HIMSELF TO GOD AS A SINGLE SACRIFICE FOR SINS, GOOD FOR ALL TIME. THEN HE SAT DOWN IN THE PLACE OF HONOR AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND. ¹³THERE HE WAITS UNTIL HIS ENEMIES ARE HUMBLLED AND MADE A FOOTSTOOL UNDER HIS FEET. ¹⁴FOR BY THAT ONE OFFERING HE FOREVER MADE PERFECT THOSE WHO ARE BEING MADE HOLY. ¹⁵AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ALSO TESTIFIES THAT THIS IS SO. FOR HE SAYS, ¹⁶'THIS IS THE NEW COVENANT I WILL MAKE WITH MY PEOPLE ON THAT DAY, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS IN THEIR HEARTS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR MINDS.' ¹⁷THEN HE SAYS, 'I WILL NEVER AGAIN REMEMBER THEIR SINS AND LAWLESS DEEDS.' ¹⁸AND WHEN SINS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, THERE IS NO NEED TO OFFER ANY MORE SACRIFICES.

The next two fill-ins: **III. God's FORGIVENESS solves my sin PROBLEM.** and under that, part **A. Jesus SITS because His work is FINISHED.** Jesus' one, definitive sacrifice completes the repetitive animal sacrifices. The high priests stood in God's presence, indicating ongoing work, while Jesus sits, signifying the completion of His work. Jesus doesn't need to stand and offer repeated sacrifices because His sacrifice is perfect, once for all time and all people. Jesus sitting at God's right hand is not inactivity. He has entered God's rest, but this rest is the completion of the ritualistic work of the old system of cleansing, which He has finished. In His exalted position in Heaven, Jesus continues to intercede (to advocate, to pray) for us to come to God through Him. If you've never chosen to follow Jesus, He's praying for you to Father God right now that today would be the day your will would align with His. Have you ever chosen to align your will with Father God's, through Jesus? You can choose that today. We conclude with our last fill-in: part **B. His WILL is written in us and our sins are FORGOTTEN.** American professor George Guthrie closes us out: **"Christ's work is decisive, a final reckoning with sin by which participants in the new covenant are made perfect forever. There exists, no longer, a need to work out a way to God. It is finished. The forgiveness one experiences under the new covenant has a finality to end all groping for the means, or the path, to God. The path lies before us, as firm and rock-solid as any reality, and more so than all earthly ones. This is truth on which one may build a life. This is why the author has led us here. The fluctuations in human existence may seem eased by running away from the difficulties of Christian commitment; yet, it is at the heart of Christian truth, the essence of the gospel, that a person can find real stability in life. Here we find answers to our inadequacies as we learn that it is not up to us to work out our ultimate purpose in this life. Here we find a solution for our nagging, debilitating guilt, that incessant accuser who whispers what we already know in our ear. Here, even in our journeying through this life, we find a place of permanence, a place of stability in which we will always be 'home,' for we find our rest in the presence of God Himself."** Where do you need rest? Where do you feel trapped? Do you want God to never again remember your sin? Receive Jesus' sacrifice and He will forgive you. Do you want His Will written inside you? Ask Jesus to forget your sins and He will. If you want this for yourself, please pray with me: *"Lord Jesus, thank You for being the final sacrifice for my sin. Thank You for doing what the old system couldn't. I accept Your offering for me. I believe that You see me as holy, perfected, and being made more in*

your image every day I spend with You. I confess my sin. I receive Your forgiveness and choose a new relationship with You. Help me live in Your finished work on the cross and share this good news wherever I go. In Your saving Name, Jesus, AMEN." If you prayed that for the first time, or as a recommitment, please let me know by filling out your friends card or coming to see me out back after service. I'll celebrate with you and give you resources to help you on your journey following Jesus. Here's Kathe to close.