

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
November 14, 2021

“No reminders for sins NOT remembered!”  
(Hebrews 10:16-18)  
LSB 801

By Rev. Ed Weber

“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
Today’s text for the 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost is from our Epistle reading, Hebrews 10:16-18.

**“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,’ then He adds, ‘Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.’ Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.”**

Here ends our text.  
Introduction:

How do you remind yourself to do something? You know, make sure that you pay a bill on time to avoid getting a late fee? Oh, I don’t worry about that, I set up automatic payments. How about making sure you remember an appointment with the doctor? Since Covid started, walk-ins have become a thing of the past, right. Everything is by appointment now. And the secretary for my chiropractor is quick to remind me that if you are 5 minutes late or don’t show up, you automatically will be charged \$50. So how do you remind yourself? Oh, I’ve got my smart phone to remind me a day before or a couple of hours before...however I want to set it up.

How about the dreaded “don’t forget to pick up a gallon of milk on the way home!”. How do you remind yourself to do that? Some people will write in it on the palm of one’s hand or tie a thread around one’s finger. Others might schedule a quick reminder in that smart phone or just reply, “call me in a couple of hours”.

You know, life has gotten a lot easier in a lot of ways with reoccurring payments, or shipments. Your phone will automatically fall back an hour in the fall like last week. Your barber or beautician automatically sends you texts and emails to remind you of your appointment.

I. The sacrifice for sin was made once and for all by the Messiah

God set up automatic reminders in the Old Testament, didn't He? God set up the sacrificial system of animals to remind His people that they owe Him. You owe Me for sins committed. The law requires a payment. And the payment had to be made in blood.

Listen, how chapter 10 of Hebrews from our epistle begins in verse 1.

**“For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.**

Now, God's goal is to make sinful man perfect. Could these sacrifices made year after year do that? NO! They were but a shadow of the good things to come! If an animal sacrifice actually once and for all made a sinner perfect, it begs the next question that Paul makes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse.

**“2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.”**

But obviously that wasn't the case, because the sacrifices of the animals continued year after year. So, Paul says in verse 3.

**3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.**

These sacrifices didn't purify the worshippers. What they did do is continually remind them of their sins. And, Paul tells us in plain simple terms in verse 4 that animal sacrifices didn't get the job done.

**4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”**  
And again, in verse 11 of our epistle we hear.

**“And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.”**

Ok, so where did that leave the Old Testament worshippers? Without hope? Oh, you know that God is full of mercy and compassion! He never leaves us sinful people without hope. Adam and Eve were promised in Genesis 3:15 that her Seed would crush the devil. Abraham was promised that **“In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 22:18)**

Who was this Seed that would bless all nations, not just the Jews, but also the Gentiles? God did not leave His people in the Old Testament without the hope of the coming Messiah, who’s one sacrifice would put an end to all sacrifice.

So, Paul continues in the very next verses of Hebrews 10 to quote from Psalm 40 the very promise of God.

**“Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:  
“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.”  
(Hebrews 10:5-6)**

God the Father was not appeased by the animal sacrifices. He didn’t desire them and had no pleasure in them. A human sacrifice for sin had to be made - a perfect human sacrifice whose blood had no limits of purifying every sinner ever born in this world. God Himself had to be the sacrifice. God Himself had to become a human. So, continues Psalm 40 that is quoted by Paul in our epistle of Hebrews 10 verse 7.

**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.’ ”**

Jesus Himself speaks! I come to do what no animal offering could do. I take on human flesh. A body is prepared for Me! We will celebrate Jesus’ birth again next month! He came to do God’s will perfectly where all of us have failed.

Listen to Jesus speak to the Old Testament people and to us in Psalm 40 verse 8.

**“I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart.”**

God’s holy will filled Jesus’ entire being. He was perfectly obedient and was the perfect sacrifice for sin with His passion, suffering and death. This perfect obedient

will of Jesus is so important that Paul repeats it again in verses 9 and 10 of our epistle.

**“Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”**

Once and for all. There is no longer a need for animal sacrifices. God took no pleasure in them. And your sacrifices, your best works, your greatest offerings cannot take away your sins. For they are imperfect and our sins are great.

But we have been sanctified, made holy, set apart only by the offering of Jesus Christ on the cross. In Christ alone - by grace alone - , and this great work is given by faith alone. Listen to our text again.

II. The sacrifice for sin is written on believers' hearts by faith in the Messiah

**“This is the testament 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 testament - it is all God's doing. It is His gracious hand that writes His laws, His word, into our hearts through the faith that He creates. Diatheke, in the Greek, is the word God uses for testament here. What does God write into our hearts and minds? The Gospel! The Good News that your sins are forgiven!

**‘Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.’** Says our text. So complete is the universal atonement for the sins of the world that God uses two words to describe our iniquities – sins and lawless deeds.

And He says, the most beautiful words ever heard by a sinner's ear – your ear and mine... **“I will remember no more!”**

Gone! Absolved! Forgotten! God does not remind us of sins absolved for they do not exist anymore! So, why would you torment yourself with your past sins? Christ already paid for them! When you look back at your sinful deeds, quickly look again at Jesus on the cross. Quickly think on this Bible passage. **“I will remember no more!”**

Quickly remember your baptism where your sins were washed away and the righteousness of Christ was given to you. So says verse 22 of our epistle.

**“let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”**

And quickly read Psalm 40:9-10 and hear the Messiah Himself says these words.

**“I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly;  
Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, You Yourself know.  
10 I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart;  
I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation;  
I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth  
From the great assembly.”**

Through His prophets, apostles and Jesus Himself He has declared to you His righteousness. Quickly remember all of God’s love that He has declared to you in His word.

Quickly come to the Lord’s Supper and receive the very body that was prepared for the once and for all sacrifice of sin. Eat Christ’s body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of your sins!

Quickly, do not forsake the assembly of God’s people for there is where you receive this Supper. Quickly encourage others who are not present says Paul in our epistle.

**“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”**

We all need to be strengthened as we await THE DAY. No further description is needed for we all know what that day is when Christ returns!

So, quickly be strengthened in your faith to know His promises, His testaments through His word and sung in hymns.

What a joy it is to sing our hymn of the day with these beautiful words from the hymn “How Great Thou Art”.

*“But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin;”*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

To me....God has written this great Gospel on your heart! So now your heart sings it and can scarce take it in. Your heart sings that “It is finished”.

**“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.”**

God sees you now perfect in Christ. When He looks at you, He doesn't remember your sins only Christ's remission of your sins.

**“Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.”**

It's done. It's yours and it's for all people. This we remember. So also says Psalm 40.

**“Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works  
Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us  
Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them,  
They are more than can be numbered.”**

Amen.

**The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)**