



“But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin” Hebrews 10:12, 18.

Christ is victorious, conquering our enemies, sin, and death forever! His enemies will be made His footstool and forgiveness is ours because no further sacrifice is necessary. Christ has made the One Perfect Sacrifice for our sin and we belong to Him by Grace! These verses from Hebrews chapter 10 are in the Epistle Reading for the 25th Sunday after Pentecost, Series B, in the three-year lectionary. The reading for this Sunday of the church year points to life everlasting through the accomplishment of Christ in His death and resurrection.

Human nature being what it is, that is, original sin, seeks a human solution to this problem to please God. Our human nature does everything from hiding from God in shame for sin, (our first parents, Adam & Eve hid from God), to inventing ways to please God and earn His favor through some sort of merit or worthiness imagined by the sinful human condition to be pleasing to God. Scripture, makes clear, however, **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...” Romans 3:23.** This verse is pure law. The Law shows us our sin, who we are as sinners, that we fall short of the glory of God that we are unable to free ourselves from sin. The Law of God is answered by His Gospel (Good News in Christ) as the next verses state to our comfort. **“And are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith” Romans 3:24-25a.** To “redeem” means to buy back, while “propitiation” means to satisfy or turn away God’s anger against sin (2017 Catechism page 397).

The book of Hebrews is written to encourage believers in time of trial. This is done by the sacred writer who is inspired by the Holy Spirit, to write the words given to us today in this letter of God to us to show us the absolute supremacy and all-sufficient sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our Savior in His death and resurrection to give us forgiveness, life, and salvation. The Epistle Readings for Series B gives comfort as the end of the Church year draws attention to the end of the world and the return of Christ. While the end of the church year as it focuses on the end of the world can make us apprehensive and sad, it is a time of joy as Christ our Savior comes to take us, that is, all believers with Himself forever!

We look around at our world today and see the signs, lawlessness, selfishness, arrogance, the form of godliness yet without trust in God, the list goes on. We might worry about the future; we fear things will not be the same as it was when we were growing up. We especially fear for the future of our children as Christianity comes under increasing persecution.

The good news of Hebrews is Christ the Great High Priest, who Himself is the sacrifice for our sin and does so once and for all! Hebrews points to Christ who goes to the cross, suffers, dies, is buried but rises again in triumph. God accepts the sacrifice of Christ indicated by the resurrection. Now, after Christ has offered for all time a single sacrifice for sin, He sits down at the right hand of God. This image of “sitting” indicates the work of salvation is complete. The Epistle Reading for the 25th Sunday after Pentecost begins by speaking about the Old Testament priests “standing” daily in service offering sacrifices which could never take away sins, **Hebrews 10:11.** Standing indicates the work is never done; but Christ “sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty” showing the work of His sacrifice for sin is complete and gives great benefits to believers. Jesus is victorious and will judge all His enemies, indicated by the enemies becoming His footstool. The forgiveness offered through the sacrifice of Christ is an accomplished fact forever given in the Word!

What great comfort we have even in our times of trial and temptation. Jesus our Great High Priest sits at the Right Hand of God showing His work of Redemption for us is complete through His sacrifice offered once that we have forgiveness of sins and will spend eternity with Him!

In Christ,
Pastor Ahrendt