

SERMON: THE FINAL VERSION

Hebrews 7:24-27; Hebrews 9:12

(24) But this Man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. (25) Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. (26) For such a High Priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; (27) Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's sin: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself.

(9:12) Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Introduction

We live in a world where we expect constant updates and upgrades to our technological devices. Sometimes these updates or upgrades correct problems, sometimes they add new features and functions, and sometimes they are motivated by the need to sustain or to increase company revenue. Sometimes the support for earlier versions is no longer provided by the vendor and we have no choice but to purchase a newer version or the latest version. This is called "forced migration."

Updates and upgrades are great but let's be honest: Sometimes they get on our last nerve. What used to be at the top-left corner of the screen is now at the bottom-right corner, and sometimes it is on an entirely different screen. Wouldn't it be great, if there were no more upgrades to your iPhone, Android, Windows, or Zoom software? Even the "early adapters" and trendsetters who love the challenge of keeping up with the latest products, updates, and upgrades can get weary when the changes come too frequently and become too expensive to purchase.

I will go even further. Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could go to the barber shop one time and never have to go back again? Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could go to the beauty parlor and never have to go back again? I know I will get an Amen with this question: wouldn't it be great to go to the dentist one time and never have to go back

again? I have one more: Wouldn't it be great to take one flu shot and never have to take another one again-never?

When Jesus shed His blood on the cross of Calvary, He became the final version of sacrifice for sin. He covered past, present, and future sins for those of us who have accepted Him as Lord and Savior.

Apostle Paul, the human writer of Hebrews, makes this clear. He is writing to his Jewish brothers and sisters who are "sitting on the fence" and deciding whether to accept Jesus as the true Messiah. They were at the finish line, but had not crossed the line. They were at the altar, but had not said, "I do." They were at the closing table, but had not signed the legal documents.

To make the decision more difficult, they were told with Jesus there was no need for any more animal sacrifices. To a Jew of that era that was preposterous. They had trouble wrapping their heads and their hearts around this spiritual concept. To add to the theological difficulty, Jesus was both the sacrificial victim and the high priest officiating the sacrificial ritual.

Paul makes it clear that Jesus was the final version of the sacrificial victim. There was no need to look for another or to continue animal sacrifice. They could not lose their salvation once acquired, but they could lose the opportunity to "get saved." I will reiterate and emphasize some of the points that have already come out in this introduction.

Exposition

1. Jesus Is The Final Version.

(He is Alpha and Omega.)

2. Jesus Is The Best Possible Version.

(True Perfection Can Not Be Improved.)

3. Jesus Saves To The Uttermost.

(The Quality And The Quantity Is Unequaled.)

Closing Thoughts

With the self-sacrifice of Jesus, we moved from imperfection to perfection. We moved from the insufficient to the super-sufficient. We moved from the repetitive to the enduring. We moved from the provisional to the permanent. His sacrifice qualifies

believers for heaven. Jesus did the hard work; all we have to do is believe in Him and obey His Word. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

Related Scriptures

Hebrew 10:10

End Note

Some theologians assert that Paul did not pen the book of Hebrews. They make this claim partially because they say the writing style is different from the other books attributed to Paul. Hebrews is more of a theological treatise than a letter. So, of course the style would be different. Many great literary authors write in several styles. Many composers are very eclectic in their music. I give Paul credit. He followed the adage: know your audience and read the room. He was communicating with his Jewish brothers and sisters. He wrote in terms they would easily understand. He used numerous references to the Old Testament with which they were familiar. In chapter seven, he references nine Old Testament passages. In chapter nine, he references nineteen Old Testament passages and in the tenth chapter, he quotes the Old Testament sixteen times. Personally, I am convinced that Paul penned this book and we can learn much from his presentation and writing skills: he knew his audience and he read the room. He was more concerned about expressing than with impressing.

Copyright © 2024 by James C. Ward
All Rights Reserved