

Hebrews 10:1-18 *“The Law in the heart through Christ”*

Intro: There are many who reject the continued role of God’s moral law in the life of the believer on the one hand; and, yet others who see a role but obscure the gospel in their law application. How does Christ in the knowledge of the gospel empower our obedience to God’s moral law? What relationship is there between our practical ongoing sanctification and our positional sanctification once for all in Christ? How does Christ reign in the heart against the power of sin through faith?

- 1) Sin hinders our relationship and fellowship with God because the guilt and fear of death under God’s wrath keeps us from approaching Him. The Mosaic sacrifices enacted a tutorial unto grace but could not deliver once for all from the guilt and fear of death. Romans 2:14-15, Gal.3:22-25
- 2) The power of sin to kill, terrorize, and shame comes from our guilt before God under His righteous judgment/law. As long as God is not satisfied against our sin debt and holds us captive to condemnation, we cannot relate to Him in love and worship because our conscience is stricken by terror and hatred of the God who judges the sin that we love. 1 Cor.15:55-56, Romans 7:5
- 3) The Mosaic sacrifices needed daily and yearly repetition because they could not make perfect the worshipper, namely, perfect to approach and worship without the burden of sin’s guilt, death, and condemnation. Perfection in worship entails approaching God in the knowledge/conscience that He no longer condemns our sin because His wrath has already been satisfied/propitiated. The Mosaic sacrifices continued to highlight both, our sin as well as God’s promise to expiate/remove it from His sight for sinners to approach in confidence. V.1-4
- 4) Christ Jesus is the substance of the promise to remove sin from God’s sight and thus satisfy, appease, propitiate God’s wrath against sinners. Christ is the second/last Adam that in fulfilling the will of God according to the law (the first) establishes/inaugurates a second covenant as promised to Abraham for the blessedness of sanctification/purification for God’s people to approach and worship God in confidence. All blessedness of purification/sanctification before God lies with Christ in whose pure will, obedience, and sacrifice we are declared sanctified/pure before God through faith alone even though we are not in ourselves because sin is still present with us. Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:10-12, 16-18, 4:14-16
- 5) Perfection for the worshipper entails an objective reality that delivers a subjective state of blessedness/salvation. The objective (outside of us) is the content/substance of the gospel message in Christ’s person and work whereby God reconciles the world to himself, meaning God provides Himself in Christ as satisfied/propitiated/favorable to all sinners/the world. The subjective (in us) is that we are called to reconcile ourselves to God by trusting/believing such provision and thus receive all the benefits/fruits of Christ’s objective (outside of us) person and work. Hebrews 2:8-9, 3:1-6, 4:1-3, 6:13-15, 9:11-15

Reflection: What is the object of my faith as a Christian? What is the power of sin? What Has God accomplished objectively in Christ to deal with my enemies? What benefits/blessings have I found through faith in Christ? Have I found peace in Christ through His righteousness and sacrifice to serve and worship God freely and glad-hearted? Have I begun to delight and desire God’s moral law as the path for my life as a reconciled child of God?

