

STAY THE COURSE

The writer of Hebrews in *10:11-18* presents the contrast between the sacrifice of Jesus and the animal sacrifices offered by the priests.

The sacrifice of Jesus was made once and **is** effective forever, never to be repeated. His sacrifice reveals the revelation of God's love for us and it was the perfect offering of obedience.

Jesus' life is incomplete without His death; His death is incomplete without His resurrection; His resurrection is incomplete without His return to glory to sit at the right hand of God.

In *Hebrews 10:19-22*, the writer to the Hebrews reveals two things about Jesus.

i. Jesus is the living way to the presence of God.

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain (veil), that is, His body,

The ripping of Jesus' flesh revealed the fullness of God's love and opened up the way for mankind to have direct access to God.

ii. Jesus is the only person who can cleanse us from sin.

²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Only Jesus can cleanse us from the stain and effect of sin through the forgiveness of our sins resulting from the shedding of His blood at His sacrifice.

Then the writer to the Hebrews goes on to urge us to hold on to our newfound hope in Christ.

²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.

Let us never lose our grip on the promises of God and what Jesus has accomplished for us.

Life's circumstances have a tendency to veer us off course.

What is the key to not swerving off course?

To stand firm in Jesus, knowing that as we trust Him and apply His Word into our situation, He will help guide us and keep us on track.

...keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps His Word. Hebrew 10:23 (msg)

Then the writer to the Hebrews introduces the idea that not only do we need Jesus, but we also need others to stay on course.

24: And let us consider how we may spur one another...,

i. To spur on each other to live the Christian lifestyle.

We are to prod and to motivate one another so that together we make steady progress in our relationship with God.

We are to spur one another onto what? ...spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (24)

This is true community, being loved by others and giving love to others through good deeds. God never designed us to live life in isolation but in community.

ii. To meet and worship together.

25: Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,

Intentional community is deciding to put down roots.

Genuine loving relationships provide the care and support we all need to stay on course!

Ecclesiastes 4:12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

It is important for a Christ follower to put down their spiritual roots deep into a church family.

iii. To encourage one another.

25: Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Mutual encouragement is one way how God designed us to grow.

We need others – and others need us!

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Finally, the writer to the Hebrews says that our Christian duty to each other is all the more pressing because the time is short as he is thinking of the Return of Christ.

Jesus has made the way available for us to have direct access to God through His sacrifice. This is God's plan of redemption.

Once we received Christ as our Saviour, we together have the honour, privilege and responsibility to live life proclaiming this message of faith, hope and love to those far away from God.

Jesus' master project is the Church

The Church is a community of Christ- followers empowered by the Holy Spirit to participate in God's mission into the world with a sense of urgency.

BIG IDEA: The Church is the hope to the world as we **BE** Jesus to the world.