

**“BUT THIS MAN”**

Hebrews 10:11-18

**Intro:** As we all know, the purpose of the Lord's Supper is to remember our Lord, and especially His death. Some Christians sincerely think that to observe this Supper too often, even once a month, causes us to lose the real significance of it, and to treat it just like any other service of the church. But that is where our individual responsibility needs to be emphasized. Paul made it very clear that this is a service for which special preparation needs to be made. And so in the Corinthian passage where he discussed the Lord's Supper, he said, “And so let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup” (1 Cor. 11:28). Paul did not say that we are to examine ourselves and determine that for some reason we should not “eat of that bread, and drink of that cup,” but our self-examination (which, incidently should take place daily) should lead us to make right with the Lord whatever is wrong, and then participate with the church in the observance of the Lord's Supper.

But perhaps one thing our self-examination will do, will reveal to us that we have been observing the Lord's Supper without giving proper attention to the purpose of the Supper. The purpose is to focus attention on the death of our Lord. It is to cause us to think on those passages of Scripture (and there are many of them) which speak of the death of our Savior that we might enter into a fuller understanding of His sacrifice for our sins. So when we look at ourselves, and see that we have not been guilty of some scandalous sin, or maybe even some sin which is not so scandalous, we feel that we can go ahead to observe the Lord's Supper. But if this has been our idea, maybe we need to re-think that familiar passage in 1 Cor. 11. It may be that we have not been giving attention to the death of our Lord like He intended that we should when He instituted this Supper with the idea that His people would continue to observe it after He was gone, and until He returns again. Jerry Bridges has mentioned to us a number of times that we need to preach the Gospel to ourselves every day. There should not be a day in our lives that we do not turn our attention to Christ and His work on the Cross. We would still be lost and on our way to hell if it were not for Christ's death for us. If we were in a river drowning, and someone dove in the water, and rescued us, we would never forget them. We would probably think about them every day. The same would be true if a person risked his life to save us from a burning building. It would be impossible ever to feel that we had thanked that

person enough for the he, or she, had done for us.

Now those are ridiculous illustrations to compare with what the Lord did for us when He saved us from our sins. He not only risked His life; He gave His life. And He did not just die, but He died as a sacrifice for our sins. So terrible suffering was experienced by our Lord, more terrible than you and I will probably ever be able to understand. The Lord Jesus wants us to remember all of that. We have four historical accounts of the death of our Lord at the beginning of our New Testaments. We have many, many prophecies and types of His death in the OT. The message of the Cross is the one message that every person on the face of the earth at any given time in history, needs to hear! It is the message of all messages. Nothing surpasses this message in importance.

So we must not approach the Lord's Table with our minds on a lot of other things. We need to prepare ourselves in such a way that we come to the Lord's Table already thinking about what our Lord did to save us from our sins. And I know that I don't need to remind you that on the Cross He did a work for you and me that no one else could do for us. He did a work for us that we could never have done for ourselves. He is the One and only Savior. If He had not died for us, none of us would be saved. I hope that you will give serious consideration to what I am saying tonight, and that it will make a real difference in the way we come to observe this memorial Supper.

If you are reading your Bible on the schedule which we distribute each year, and are up-to-date, you finished reading Hebrews 11 today – or you will finish it before you go to sleep tonight. I want to call your attention to some very important words in Hebrews 10.

Hebrews was written for Hebrews, probably for Christian Jews living in the city of Jerusalem, the city where persecution against Christians was especially bad. Unsaved Jews considered Christians as traitors to their Jewish faith, and so they felt right about making life as difficult for Christians as they could possibly make it. We don't really know who wrote it, but we know that it was given by God. And it was written to strengthen the faith of those early Hebrew Christians by bringing together the prophecies and types of the Messiah in the OT with the work of Jesus of Nazareth, Whom these particular Jews had come to embrace by faith as their Messiah, their Lord, and their Savior. It is certainly one of the most important books of the whole Bible. Years ago when Dr. Sutcliffe and

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Dr. Mitchell and a few others were making plans for the Multnomah School of the Bible, they decided to expound thoroughly for the students the three books of the NT which they considered to be of special importance. And so for many years Dr. Mitchell taught the Gospel of John, the book of Romans, and the book of Hebrews.

As I was reading Hebrews this time, when I got to chapter 10, I was struck with the words at the beginning of verse 12, “But this man ...” It is not capitalized in the KJV, but it ought to be because it refers to the Lord Jesus Christ. The rest of the verse shows that.

I think that we who are Christians have some hesitation about speaking of our Lord as a Man. Unsaved people have trouble with the Deity of our Lord, believing that He was God. We have trouble thinking about Him as a Man. And yet He was a Man. He was the Son of God Who became a true human being. He was born like you and I were born. Mary was His mother. He did not have a human father, but He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless He was a real human being. He was born as a baby, was nursed at His mother’s breast, and in time He grew to adulthood. He got tired like we do. He needed food like we do. He wept like we often do. So the writer of the book of Hebrews was 100% accurate when he wrote of our Lord saying, “But this Man ...”

Now the words, “But this Man” was meant to indicate that He was being compared with some other man. Who was that other man? How can we tell? We can tell by reading the verses around verse 12. Let’s try the verse just before it, verse 11. What does it tell us? (Read Heb. 10:11). The other man is the OT priest who had to be of the family of Aaron.

Now we know that the priest was the man who represented the people of Israel to God. God made it clear that there were sacrifices that the priests were to offer for the sins of the people. Aaron offered those sacrifices. And so did his son, and then his grandson, and then his grandson on down to the time of Christ except when they were in exile. Millions upon millions of animals were sacrificed. But verse 11 tells us that they could “never take away sins.”

Read the first four verses of Hebrews 10.

But now what does verse 12 tell us about “this Man”? (Read Heb. 10:12; and then verses 14 through 18.)

Was it important for those OT sacrifices to be made? It was absolutely important. Well, if they did not take away sins, why were they offered? They were offered in faith that Someone would come toward Whom those sacrifices pointed Who would offer Himself as a perfect Sacrifice for sins. But all men are sinners, and the wages of sin is death, eternal death. So no man qualified to make the perfect sacrifice. That is why the writer of the book of Hebrews spoke about this Man. Jesus Christ the Creator was born into this world like any other human being, but being the Son of God there was one major difference between “this Man” and every other man who ever lived on this earth. He was a Perfect Man. He was not a sinner. He suffered the humiliation of becoming a Man so that He could die for sinful men. He did not deserve to die. He never sinned in thought or word or deed. He was incapable of sin. He was God the Son Who came to earth as a Man, “this Man,” different from all other men, to offer one perfect sacrifice that all who believe in Him might be saved.

So now, as the last verse in my text tells us, “there is no more offering for sin.” For those, beginning with Abel, who offered blood sacrifices for their sins, they were saved, not by killing that animal, but because in killing that sacrifice they were expressing their faith in a coming Redeemer. Christ, so to speak, by his death confirmed the faith of all who had offered sacrifices before in the hope of a coming Redeemer. Abel knew that there was only one way of salvation. He knew that before his father and mother were put out of the Garden of Eden, God Himself took the skins of animals, which He obviously had sacrificed, to make a covering from Adam and Eve. What a wonderful picture we have of salvation beginning with Genesis 3, and running all through OT times to the coming of the Son of God, made “this Man,” Whose death was anticipated by those animals slain in faith by God’s elect.

Tonight as we think of our Lord and His death on Calvary, think of what He had to endure in order to be “this Man” Whose death covered the sins of everyone who has ever been saved, or who will ever be saved from tonight on. It gives new meaning for us to John 3:16 when we think of the love that God had for us that would cause Him to send His own Son to save us because there was no other way.

May our observance of the Lord’s Supper tonight truly be “in remembrance” of Him.