

Will God Forgive me, or, Have I committed the “Unforgiveable Sin?”

Hebrews 10

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, [*and*] not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Not actually the good things, but only the shadow of them ... perfect their consciences.

Hebrews 10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

If the legal sacrifices secured complete forgiveness, they would not have been offered over and over.

Hebrews 10:3 But in those [*sacrifices there is*] a remembrance again [*made*] of sins every year.

Besides the daily, monthly, and individual sacrifices, there was repeated every year the Day of Atonement for the whole nation.

Hebrews 10:4 For [*it is*] not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

The blood of bulls and goats, the animals offered in the sacrifices, pointed forward to the perfect sacrifice the Lamb of God that thaketh away the sins of the world.

Hebrews 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

The clause “... when he cometh into the world ...” assumes the pre-existence of Christ Jesus. Cf: Gen. 1:1-3, John 1:1-14 & Hebrews 1:1-14.

Verse 5 is a quote from the Septuagint Greek Translation of the Old Testament. Since the sacrifices and offerings of the Jewish altar did not meet God's will, requiring the death of an innocent victim Christ's body would be His offering. The Masoretic Hebrew Text has a slightly different reading ...

Psalm 40:6-8 Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book [it is] written of me, 8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law [is] within my heart. (cf: Jeremiah 31:33)

Hebrews 10:6 In burnt offerings and [sacrifices] for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

God did not have pleasure in those type of sacrifices that is, they did not fully meet His will they were only a shadow of the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus.

Leviticus 1:17 And he shall cleave it with the wings thereof, [but] shall not divide [it] asunder: and the priest shall burn it upon the altar, upon the wood that [is] upon the fire: it [is] a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Leviticus 4:1 to 5:13

Hebrews 10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

The Psalmist represents Christ, who as the living Word of God comes simply to do the will of the Father and completely surrendered to His will.

Hebrews 10:8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and [offering] for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure [therein]; which are offered by the law;

The four types of Levitical sacrifices though required under the Law for Jews do not please God. They were just a reminder of the penalty of sin is death and they served as a type or a shadow of the perfect sacrifice to come the blood of Christ.

Hebrews 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

Hence he “taketh away the first,” the old covenant with its sacrifices, and establishes the “second”, the new covenant inaugurated by Christ Jesus’ perfect and complete submission to the will of God. (Prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31-35)

Hebrews 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [for all].

By this complete submission of Jesus, our sins are removed from us and we are counted as holy. The meaning of "sanctified" here is remission of all sin and set apart as holy and separate from the world ... and holy unto God..

Hebrews 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

Christ Jesus' priesthood is far superior to the Levitical priesthood. Christ offered His sacrifice "once for all," but Levitical priests offer daily their sacrifices.

Hebrews 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Jesus, "after . . . one sacrifice", himself on the cross, "sat down", which implies that he needed to make no more offering, "on the right hand of God;" Honored and exalted to God's own right hand forever.

Hebrews 10:13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

Waiting until every enemy is conquered and put into subjection to Him.

Hebrews 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

All Christ's brethren are sanctified; These are all whose sins are forgiven; all saints are sanctified; hence all Christians are called the "sanctified, the saints or in Greek the Holy ones".

Hebrews 2:11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified [*are*] all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Again look at verse 10:

Hebrews 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [*for all*].

1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [*to be*] saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Hebrews 10:15 [*Whereof*] the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

Hebrews 10:16 This [*is*] the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

It testifies that Christ perfects the sanctified. He spoke in Jeremiah the prophet.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [*that*] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: 33. But this [*shall be*] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

How do you know this is talking about the New Testament Church preacher? Well the Hebrew writer has already quoted it and said it was in Hebrews 8:10 ff.

Hebrews 8:10 For this [*is*] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Hebrews 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

It is thus God "perfects the sanctified," by forgiving and forgetting all our sins.

Hebrews 10:18 Now where remission of these [*is, there is*] no more offering for sin.

Hence, since there is complete remission, no more offering for sin is required.

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

It has now been shown that Christ has, as our high priest, opened the way into the holiest of all into heaven itself, therefore we who have followed Him by becoming Christians in the appointed way also have the assurance of heaven.

Hebrews 10:20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Christ is *THE way*.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

His rent body poured out the redeeming blood, and thus the veil before the holiest of all in the Temple was rent open that we might enter in.

Hebrews 10:21 And [*having*] an high priest over the house of God;

He is priest over the House of God, the church of Christ on earth, and our high priest in the Holiest of all above appearing in the presence of God for us.

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

The heart and spirit are cleansed by the blood of Christ and the body sanctified by washing in pure water at our baptism into Christ effecting the purification of the whole man cf: Galatians 3:27 & Romans 6:3-6.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of [*our*] faith without wavering; (for he [*is*] faithful that promised;)

The thought is, cling to the faith in Christ Jesus that you have professed and the hope with full assurance in your heart and soul without wavering.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Let each care for others and exhort others to love and to do good works both by word and example. Sometimes you are the only Bible people will ever read. We were giving away bologna sandwiches the other day and some homeless guys were shocked to see me eating the same thing I was handing out ...

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [*is*]; but exhorting [*one another*]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Today we want to watch the Cowboys or the Super Bowl or maybe we want to quickly get our star on the attendance roll so we can hurry up and beat the Baptist to the restaurant for lunch.

In those days there was times of persecution there was a great temptation to stay away from the church assemblies, and some had fallen into dangerous neglect.

There were signs that the Hebrew Christians could see that *the day* was near at hand. The destruction of Jerusalem and the very Temple we are talking about is close at hand ... Jesus had prophesied it would happen to that “generation” of Jews cf: Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21.

Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

If you willfully sin you can't go to the temple and offer a lamb in sacrifice for forgiveness.

Hebrews 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

If we are cut off from the hope of salvation by rejecting Christ, one has only judgment and punishment if we refuse to repent. If we sin God will discipline us and we have only a beating from God to look forward to or the final judgment coming.

Hebrews 12:5-8 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and

scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this will we do, if God permit. 4 For [it is] impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; *seeing* they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put [him] to an open shame.

Those meant here are not simple sinners or those “overtaken in a fault” or “backsliders” only, but men who were once Christian believers who not only turn away from Christ but go on to oppose Jesus.

Matthew 12: 22-37 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. 23 And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? 24 But when the Pharisees heard [it], they said, This [fellow] doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. 25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: 26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? 27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast [them] out? therefore they shall be your judges. 28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. 29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. 30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. 31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy [against] the [Holy] Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

What is this “blasphemy [against] the [Holy] Ghost?” What is the context ? Always stay with the context. According to the context this sin is: to be living then, to see Jesus heal or work a miracle and attribute the power of the healing or the miracle to the devil. A sin we cannot commit today ... because we cannot

behold Jesus Himself working signs and wonders because He is in heaven appearing in the presence of God for us and pleading for us with His blood if we will allow Him to ... Remember "... God is not willing that any should perish ... II Peter 3:9.

Matthew 12:32-37 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the [*world*] to come. 33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by [*his*] fruit. 34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Hebrews 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

He who wilfully rebelled against the law of Moses had no remission. When proved guilty by two or three witnesses his fate was death by stoning.

Numbers 15:30-36 But the soul that doeth [*ought*] presumptuously ...

Deuteronomy 13:6 "... If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which [*is*] as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers ..."

Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

How great is the sin of the apostate who will not repent? One who has rejected all the work, the words, the preaching, the pleadings of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 10:30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance [*belongeth*] unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

We know what God has said. He promises vengeance and judgment upon sinners who will not repent cf: Luke 13:1 ff.

Deuteronomy 32:35-36 To me [*belongeth*] vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in [*due*] time: for the day of their calamity [*is*] at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste. 36 For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that [*their*] power is gone, and [*there is*] none shut up, or left.

Hebrews 10:31 [*It is*] a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

A fearful thing for the sinner who has despised God's mercy.

Hebrews 10:32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

They had already endured persecution “in the former days” of persecution, after they were enlightened by the gospel. There was the persecutions of:

Acts 8: 1-4 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen [*to his burial*], and made great lamentation over him. 3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed [*them*] to prison. 4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

Acts 12:1-3 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth [*his*] hands to vex certain of the church. 2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

Hebrews 10:33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazing stock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

They were looked upon with reproach, abused and afflicted personally. “Companions ...”, they shared the suffering of those who were persecuted.

Hebrews 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

Let the student be aware that the KJV reading, "compassion of me in my bonds" this reading is supported by no less an authority than the Codex Sinaiticus, along with many other ancient manuscripts. As Westcott has noted this expression is found nowhere else in the New Testament except as a reference by Paul himself to his own imprisonment. This, of course, is another reason why many students are not convinced by scholarly fulminations and pontifications against the Pauline authorship of Hebrews.

In my opinion Hebrews was written by Paul from Rome while he was imprisoned there awaiting trial before Nero. Josephus tells us James the Lord's brother who was a leader of the Jerusalem Church was killed and martyred in 62 AD at the insistence of the Jewish High Priest. I would think this event brought on the occasion for Paul to write Hebrews and I would place the time of writing about 63 or 64 AD shortly before the fiery persecution of Christians by Nero broke out. Now, you can take my opinion and \$5 and ride on any DART bus in town but at the current rate of socialism and inflation it will surely be much more ...

They actively showed sympathy. "... took joyfully the spoiling of your goods ...", the losses made necessary by becoming Christians, "... knowing ..." knowing that if they lost on earth they would gain in heaven.

Hebrews 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

Some great period of trial was evidently being endured.

Hebrews 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Patience is an essential element of patient endurance.

Romans 5:3-5 And not only [sō], but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Hebrews 10:37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Christ will come, either in person or by his providence, in such a way as to bring relief. This is a frequent sense of oft-repeated allusions to the coming of the Lord found both in the Old Testament and New Testament.

Habakkuk, chapter 2

Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if [*any man*] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Those who continued to walk in the full assurance of faith shall live by faith.

Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul [*which*] is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

He who draws back through fear, or because of trial, in him God hath no pleasure.

Psalm 5:4 For thou [*art*] not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.

Hebrews 10:39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

The apostle has confidence that the Hebrew saints are of those who "shall live by faith" rather than those who draw back to perdition. He that draws back is lost.

Sources: KJV, theWord.com, B. W. Johnson's Peoples New Testament Commentary, Clarkes commentary and Coffman's Commentary.