

The Ineffectiveness of the Mosaic Law

Text: Hebrews 10:1-4

Date: 11-17-24

I. The sacrificial system could not destroy the barrier between God and man (10:1).

In the end, these thousands of sacrifices could not resolve the problem of sin. The sacrificial system could not bring believers into an intimate relationship with Jehovah.

Why was the old system not good enough?

- The old system was a shadow of what was to come and was inadequate to break down the barrier between God and man.
- The law with its sacrificial system simply pointed to the real Person that God would provide to resolve the sin problem: His Son Jesus Christ.

The law was never intended to be the very image or perfect likeness of what was to come through Jesus Christ. The sacrifices, offered every year, could never make perfect those who drew near to worship. The word *perfect* (Greek: *teleioo*) means to make complete; without defect or blemish.

Under the old system people could not *draw near to God* on account that their sins were not taken. The person's standing before God could never be made complete. Final righteousness could never be attained.

II. The sacrifices could not give freedom from sin and its guilt (10:2-3).

If the Jews would have been purged and cleansed by the sacrificial system (and then kept clean), they would have no longer had any more knowledge (and its byproduct of guilt) of their sin. But the Jews never felt free of guilt or from the condemnation of their sins.

So, what makes the old and new systems different? Underneath the old system the offeror was never free and always living under the weight of the bondage of sin and guilt until the next sacrifice. Underneath the new way Jesus Christ as an offering of Himself fully and finally paid for sin, its guilt, and its penalty. The perfect Lamb of God as our sacrifice paid with His life and blood for the complete removal of sin once for all. Even when a believer sins today, he or she knows that their sin has been paid in full. Thus a person can live free from guilt, free from slavery, and know that sins are continually being forgiven by Jesus Christ's finished work.

III. The sacrifices could not take away sin (10:4).