

## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These "Sermon Discussion Questions" are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. During the Spring in the South (at the height of pollen season), what does washing your car look like? Is there any place in your home that has remained clean or organized since you moved into your house or even since you set things right the day before?

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2. Read Hebrews 10:1-4. What affect did the Old Testament laws and sacrifices have on the Israelites? Why was important to the writer of Hebrews that his audience understand this (refer to the quotation by Richard Phillips)?

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3. Read Hebrews 10:5-10 and 1 Samuel 15:22. What is not the desire of the Father according to Jesus? In what does the Father delight? What did obedience mean for Jesus? What did Jesus' obedience accomplish?

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4. Read Hebrews 10:11-14. From the passage, how does the writer describe the impact of Jesus' sacrifice? How does this verse bring light to what it means to live as a Christian? In what way are Christian's perfect and imperfect? How is God making you more holy? What hope can you have from being perfect during your imperfections?

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5. Read Hebrews 10:15-17. What impact can assurance of forgiveness have on the heart and actions of the Christian? Are there folks in your life who clearly delight in obeying the Lord? What do you see in them? What is the attitude of your heart when you consider obeying God?

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"The ongoing sacrifices not only showed their own futility but dramatized the greater danger. They daily proclaimed, as every lamb and goat was slain, 'This is what will happen to you unless a better atonement can be found.' They were a reminder not only of sin and of failure, but of the judgment that must come as a result...in just that sense we must see the Old Testament as a question demanding an answer, a cry awaiting comfort..."  
- Richard Phillips

"Jesus abolishes the Levitical sacrifices in order that he might establish the will of God through the sacrifice of himself."  
- Peter Obrien

**Praise to Jesus** - Pause for a moment to consider how the Lord has sanctified you this past week, month and year. If this is hard to see, reach out to a close friend and ask them to help you see your growth. Think about what growth you have seen in your life since the Lord led you to himself. Praise the Lord that you have been pardoned and that your sins have been put away. Praise the Lord for the growth that you have seen and for the growth that will continue in your life because Jesus is daily perfecting your imperfections. Praise the Lord for gospel-fueled, heart-motivated obedience.

**Repentance through Jesus** - Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to repentance through Jesus. What old sins are you dragging up which you are empowering to cast a shadow of guilt? Confess this to this Lord and repent through Jesus by appropriating God's forgiveness.

Are there old sins of others which you are dragging up to maintain power over them? How does it help your heart to hold the sins of another against them? (Refer to Romans 8:1-2). Confess to the Lord and repent through Jesus. If possible, considering confessing this to the one as well.

**Consecration for Jesus** - Have you trusted in renewed efforts for morality or religious activities to help you deal with failure and sin? Did those activities release you from the guilt of sin? Give up trusting in renewed efforts and activity to deal with your sin. Consecrate yourself for Jesus by embracing his sacrificial obedience to forgive and fuel your life.

"We are today accepted in the Beloved, today absolved from sin, today acquitted at the bar of God... We are now pardoned; even now are our sins put away; even now we stand in the sight of God accepted, as though we had never been guilty...The joy of pardon has a voice louder than the voice of sin. God's voice speaking peace is the sweetest music an ear can hear."  
- Charles Spurgeon

"We tend to drag up our old sins and live under a vague sense of guilt...we are not nearly as vigorous in appropriating God's forgiveness as He is in extending it. Consequently, instead of living in the sunshine of God's forgiveness through Christ, we tend to live under an overcast sky of guilt most of the time."  
- Jerry Bridges

### FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

If you want to connect with our family ministries, contact Pastor Ken (kenc@fpcrome.org)

1. This passage once again draws on the image of the Old Covenant being a "shadow" of the reality brought by the New Covenant.
  - a. Ask your children if they know what a shadow is. See if you can make shadow hand puppets of animals on your wall. Ask your children if the shadows are the real animals or not.
  - b. Talk with your children about the point that the author of Hebrews is making about the sacrifices of the Old Covenant being shadows of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Hebrews 10:4 points out that the animal sacrifices were not able to take away sins, but Jesus' sacrifice was.
  
2. The author of Hebrews compares the repeated sacrifices of the Old Covenant with the once and for all sacrifice of Jesus (Hebrews 10:10,12). Talk with your children about how that shows the superiority of Jesus' sacrifice.
  - a. If your children are school age, then ask them to imagine if they had to take and retake a test every day they go to school. Then add that they will never get to complete that grade in school since they must keep retaking that test.
  - b. Now ask them to imagine them getting to take the test once and be done with it, then can move onto the next grade. Ask them which of these two examples they like better and ask them why.
  - c. The author goes further to describe Jesus' completed sacrifice by once again describing Jesus as having "sat at the right hand of God" (Hebrews 10:12). The author wants us to understand that there is nothing to add to Jesus' sacrificial death for our forgiveness and salvation.
  - d. Read Hebrews 10:18. Talk with your family about what that means for our Christian life that when we believe and trust in Jesus that we have nothing to add in order to be forgiven.
  - e. Ask your children about how our guaranteed forgiveness in Christ should motivate us to live for Christ.
  - f. Take time to praise God for the completed work of Jesus Christ and our forgiveness of sins.

Scriptures for further study:

John 1:29

Ephesians 4:32

## Big Idea

Since neither renewed efforts for morality or religious activity can adequately deal with today's failure and sin, best look to the sacrificial obedience of the Perfect One to forgive and fuel your life.

## Outline

Introduction: Old Testament Law & Sacrifices

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1. Jesus' Obedience

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2. Jesus' Sacrifice

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3. Gospel Fuel

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# "Gospel Fuel"

## Hebrews 10:1-18 ESV

**1** For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. **2** Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? **3** But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. **4** For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. **5** Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; **6** in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. **7** Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" **8** When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), **9** then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. **10** And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. **11** And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **12** But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, **13** waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. **14** For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. **15** And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, **16** "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," **17** then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." **18** Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

## Historical Context

Refer to Hebrews 10:1-4. God has always desired relationship and intimacy with His people. He desires for His people to draw near to Him. He desires to be a Father to them and for them to enjoy the glory of His presence forever. However, there is a problem: God and sin can't coexist.

The solution which God provided was the Old Testament law and the system of sacrifices. (For an introduction into the Old Testament law and sacrifices, refer to Deuteronomy 10-14.)

The author of Hebrews is explaining that Old Testament law and sacrifices could not deal adequately with the sin that existed with God's people. Therefore, those things were not the solution to His desire for forever fellowship.

## FOR STUDENTS

If you want to connect with our student ministries, contact Pastor Jimmy (jimmyl@fpcrome.org)

1. How does this passage better help you understand the relationship between the Old Testament and the New?
2. Through what covenant are we sanctified (progressively made set apart for God) (10:10)? How is the covenant made? How long will it last? How does this change your standing with God and affect your day-to-day routine?
3. How might this passage change the way you view the Lord's Supper?
4. How does this passage show Jesus as both lion and lamb? Do you think you have a balanced view of Jesus as both of those things?
5. What did Christ's offering accomplish (10:14)? What bears witness to the offering (10:15)?

*Selected questions borrowed and adapted from Hebrews for You by Michael J. Kruger and How Jesus Speaks into Everything by John D. Barry*

Scriptures for further study:

Psalms 5:4

1 Samuel 15:22

Hebrews 12:1

2 Corinthians 5:17

Philippians 1:6

Scriptures for further study:

Psalms 40

## FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

If you want to know more about Jesus and Christianity, contact Pastor Jonathan (jonathans@fpcrome.org)

1. The writer speaks of the OT law as merely a shadow of the good things that later came with Christ. Can you imagine settling for just the shadow of your loved one rather than being with your loved one in person? Can you imagine falling in love with the picture of your spouse instead of actually being with them? But this is what it is like when we settle for religious observances or rituals without actually having a real relationship with Christ. In what ways are you settling for something so much less than a true relationship with the Lord?

2. Sin not only makes us actually guilty before God (and deserving of punishment), but sin also leaves us feeling guilty in our conscience (verse 2). What an amazing gift Christ offers us: we are forgiven of our sins, and along with that we can have freedom of conscience. What a weight Christ has offered to take off of you! Would you desire this kind of freedom?

3. Verse 12 asserts that after sacrificing himself for our sins, Christ "sat down." This is a biblical way of saying that he finished his work. This whole passage makes clear that Christ has already done the work of saving you. Most religions are about what we must "do," but Christianity is all about what Christ has already "done." When you believe in Christ, you can know with assurance that you are completely saved, once and for all.

4. This passage makes clear that if you are a believer, then you "have been made holy" (verse 10), and you "have been made perfect" (verse 14) forever. Yours is a permanent position of holiness. But the Bible also speaks of your "being made holy" (verse 14), as if it were a progressive thing. Both truths are to be affirmed. As a believer, rest assured that you are already declared to be perfect and holy in God's eyes. We call this justification. And yet, God also calls us to a daily "walk" with him, growing in our faith, becoming more like God, and learning more and more how to obediently follow his will for our lives. We call this sanctification.

5. Sometimes we imagine it is just too hard to live a holy life and obey God's will. But notice what it says in verse 16: "I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." In other words, know that along with God giving you the command to obey him, he also gives you the inner power of new affections so that you have both the desire and the strength to do his will and to do what pleases him.

Like Christina. But even more so...we need something to fix our gaze upon...we need a home to pull us forward...and according to Hebrews, that is Jesus Christ...like the home on the hill in the painting, Jesus is the pinnacle of God's plan of redemption...so considering this painting and background, here these words afresh from Hebrews chapter 12, verses 1-2:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

And so, church, let's begin this journey in Hebrews together...which is not disconnected from our humanity and our struggles...for we to live in Christina's world...a world of suffering, pain, and hardship...but we are in a relationship with the savior, Jesus, who has overcome the world...and because of His supremacy, calls us to fix our eyes on Him in order that we might persevere in faith. -Tremper Longman, EBC, 23-25

## About the artwork

Andrew Wyeth is perhaps the most famous American artist of the 20th century. He, along with John Singer Sargent, are the only two American artists invited into the Academy of Fine Art in Paris, France. President Kennedy awarded Wyeth the presidential medal of freedom, the only visual artist to receive such an award. He was also awarded presidential medals from George H Bush and George W Bush.

His art is connected to his humanity. He was a man that experienced loss and grief in this broken and fallen world and often expressed his pain in visual form through art.

His most famous work, and the one that best expresses his struggle with pain and grief, is a painting called Christina's World (1948). Christina is a friend of Wyeth and had a disease that left her unable to walk. Instead of choosing a wheelchair, she preferred to crawl using her arms. The painting is a picture of her struggle...but it is also a picture of her hope...in the painting her hands are gripped to the ground portraying her daily suffering, yet her body is leaning towards the farmhouse, which was her home. Life was a struggle, but her gaze and hope were on her home, which kept her moving forward and not giving up.

The book of Hebrews has a very similar theme...the writer expresses the hope and gaze of home in the person and work of Jesus Christ...the struggle to give up or turn back was very real for the audience...most scholars believe the original audience was Jewish Christians who were facing persecution...it would have been a struggle for them to keep moving forward in the profession of Jesus Christ because with that profession came pain and hardship.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES



## What is Pulpit Driven Discipleship?

Discipleship from the pulpit to communities therein pressed into the head, heart and hands of image bearers of God every day.

**Pulpit Driven Discipleship** is the name of a process of discipleship. Discipleship begins on Sunday with the sermon faithfully preached by our pastors then the message of sermon is digested and pressed into the heart throughout the week through prayer reflection and discussion in the home or in smaller discussion groups. It is in this context that life transformation and growth occur.

The pastoral leadership team and the Adult Discipleship Ministry Team are excited to walk together through the Book of Hebrews. Please prayerfully consider incorporating PDD as your primary means of discipleship. We believe that PDD is appropriate for individuals, couples, families, and groups of all kinds. This great resource can be found in the bulletin on Sunday, and will be available on-line and via email each week.

Director of Adult Discipleship Rob Davis welcomes discussion, questions, and comments of all kinds. Rob Davis 706-252-5216, RobD@fpcrome.org

## PULPIT DRIVEN DISCIPLESHIP



*Andrew Wyeth, Christina's World, 1948 ;*

## **Perseverance by Promise** ***A Study of the Sermon to the Hebrews***

**May 15, 2022**  
**Hebrews 10:1-18 ESV**