



## **GUILTY NO MORE**

### **Hebrews 10:1-18.**

The overall theme of the book of Hebrews is that Jesus is better – better than the various symbols and sacrifices of the Levitical code; better than Moses and Aaron – prophets of the past; superior to the angels and the only

One who can secure eternal forgiveness of our sins and eternal salvation.

This morning I would like to focus on 3 points from our Scripture.

**First** – Verse 2 says that the worshippers' guilt did not disappear under the Old Covenant.

**Second** – Verse 12 tells us that after His once for all sacrifice, Jesus sat down at the right hand of God.

**Third** - Verse 17 tells us that God will remember our sins and our lawless deeds no more.

#### **Verse 2 - Guilt:**

Have you ever experienced a situation where a sin you committed remains in your heart and mind, even though you have sought forgiveness from God? Something is preventing you from accepting God's forgiveness or maybe someone in your life keeps reminding you of a past sin and this challenges your belief in God's grace and results in you re-experiencing guilt.

Feelings of guilt, shame and self-contempt pose the greatest threat to a joyful Christian experience. It prevents an intimacy in our relationship with God and we constantly remember any moral failures in our past and the darkness of shame that so often accompanies it.

Even those who operate on secular principles and a humanistic framework for understanding human nature, with no belief in Jesus, agree that one of the most severely debilitating problems that anyone can face is guilt.

Today's reading tells us that, even though there was an annual Day of Atonement with blood sacrifices from animals, the people continued to feel guilty – it was like an annual get together to re-experience and remember their sins.

You may wonder why God commanded these sacrifices in the first place. God desired obedience and a right heart, not empty compliance with this sacrificial system, however this was God's way of preparing the people for the new and living way to please Him through Christ – the new covenant.

This was an act which pointed to Christ's once and for all superior sacrifice. They needed a permanent, powerful and sin-destroying forgiveness that only could come in the future – through Christ.

This does not mean that God has done away with moral laws – the 10 commandments, it means that when we accept Christ's blood sacrifice for us, we still can fulfill the moral laws as we let Him live in us.

Do you feel guilty when you sin? Does this lead you to repent immediately or do you store it up, like the original hearers, only repenting every year – annually? The original hearers were tempted to return to the empty practices to please God.

When you sin, do you turn immediately turn to God for repentance or do you find other ways to justify yourself? Things like – it is only a little lie; he/she made me do that; it is someone else's fault; I will use my will to stop me doing it again; that is just part of my personality/character.

**Our problem isn't that we FEEL guilty, but that we ARE guilty – but Jesus has a permanent solution to our pain – the blood of His sacrifice brings complete and eternal forgiveness. Our conscience can be cleansed forever. Our heart can be set free forever. Our self-contempt can be removed forever.**

### **Verse 12 - Jesus sat down:**

Four times in the book of Hebrews we read of Christ sitting down – why is this significant? Under the Old Covenant, the High Priest stood before God in the Holy of Hollies – he never sat down as he performed his religious duties. They were never-ending – he had to continue to do them.

You may notice, if you ever watch Parliament discussion time or seminars/workshops – the speaker, performer, presenter completes what they were there to do – then they sit down. This basically means – I have said or done what I came here to say or do – and now I have completed the task.

This is what Jesus did after He sacrificed Himself for us – once and for all – He returned to Heaven to sit at the right hand of God – He had completed His task – it is finished. What is He doing as He sits? We read that Jesus is there to intercede for us with God, to acknowledge us and our commitment to Him.

**Verse 17 – God will remember our sins and lawless deeds no more.**

I think that what haunts and continues to bring torment and unrest to our hearts is that we live as if this verse were not in the text.

Jesus offered Himself as a Once and for all sacrifice; He satisfied the wrath and justice of God and all we need to do it acknowledge our sins, repent and put our trust, hope and confidence in Jesus alone. Then God says to us: I will remember your sins and lawless deeds no more – that means forever.

You and I certainly remember our sins and wrongs – all too often. We can't shake free from them. They nag at our hearts and oppress our souls. They continue to pierce our conscience. The only way to break free from that remembering is to remind ourselves that God does **NOT** remember.

Now you may question – how can God really forget? He knows all things instantly and eternally, now and forever. There is a difference between forgetting and choosing not to remember. Forgetting is unavoidable – it happens by nature, not by choice. You can't choose to forget.

This is not what happens to God. God cannot forget in the literal sense of the term and certainly not in the same way you and I do. God willingly chooses **NOT TO REMEMBER.**

Our fear when we fail and sin is that God will say – Ah hah! Gotcha! I remember now when you did this before. I gave you a free pass. I gave you a second chance. And there you go again. You are such a disappointment.

**NO. NEVER WOULD GOD EVER SAY THIS.**

But this does not mean we can go on sinning – we are on a journey and it is the internal power of the Holy Spirit which will continue to convict us of sin and call us to confession and repentance.

There is a distinction between our **ETERNAL UNION** WITH Christ – which has to do with our salvation and our status in the sight of God. We are united by faith to Christ and nothing can change or undermine that reality.

Our **EXPERIENTIAL COMMUNION** with Christ is something that can change from day to day. Our enjoyment of that eternal union and the peace in our hearts can fluctuate dependent on our obedience.

### **Conclusion:**

Let me ask you: what do you think is the most imposing obstacle to your enjoyment of God – that makes you hesitant to draw near to Him?

When you pray are you filled with fear and anxiety, believing that God either won't hear you or will not answer in the way you wish?

What would your Christian life look like if you woke up each day, went about your tasks and responsibilities, and fell asleep each night without hesitation or the slightest doubt that when God looks at you and thinks about you and hears your prayers, that He refuses to remember your sins and lawless deeds, not because there aren't any, or that you have been especially good that day, but solely because Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice in your place once and for all time – to know this and to experience the joy and power and peace it brings – wow that is marvelous.