



Preface

In the previous weeks...

- Week 1-6: Jesus Christ is God's ultimate revelation to the world, the promised Son of God who is superior over all created things and Old Testament laws/figures. He is the superior High Priest who offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice. He reigns and ministers forever, securing our salvation. We are warned to pay attention to God's revelation, firmly place our hope in Jesus, obey His Word, and grow in spiritual maturity.
- Week 7: Jesus' sacrifice is superior to all earthly animal sacrifices. His blood purifies and reconciles us with God, giving us direct access to God. His death establishes the new covenant and institutes a new way of worship without requiring animal sacrifices.

This week...

- Jesus Christ died once and for all to pay for our sins. We are warned to persevere and guard against shrinking back from faith, especially amid persecution, by drawing near to God and living in a community. We can place our hope in God's promise of judgment.

Observation

1. What was the function of the animal sacrifices? (Heb. 10:3)
2. Based on Heb. 10:8-14, what did or will Jesus accomplish at His first and second coming?

*Leaders' note: **First coming: v.9-10**, made believers holy, **v.14**, made perfect forever those who are being made holy, **Second coming: v.12-13**, make his enemies his footstool.*

3. What are the three calls to action outlined in Heb. 10:22-25?
4. How did the author compare the punishment of those who rejected the law of Moses and those who rejected the Son of God? (Heb. 10:28-29)

*Leaders' note: Those who rejected the law of Moses were **punished with death** (v.28), and **God's punishment would be much more severe** for those who rejected the Son of God and His grace (v.29).*

5. Based on Heb. 10:32-35, what were the persecutions endured by the original audience and how did they demonstrate their confidence in Jesus?

*Leaders' note: **v.33** Being publicly exposed to insult and persecution, **v.34** imprisonment and confiscation of properties. They demonstrated their confidence in Jesus by **suffering alongside each other joyfully**.*

Interpretation

1. How is the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ different from the animal sacrifices?

*Leaders' note: The key idea presented in this passage is that Jesus Christ died to atone for sins **once and for all (v.2, 10, 12)**. The animal sacrifices could not take away sins (v.3), but Jesus' sacrifice was able to **make holy** those who believe in Him (v.10), **make perfect** those who are being made holy (v.14), **forgive sins** (v.16-17), and give believers **direct access to God** (v.19-20).*

2. How does the author's explanation about God's judgment both warn and encourage the original audience?

*Leaders' note: The author emphasized the severity of God's punishment for those who reject the Son of God as a **caution** against **willful disobedience** and **falling away** from their faith. God's judgment also **encourages** them amid persecution, **assuring them of salvation** knowing that Jesus will **bring judgment**.*

3. How do the three calls to action lead to perseverance amid great persecution?

*Leaders' note: **v.22** Believers can find strength, comfort, and guidance to endure persecution by **drawing near to God in faith**. **v.23** Trusting and **holding unswervingly to the hope** in Jesus and His promises provides assurance and steadfastness in the face of trials and persecution. **v.24** Living in a community, **spurring one another toward love and good deeds** gives encouragement and strength to persevere.*

Application

1. How have you been tempted to shrink back from your faith due to trials or persecution?

2. How does the hope in God's judgment encourage you when you face persecution?

3. Which of the three calls of action do you want to take to heart and put into action?

4. How can we actively spur others on in love and good deeds in our community?

Optional Prayer Exercise: Praying the Examen

The Examen prayer is a technique of prayer and meditation to increase our awareness of God's presence and guidance in our lives. It consists of five movements: **thanksgiving**, **guidance**, **review**, **grace**, and **resolution**. When practiced in a community, it can serve as a reminder of how He is at work in our lives despite the ways that we have fallen short. This prayer is to be spoken out in a conversational way, as Jesus is our savior and our friend.

Example: "[**Thanksgiving**] Jesus we thank You for Your sacrifice that unites us all as one family, one body. [**Guidance**] Fill us with Your Spirit, God, and guide us so that we may see both the good and the bad in our lives that You want us to see. [**Review**] We are grateful for all the joy we've experienced together as a community. Yet, we are also sorrowful for the needs that are unmet due to our lack of resources or perhaps, apathy. [**Grace**] Forgive us, O Lord, and heal us, for You are our forgiving God and our healer. [**Resolution**] As we look forward to tomorrow, may You continue to provide for us and overflow us with Your love. Amen."