

Podcast 285 Jesus the Perfect Sacrifice

Scott: Welcome to the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme! I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today! Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I'm thankful. I'm grateful. I enjoy all the seasons, and I spend more time outside than I ever have before. I have trouble coming indoors unless it's really oppressive heat, because I've had such nice times connecting with God outdoors since 2014. Outdoors is becoming my happy place because that's where I find God so real.

Scott: I've never been much of a tree hugger, if you will, but it did occur to me at one point – well, it was pointed out to me at one point that God didn't create Adam and Eve and put them in a mall or in a parking lot. He put them in a garden for a reason. There is something nourishing to the soul about that.

Steve: Let's pray. Father, thank You for the outdoors. Thank You for creating us, and thank You for Your creation, and thank You that all things are of You. And we appreciate You today, and we bless You, and we draw near to You, and we pray that You'll help us as we contemplate these eternal truths. Give us ears to hear today, and give us faith. Help us as we read the Word of God to mix it with faith and believe it and hold onto it. In Jesus' name, amen.

Steve: We've talked about Jesus hearing His Father affirming Him, for loving Him, for being His Son, for belonging to Him. Most of us know the last phrase, "Thou art My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased." Newer translations say, "He's a delight to Me." That's a wonderful concept. I think that most of us have trouble believing that we really are well-pleasing to the Father, even though the Scripture says that as the Father has loved Jesus, so has Jesus loved us. I think we know in our heads that He has taken away our sins and He has covered us in His robes of righteousness, but there's still this lingering shadow, if I can put it that way, that makes us think, "Eh, maybe. I hope He does."

I'm hoping to take us to a different level today. I hope that God can take away the shadow and help us grasp what a wonderful salvation Jesus has provided for us. I'm going to start by reading five passages from Scripture that talk about the forgiveness of sin. The battle is a battle of believing and trusting and having faith that what Jesus said He's done, He has done, not just for the world, but for each of us.

Isaiah 1:18: "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." Praise the Lord.

1 John 1:9, the first passage that I ever memorized on this subject: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I love words like “all” and “every,” because it completely takes out any of that room for doubt. He cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 103:12: “As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.”

John 1:29: “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!’”

1 John 2, in the NLT: “My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate Who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the One Who is truly righteous. He Himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins – and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.” Boom.

Those passages are wonderful. Today, I would like to build on that a little bit. Jesus did a perfect job. He did exactly what God designed Him to do. So instead of looking at our sin, let’s look at our Savior. Let’s look at Christ. I’m going to use a little bit of Greek today, as there’s a word that describes Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, and this word is “teleio,” and it’s got several words that help to define it.

I’m using BibleHub.com more and more, and I’m digging deeper into God’s Word, because every word of God is inspired. Jesus told us, “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Father.” And it says in Timothy that all Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, that the man of God may be complete. All we need is found in God’s Word.

This word “teleio” – means to bring to an end. To complete. To perfect. To finish. To accomplish. To consummate. When you’re hearing the word “teleio,” it’s a whole bunch of different stuff that’s coming together here. And I did a research on this word, because it talks about the sacrifice that Christ made for us. But before I do, I want to take some other words that are translated “perfect.”

Leviticus 22:21: “When anyone offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering from the herd or from the flock, to be accepted it must be perfect; there shall be no blemish in it.” We just referenced the fact that John the Baptist, in the Spirit, proclaimed, prophesied, asserted, affirmed that the Lamb of God was coming to take away the sin of the world. Based on Leviticus, He needed to be – and He was – a perfect sacrifice. No blemish.

Now, Hebrews. We’re going to spend a bunch of time in Hebrews and John. In Hebrews 2:10, it says, “It was fitting that He, for Whom and by Whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.” He’s talking about Christ. Hebrews 5:7–9: “In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him Who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence.

Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”

Another version says, “To all who call upon Him.”

Jesus was the perfect Son, He was the perfect sacrifice, He was the perfect Lamb. Now, remember that this word, “teleio,” also conveys consummation or fulfillment or accomplishment. John speaks of Jesus sitting at the well talking to the woman from Samaria. His disciples had gone off to find some food, and they came back, and said, “Here’s Your food.” And He said, “I don’t need any.” And they said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him Who sent me and to accomplish His work.” Same Greek word. He was to accomplish His work.

In John 17:1–4, at the end of His life, Jesus “lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent. I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work that You gave Me to do.’”

Then in the 19th chapter of John, “Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished” – now that’s the New American Standard Version. In the ESV, it says this: “Jesus, knowing that all was now finished.” So you see the same word being translated accomplish, fulfill, perfected – it’s all the same thing. And they gave Jesus the sour wine, and He said, “It is finished.” He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit. Jesus did the work that God gave Him to do. He knew He had done the work, and He says, “It is finished. It is accomplished. What I have come to do, I have done, and I’ve done it perfectly.”

Hebrews 7:22–28: “This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever. Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost” – I don’t know about you, but that word “uttermost” is pretty special. He’s able to save completely, entirely, through all time. This word comes from “pas,” which means “all,” and “telos,” which means “forever.”

The root word is “telos,” which means “finished.” It means “done.” It means “the end.” He is able to save through all time, forever, completely. I’ll finish the verse: “Those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.”

This is our Jesus. “He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for His own sins and then for those of the people, since He did this once for all

when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son Who has been made perfect forever.”

I want that shadow, that doubt, that question in our hearts to completely go away. This is what God is calling us to and holding out to us, that Jesus was a perfect sacrifice. He did His job perfectly to the letter. He fulfilled every jot and tittle. He’s the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He has accomplished what God sent Him to do.

I’ll keep reading. Hebrews 9:11–14 “When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent... He entered once for all into the holy places...thus securing an eternal redemption.... How much more will the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”

I’m going to close with Hebrews 10:12–14: “When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” Now, I was leading up to that last verse, because this is the culmination. This is the crescendo. This is the all-caps blinking on your computer. “By a single offering He has perfected.”

Now, it’s up to us, then, to believe it. It’s up to us to believe it. And faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ, and that’s one reason I’m spending so much time just reading God’s Word, to fortify our faith. It says in Hebrews 12:2, “Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.” This is our Savior.

Steve: I just finished reading in Hebrews 10, made a little foray into 12. What comes between Hebrews 10 and 12?

Scott: Hebrews 11?

Steve: Very good! And what’s Hebrews 11 about?

Scott: I don’t remember. Is that the Hall of Faith?

Steve: It is!

Scott: All right!

Steve: This is where the real battle is. We first have to read God’s Word to increase our understanding, and the deeper that we dig, the more you’re going to see. Because this word “telos,” which encompasses “finished,” “completed,” “accomplished,” “perfected,” “consummated” – all these words, they come from the same root word. And there’s a ton of Scriptures on this.

In Hebrews 11, this is where I wish we didn’t have chapters, because this is all part of the same narrative. Hebrews 7, 8, 9, 10 are talking about Jesus, this perfect Savior,

this perfect High Priest Who made this perfect offering, Who took away our sins completely, Who saves us to the uttermost, Who accomplished to the T everything that God gave Him to do – His name means “Jesus Who will save us from our sins.” He did it. And now, the ball is now in our court.

Hebrews 11:1: “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” By faith Abel, by faith Enoch, by faith Noah, by faith Abraham. What’s fascinating to me is that these are all people who lived before Jesus. We are on the other side of it, we who have seen the perfect Lamb hang on the cross. We have seen the Spirit of God raise Him from the dead. We, of all people, should have a ton more faith than these dear people did. And yet, they had faith, and they’re in what you called the “Hall of Faith” chapter.

We have the assurance, the conviction, of things that are true. Romans 10:9–10 takes on a new meaning for me now. Because we get used to taking people down the Romans Road. I don’t want to say we get used to it, but we’ve been taught that you first show them in Romans 3:23 we all sin, and Romans 6:23, “The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life.” Romans 5:8. We take them right down that Romans Road, and then we end up with Romans 10:9–10, and here it is: “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead” – because when He was raised from the dead, that means that He had done the work on the cross perfectly. That means that He had accomplished everything that the Father sent Him to do, and He did it.

When we “believe in [our] heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame.’” I don’t even know where to stop. The whole chapter is wonderful.

If there’s anyone out there listening, and you don’t know that Jesus is your Savior, call on Him. Just believe what we have read today. This is the Word of God. Heaven and earth are going to pass away, but His words are going to stand forever. Ask Him to forgive your sins, and He will. Believe that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.

The words that continue to go over and over in my heart, Jesus is a new and living way to the Father, and that’s why He came to save us from our sins. It was to remove that nasty thing that separated us from our Dad. And now, through Jesus, we can come into the presence of God, because He has purified, perfected, for all time those that draw near through Christ. Amen.

We sometimes magnify our sin more than we magnify our Savior. We somehow think that we’ve got more sins and that we are unforgivable, that we’ve done things that people don’t know about. And you know what? Jesus just looks at us and says, “I’ve taken care of it. I have done this for you. I have taken your sin on Myself. I have died.

You don't need to die. And I was raised by the Father in the Spirit, and now I live forever, and I'm praying for you." Jesus Christ not only did a perfect job dying for us; He did a perfect job, now, living for us, and He's doing a perfect job praying for us, because He can't do anything halfway. He is a complete Savior. He saves us to the uttermost. Amen.

Scott: It says in verse 4 of chapter 10, "Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes."

Steve: Amen. Thank you. It is finished. We simply need to ask.

Father, thank You for sending Jesus. Jesus, thank You for saying yes, for presenting Your body a living sacrifice for us. Thank You for taking our sins upon Yourself. Thank You for holding out to us the gift of eternal life. And we say yes afresh today. We want to have our sins forgiven, and we want You to give us the gift of eternal life, and we want You to reveal more of Yourself, because knowing You is eternal life. And I pray for those that are struggling today to grasp this. I pray for a fresh infusion of faith into their being. We tap them into Jesus. Help them, Spirit of God. And for those that don't know You, I pray that they will simply turn to You and look to You and, knowing You, I know that any motion toward You, You take as a yes. And I pray that You will save them, and save them completely, and save them utterly, because that's what You do, and that's what You're good at. And I pray that You'll save us all to the uttermost. All that dark stuff, all those little shadows, I pray that You'll shine the light of Your Spirit there and ferret it out and then heal us from it, and help us to know that we are white, that our sins that were scarlet and red have been made white as wool. And as far as the east is from the west, so far have You separated our sins from us. Because of Jesus, we stand now, and we're able to come into Your presence, into fellowship, into communion with You. And we do it gladly this morning. In Jesus' name, amen.