

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 17 November 2024

Sermon Title : Perfectly Perfect

Speaker : Rev John Foo

Text : Hebrews 9:11-14

INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 9 talks about sacrifices. Jesus' sacrifice has effectively secured for us a safe and guaranteed path to God. It was the perfect sacrifice and is superior to other sacrifices.

Christ's sacrifice has completed and perfected what was lacking in animal sacrifices. The animal sacrifices were ceremonial and needed to be done repeatedly. They could only cleanse us outwardly. In comparison, Christ's sacrifice was once for all and has done a deep cleansing within us, all the way to our consciences. This is something no other sacrifice can do for us.

1. Christ's sacrifice has done a deep cleansing within us

Christ's death has purified our sins and cleansed our consciences. We need to know and accept that our sins that were removed through Christ in order to have true freedom in Christ. The shame and guilt of our past sins will continue to weigh us down and suffocate us spiritually, emotionally and socially if we are not aware that our conscience has been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. We need to accept this, otherwise we will continue to struggle.

2. Christ's sacrifice has enabled God to be closer and more real to us

When we come to worship God, we do not need to distance ourselves from Him. We do this even though we have direct access to God through Jesus Christ and can enter His presence confidently. But God is nearer to us than we can imagine. Christ's sacrifice has enabled God to be closer and more real to us. Our cleansed conscience does not condemn us anymore. We do not need sacrifice animals to restore our relationship to God.

Do we really believe our consciences are cleansed?

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Hebrews 9:14 tells us that our consciences have been cleansed from the acts that lead to death. Unfortunately, we sometimes pollute our cleansed consciences by choosing to go back to our sinful way of living. We continue to add guilt to our consciences and it weighs us down.

Sometimes we try to make our own sacrifices in order to bring ourselves back to God. We worship and praise God so that we can bargain with God, saying that our good behaviour is why He should answer our prayers. We act as if we have never been cleansed and freed. We act as if we do not have faith.

Build your faith in God

Take for example the chairs in our worship venues. Week after week, we sit in them. We never question if they will give way, or if they will hold our weight. We have faith that the chair can take our weight. Why do we have such faith in the chair? Because we have personally found that it has repeatedly supported our weight and we have seen others sitting on the chair.

Surely God is greater than any chair and worthy of our trust. If we can build our trust in the mundane things in life, such as a chair, we can build our trust in God. We can build our trust in God by drawing ourselves close to Him. Instead of remaining stuck at a distance, we should be running home to God. Especially since Christ's sacrifice has provided the way back home. We should not remain stuck at a distance from God and instead, with confidence, draw close to Him.

CONCLUSION

Christ's sacrifice has cleansed our consciences. Our sins have not only been purified, but we can enter His presence with clean hands, a pure heart and a cleansed conscience. God wants to receive us and has given us the blessed assurance that we can go to Him every day, at any time. Those of us who are struggling with the guilt of sin and inadequacy can throw those things away because God has cleansed us.

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A. Review Sermon Application

Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk!?
 - 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?
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2. Appoint someone to read Hebrews 9:11-14 slowly.
 - a. What is the difference between Christ's sacrifice and animal sacrifices?
 - b. Why is it important that we accept that Christ has "cleansed our consciences"?

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C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action

Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.

5. Share an experience where you felt God's presence especially close to you.

OR

Give thanks to God for His faithfulness in our lives, that He has proven Himself trustworthy and worthy of all our praises.

6. With a prayer partner, share about any guilt you may have weighing on your mind and how you intend to draw closer to God. Share how your prayer partner can help to encourage you to draw close to God so that you can once again enter His presence. Confess and repent of any sins you may have and ask Jesus to remind you of the deep cleansing that He has done for you. Pray that He will help you to live a life that is holy and pleasing to Him, so that you may experience the freedom that comes through believing in Him.

Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. Living Hope

<https://youtu.be/9f2FXxDVO6w?si=ejcpKDWZV2OVLkvY>

2. Before the Throne of God Above

https://youtu.be/LULK2nZ6sCc?si=Cf6xgj_oYIKd1UZj

3. Nothing but the Blood

<https://youtu.be/8QH5lpYSBpl?si=scuazK4Lpb2xxlIQ>

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