

CHRISTMAS 2024
HEBREWS 10:5-10
TOUR OF DUTY!

I love this time of year, the celebrating of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It is a time to reflect on all that our God has done for us and to come together with family and friends to rejoice in this wonderful gift that God has given to us.

I want to read to you this Christmas story and then we are going to look at this prior to God becoming flesh and dwelling amongst us. You might say that we are going to take a view from heaven before Jesus goes on His – ***TOUR OF DUTY!***

Please turn to Luke chapter 2 as Luke gives us a detailed account of the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. In Luke 2:1-20 we are told, **“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.”**

Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.”

Can you imagine this couple and what they were told. Mary was visited by an angel, and she was told, “. . . **‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.’**” Luke 1:35.

When Joseph found out he was going to put her away, trying to protect her because an unwed mother would be stoned to death or at least be an outcast of society.

But as he was trying to understand all that Mary had told him, he had this dream and the angel of the Lord spoke to him and told him, “**. . . ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.**” Matthew 1:20-25.

Again, imagine all that they have been told, all that has happened and it is just the beginning as this child will save man from his sins because God is coming to be with us!

But this story does not start with Mary and Joseph, but I believe it is a story that starts in heaven as the Word, Jesus Christ will begin His mission from heaven.

This morning we are going to be looking at Hebrews chapter 10 because what I see here is a farewell exchange between God the Father and God the Son!

Imagine this for a minute. A young man is preparing for his tour of duty, he is being shipped overseas and is embarking on a mission. And there are his parents, standing there and saying goodbye to their son as he leaves on this mission.

I think that is what we see here in Hebrews chapter 10 as Jesus is going to be deployed by the Father to a different type of battlefield you might say.

Now you may not be seeing this, but remember what Jesus said in John 3:16-17, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”**

In other words, God sent forth His Son on a mission to give life to man who was doomed for eternal death apart from God!

I have called our study this morning – ***TOUR OF DUTY!***

And you will see why as we go through these verses here in Hebrews chapter 10.

I have broken down these verses we will be looking at into the following main points.

They are,

THE INCARNATION – HEBREWS 10:5

WHY DID JESUS COME – HEBREWS 10:6

OBEDIENCE TO THE CALL – HEBREWS 10:7

THE NEW COVENANT – HEBREWS 10:8-10

So with that as our introduction, let’s begin reading in Hebrews chapter 10, beginning in verse 5 and let’s see what the Lord has for us this morning as we study His Word and look at this topic on Christmas morning – ***TOUR OF DUTY!***

HEBREWS 10**VERSE 5**

Notice this conversation here. We see first of all that Jesus is speaking as we are told,

“Therefore, when He [Jesus] came into the world, He [Jesus] said.”

Now what did Jesus say?

He said, **“Sacrifice and offering You [God the Father] did not desire, but a body You [God the Father] have prepared for Me [Jesus].”**

Jesus is speaking to God the Father and saying that He did not want the sacrifices of these animals because they could never take away our sins. But the Father prepared a body of flesh for God the Son to dwell in so that He could pay the penalty for our sins!

Imagine all those sacrifices that both Jesus and the Father watched being offered up to Them and yet, those sacrifices could never take away a person’s sins!

That is what Paul wrote in Hebrews 9:12-14, **“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”**

You see, sin separated man from God and only a sinless sacrifice, a perfect sacrifice could take away a person’s sins. Thus – ***THE INCARNATION!***

But why the Incarnation?

First of all, we see in John 17:25-26, **“O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”**

We see here that Jesus is saying that in the Incarnation, when God became flesh and dwelt among us, that He revealed the Father to us. He showed us the love and compassion of the Father.

Why was that needed?

Because they lost sight of God and Jesus is restoring that relationship with Him!

Another reason that God became flesh and dwelt among us was to break that curse of sin that all men had acquired. The sin of Adam and plenty of their own sin. Thus, Paul tells us in Galatians 3:13, **“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’).”**

One writer put it like this, *“Another way of thinking about it is that God couldn’t conquer our sin from the outside. It had to be an inside job. To accomplish this feat, Jesus took on human flesh and became like us so that in turn he could win us back.”* Exactly!

Here is another one. God became flesh to fulfill the requirements of the Law. In Matthew 5:17 we are told, **“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”**

Now what is that all about?

“By fulfilling the requirements of the law Jesus not only lived up to the standards and completed them, he ultimately became the required sacrifice that the law demands. He fulfilled the requirements of the law that you and I couldn’t and paid the penalty for our sin so you and I wouldn’t have to. This could only happen if Jesus came in the flesh.”

Another reason for the Incarnation was so that Jesus could shed His blood for our sins.

Why was that necessary?

Because, as Paul wrote in Hebrews 9:22, **“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”**

The perfect sacrifice needed to be made, and Jesus was that perfect sacrifice. Thus, there is no other sacrifice that is needed. The work is finished!

As the song goes,

*O Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus*

And lastly, and there may be more, but God became flesh to become our Great High Priest, He is the One who makes intercession for us.

Paul put it like this in Hebrews 4:14-16, **“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”**

God understands our weaknesses, the pain we suffer, the temptations that we face because He became flesh and dwelt among us. In John 1:14 we are told, **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

Here we see humanity added to His deity, God became flesh and dwelt or tabernacled or pitched His tent among us, the Incarnation!

Of this word, *“dwelt”* in John 1:14 Clarke tells us, *“And tabernacled among us: the human nature which he took of the virgin, being as the **shrine, house, or temple**, in which his immaculate Deity condescended to dwell. The word is probably an allusion to the Divine Shekinah in the Jewish temple.”*

They beheld His glory even though it was veiled in flesh! And I agree, I think John is speaking of that Shekinah glory that filled the Temple.

In Matthew 1:22-23 we are told, **“So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’”** Matthew is quoting out of Isaiah 7:14.

And Paul, in regard to the incarnation, said In I Timothy 3:16, **“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.”**

Let me share this with you and you will see what this child born in Bethlehem was all about.

There was a first grader who came home from school one day in tears. Her teacher had asked the students to make a Christmas banner.

The problem came when the little girl showed the class her banner!

As hard as it is to believe, when the teacher saw it, she mocked this banner that this little girl made. Not only that, but the other kids made fun of it, obviously encouraged by what the teacher was doing.

As you can imagine, she was crushed.

When she went home, tears in her eyes, the mom asked her what happened at school.

Well, after she told her mom the story of the teacher making fun of her and the kids as well, the mom was, well, she was not happy to say the least.

The mom asked her daughter what she had written on her banner.

And the girl said, "*Mary had a little lamb, and named Him Jesus!*"

Wow! She did nail it, that is absolutely correct!

When the mom heard what she did, every year she made sure that the banner her daughter made was the centerpiece of their Christmas!

Make no mistake about it, He is the centerpiece of not just our Christmas, but our lives, at least He should be!

Remember what John the Baptist said as He saw Jesus coming, "**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**" John 1:29.

Exactly, and His name is Jesus just like the little girl put on her banner!

We have seen here that Jesus is speaking to God the Father before He goes on His tour of duty. And He speaks of how the Father prepared a body for Him to dwell in – ***THE INCARNATION!***

As we read on, and we did cover this some already, but the next point that we will look at is – ***WHY DID JESUS COME!***

VERSE 6

The blood of bulls and goats could never ***TAKE AWAY*** our sins so what are we to do? Listen again to what Paul said, “**Therefore, when He came into the world . . .**” Hebrews 10:5.

In other words, when God stepped into this world, when He became flesh and blood and dwelt among us, He paid in full the penalty for our sins and thus, our sins are cast as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more! That is what our Lord has done because we could never pay the debt for our sins!

Make no mistake about it, God became flesh, He dwelt among us to save us from our sins!

We see that in Luke 19:10, where we are told, “**. . . for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**”

We make things so complicated but here we see Jesus make it very simple. He came to save the lost, and that means every person born on this planet was lost in sin and that is why Jesus came!

In fact, in Matthew 1:21 listen to what we are told, “**And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.**”

There it is, in the Christmas story, the reason – ***WHY JESUS CAME!***

You see, Jesus is the Greek word from the Hebrew word Joshua, which means *YAHWEH IS OUR SALVATION* or *YAHWEH HAS BECOME OUR SALVATION*.

It is just as Peter proclaimed in Acts 4:12, **“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**

Did Jesus come to save this planet?

No!

Did He come to make us happy?

No!

Did He come to make us rich and wealthy?

No!

Why did Jesus come?

He came to save us from our sins!

That is the problem folks and many miss that. He came to save us from the penalty of sin and then from the power of sin in our lives and one day from the presence of sin!

Why is this even such a problem for us? When Adam sinned, he passed that sin nature onto future generations. Thus, we are all born in sin!

That was the problem, and the solution was the God-Man, Jesus Christ who atoned for our sins!

What man does today, like the Jews did back then, was that they use religious things, symbols and they end up being a substitute for a real relationship with God, that can only come through Jesus Christ!

That is what Job was crying out for a Mediator between man and God. We are told in Job 9:33, **“Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.”**

A sad state for Job, and yet for us, Paul tells us in I Timothy 2:5, **“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”**

How many Mediators are there?

There is only One, and that is Jesus Christ.

I don't care what people say about Mary or anyone else being our Mediator, anyone else that we have to go through. The Bible is clear, there is only One!

Also, in Hebrews 7:25 we read, **“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”**

Again, there is no one else that can bridge that gap, no priest, no man, and like I have said, not even Mary. Only Jesus Christ who, being God, made Himself flesh to die for our sins in order to bring us to God.

That is what I Peter 3:18 tells us, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”**

Now what is a mediator?

A mediator is there to end the dispute.

What is the dispute?

The dispute is between God and man. You see, man has sinned, and his sin has separated him from God and justice demands death.

That is what we are told in Isaiah 59:1-2, **“Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”**

That is the problem, sinful man cannot approach a holy God!

Here in Isaiah the people were complaining about the situation that they were in. They were wondering if God can respond to the situations that they faced in life, if He was powerful enough to help them. They were wondering if God could hear their cry, if He understood the problems that they faced or maybe He was not even interested in hearing what they were going through!

And people do that today.

So what is the answer to that question about God helping us or not helping us?

Isaiah says that God is not the problem.

God can respond to our problems; His strength is not diminished.

God can hear their hearts cry; He understood their problems they faced, and He was interested in what they were going through.

But if God is not the problem, then who is the problem?

We don't have to guess because in Isaiah 59:2 we are told what the problem is, and it is us!

Isaiah makes it very clear that it is not a lack of God's power, a lack of His knowledge or interest, it is not that He can't hear, the problem is with us, our sin has separated us from God!

Now what does that mean?

It can't mean that God does not know what sinners are doing because He knows everything.

It can't mean that it separates us from the presence of God because His presence fills the universe. (Psalm 139:7).

And think about this, even Satan still has access to God; he has an audience with God.

(Job 1:6).

Sin does not even separate us from the love of God because God loves sinners! (Romans 5:8).

Then what does sin separate us from?

- First of all, we see that sin separates us from fellowship with God. The reason for that is because we do not think like God thinks, our desires are not His desires!
- Not only that but we see that sin separates us from the blessing of God. God does not have to bless us, answer our hearts cry because we are not His children.
- Sin separates us in some way from the protection of God. The reason for that is that God will allow trials to come our way to correct us.

In knowing that, in knowing that sin separates us from God, it helps us to understand the cry of Jesus from the cross of Calvary as He said, “**... ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’**” Matthew 27:46.

Jesus stood in our place; He became sin for us as He bore the sins of the world. It was not that Jesus became a sinner, but He took our place to pay in full the penalty for our sins taking the wrath that was do us and as He did the Father turned His face from the Son, that fellowship was broken.

That is what sin does!

And what we see Paul, in speaking of our Mediator in I Timothy 2:5, is that our Mediator, Jesus Christ, says to the Father, “***There is no more debt due, I have paid it in full!***”

And guess what? The case is closed; we are set free in Christ! What a wonderful God we serve!

But don’t we have to do something?

Yes, repent of your sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life!

But don't we have to live a certain way, do certain things, go to church, tithe, light some candles to atone for our sins?

Absolutely not!

How can I be so sure?

Because that is what the Scriptures tell us!

In John 19:30, as Jesus hung on the cross of Calvary for our sins, we are told, **“So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”**

What we see here is that after He paid in full the penalty for our sins that He cried out ***TETELESTAI*** in the Greek, or **“It is finished.”**

The work of redemption was completed, the price had been paid!

Many miss the point of this word, *tetelestai*.

Tenney tells us, **“The verb telew (*teleo*, ‘to finish’) was used in first and second centuries in the sense of ‘fulfilling’ or ‘paying’ a debt and often appeared in receipts. Jesus’ statement ‘It is finished’ (*tetelestai*, *tetelestai*) could be interpreted as ‘Paid in full.’”**

Exactly, our debt for our sin was paid in full by Jesus. There is nothing we can do to add to that, it is a completed work.

It is as Paul said in Colossians 2:13-15, **“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”**

The work is completed, and the Father accepted the work because after His resurrection from the dead we are told that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father. No more work in regard to our salvation is needed, it has been – ***PAID IN FULL!***

So we have seen – ***WHY DID JESUS COME!***

He came to pay in full the penalty for our sin so our fellowship with God the Father could be restored!

As we read on, we will be looking at His – ***OBEDIENCE TO THE CALL!***

VERSE 7

In other words, when you read the Old Testament Scriptures, from Genesis to Malachi they are speaking of Jesus.

Yes, we see types, shadows, pictures of Him and the work He came to do.

Thus, the coming of the Messiah should have been no surprise to the Jewish people. In fact, as they read the Scriptures, they came to the conclusion that there would be two Messiahs.

One of them would be a suffering servant or Messiah ben Joseph and the other a reigning King or Messiah ben David.

What they missed is that there would not be two Messiah's but One Messiah who was to come twice.

The first time as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world, the suffering servant.

And He is coming again as the Lion from the tribe of Judah to rule and reign as King from the throne of David!

Stephen picks up on that in the New Testament.

In Acts chapter 7 Stephen gives his testimony, his defense before the Sanhedrin and he makes several interesting points.

First of all, Stephen spoke of how they missed Joseph as the deliverer the first time and it was not until his brothers saw him again that they recognized him as their deliverer.

Once again Stephen shows them how the Hebrews rejected Moses the first time he came to them, they did not see him as a deliverer until he came again!

Thus, just as they missed Joseph and Moses as being deliverers, so too they have missed Jesus the first time He came as the Deliverer, and it won't be until He comes again that the Jews will recognize Him as the Messiah, their Deliverer.

And what we see here in Hebrews 10:7 and it is repeated in Hebrews 10:9, that Jesus came to do the Father's will!

Remember when Joseph and Mary came with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover. And as the feast ended, they headed home.

And they thought Jesus was hanging around in the crowd of people that traveled together with them, but He was not with them.

After traveling one day out, Mary and Joseph tried to find Jesus and they could not find Him!

So they headed back to Jerusalem and it took them another day to find Him there, a total of three days He was missing.

And they found Jesus in the Temple speaking to the Jewish religious leaders, blowing their minds in how He understood the Scriptures.

And when Joseph and Mary find Jesus, they told Him that they were worried sick because they could not find Him.

And do you remember what Jesus said to them? Keep in mind that He was twelve years old. He said in Luke 2:49, “**... ‘Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?’**”

Jesus came to do the Father’s will, and we see that throughout the Gospel’s.

In John 6:38 we are told, “**For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**”

He was on a mission you might say. He came to complete the work that the Father sent Him to do!

That is what we are told in John 4:34, “**... ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.’**”

And, in John 17:4 we see that the work that Jesus began, He finished as we are told, “**I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.**”

One writer summed it up like this for us. He wrote,

God could never have been satisfied with animal offerings and He became less satisfied with them as they became a sham and a mockery.

To many offerers they had come to be meaningless religious ritual, and had nothing to do with obedience or faith.

Jesus' supreme mission on earth was to do His Father's will. Over and over in the gospels, Jesus speaks of His having come to do the Father's will and only the Father's will.

His was the perfect sacrifice because it was offered in perfect obedience to God.

During the wilderness temptations, Satan's purpose was to deter Jesus from His divine mission, to turn Him from His Father's will.

Satan even prompted the unwitting disciples to try to dissuade Jesus from His mission - as when Peter, thinking he was showing loyalty to his Master, rebuked Jesus for suggesting that He had to die and be resurrected (Mark 8:31-33).

“But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go from here” (John 14:31). When He said this, Jesus was about to be arrested. His saying, ***“Let us go,”*** therefore, referred to the crucifixion, Jesus' ultimate act of obedience to the Father . . .

It was not dying in itself, of course, that was Jesus' ultimate act of obedience, but rather His taking man's total sin upon Himself in His death. His greatest test of obedience was in the garden, when He prayed, ***“Abba! Father! All things are possible for Thee; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what Thou wilt”*** (Mark 14:36).

Many people, before and after Jesus, have willingly and bravely faced a martyr's death. But no one else has, or could have, taken upon himself the sins of the whole world. No one else has been, or could have been, so utterly repulsed at the prospect. And no one else has been, or could have been, so obedient.

On the cross Jesus was saying, *“Father, I know You are not satisfied with the old system and the old sacrifices, but I know You are satisfied with Me and with My sacrifice. So I will gladly pay the price of obedience.”*

- John MacArthur, Hebrews 10

Make no mistake about it – ***JESUS WAS OBEDIENT TO THE CALL!***

And let me say this. What Jesus did was not a plan B, but this was something that He knew before man was ever created.

Revelation 13:8 calls Jesus the **“lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”**

We need to understand that from the moment Jesus stepped out of heaven and headed to earth, He was fully aware where the road would eventually lead – ***THE CROSS OF CALVARY!***

Which leads us to our last point that we will be looking at, and that is – ***THE NEW COVENANT!***

VERSES 8-10

Once again we see Paul speak of the blood of bulls and goats not being able to atone for our sins. That was temporary until the Lamb of God had come into the world to take away the sins of the world!

And Paul tells us that the first covenant or the old covenant, the sacrifice of these animals has been taken away for the new covenant to be established.

The Law is the righteous standard of God. But sin separates us from God and that is the problem with these animal sacrifices, they could not take away our sins, they only covered them until we sinned again.

Now some may argue that this new covenant is a New Testament idea, but it is not.

Listen to what we are told in Jeremiah 31:31-34. Jeremiah tells us, **“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”**

Did you see that?

The Lord is speaking about the going away of the old covenant for the establishment of the new covenant.

Not only that, but in this new covenant God will forgive their iniquity and He is going to remember their sins no more!

How can that be?

Because the perfect sacrifice was born to die for our sins, Jesus Christ!

Now for those who want to try and keep the Law to have this relationship with God, you must keep it perfectly, not one sin in your entire life. In fact, James tells us, **“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”** James 2:10.

And that is the problem, we have plenty of sin in our lives and God cannot have fellowship with sinners!

And what a hopeless situation that is for sinful man.

What can he do about it?

Paul, in Ephesians 2:13 tells us that we were once without hope, and it is a very discouraging picture that he is painting for us. He put it like this, **“that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”**

As you can see, there is no hope there. And think about it. If he did end there, we would be in trouble. But he continues on in Ephesians 2:14 and he gives us this hope, **“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”**

We have been brought into the family of God through Jesus Christ and the atonement He paid for on the cross of Calvary for our sins! What a great hope that is for every person on this planet, if they would turn to Him, repent of their sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of their lives.

Now, through Jesus we have fellowship with God because all our sins have been paid in full, cast as far as the east is from the west, to be remembered no more!

Jesus made that very clear in John 14:6 when he said, **“... ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”**

How can I be so sure that the work is finished?

Paul tells us, **“By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”** Hebrews 10:10.

The sacrifice has been made, there is no other sacrifice needed for our salvation! I hope that is clear.

As I have said, the Bible is clear on this. In fact, here in Hebrews 10 Paul tells us what the old covenant was like and what the new covenant is.

In Hebrews 10:11-12 we are told, “**And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.**”

These Jewish believers understood the ministry of the priests as they offered their sacrifices for sins.

These sacrifices were made daily and repeatedly because they could not take away a person's sins.

And as they read this letter from Paul, I'm sure they pictured this continual work of the priests in the Temple.

And from these priests and the sacrifices that were being made, Paul moves to Jesus, the greater sacrifice, who not only shed His blood as the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world, but He then sat down showing the work was completed, it was finished once and for all!

And Paul has made that point three times in this letter. We see it in Hebrews 1:3, here in Hebrews 10:12 and we see it again in Hebrews 12:2.

Why is this so important?

Because the priests never sat down because their work was never finished.

But Jesus has sat down because the work was finished. And yes, Jesus still ministers in heaven for us as our intercessor, but it is this ministry that flows out of His completed work.

Thus, He sat down at the right hand of the Father!

The sacrifices for sin in the old covenant were to show us how sinful we are compared to a holy and righteous God.

And our sin, the breaking of the Law of God, pointed us to our Savior Jesus Christ!

As I have said, what we see in these verses we looked at this morning is this conversation between God the Father and God the Son before His tour of duty!

The Lamb of God who was slain before the foundation of the world or He knew what He would have to do to save man from His sin, loves us so much that He not only created us but then He came to save us – ***THE INCARNATION!***

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO COME?

To save man from His sin. Something that man could not do and for God to accomplish this, He had to become man!

What a calling and yet, we have seen the – ***OBEDIENCE TO THE CALL!***

And now we have the – ***NEW COVENANT***, the forgiveness of our sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Not a New Testament idea but it was spoken of in the Old Testament as well!

That babe that was born in the manger, the son of Mary and Joseph, was born to die for the sins of mankind. That gift that God has extended to us is for every person.

What I want you to think about this morning is what we are celebrating here on Christmas morning – ***THE LAMB OF GOD, BORN IN A MANGER AND DIED ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY FOR OUR SINS!***

There is no greater gift that has ever been given and if you have not received that gift of eternal life that is only found in Jesus, I pray this morning that you ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life, to forgive you of your sins.

The moment you do your sins are forgiven and you have been adopted into the family of God.

And for all of us who have come to that saving faith, may we be filled with praise and thanksgiving to our God for what He has given to us.

What we see in these verses is Jesus saying good-bye to His Father as He was on His way to take that ***TOUR OF DUTY*** and became flesh to pay the penalty for our sins! Never forget that!