

Hebrews 10- Jesus is Greater Than the Law- Handout

Week 10

1. Complication of the law

The complication is that the law is insufficient to remove sin and make us fully right with God.

a. What is the law?

- rules God gave Moses to give the Israelites after they left Egypt
- God's standard for his people

The law was extensive and strict because God requires holiness from his people.

The Old Covenant agreement that included the law and its sacrifices was beneficial, but it was temporary.

b. Why is the law insufficient?

Though helpful for the people to know what was expected of them, the law didn't bring true access to God. The law revealed sin but could never fully remove it.

The law was just a shadow of the great realities to come through Jesus. A shadow isn't bad, it's just not complete.

If the law's sacrificial system had removed sin and brought them into right fellowship with God, then no more sacrifices would be needed. Instead, all these sacrifices reminded them of the insufficiency of their work.

The law was like a mirror. Their sacrifices were like Spanx. Their sacrifices covered the imperfections, but it didn't remove them.

The law was complicated and insufficient, but thankfully it was a shadow of what was to come!

2. Completion of the law

Jesus completed what no one else could.

The priests had to stand continually because sacrifices had to be continually offered.

The priests never sat down because their work was never done.

Jesus sat down! This means the work is done. It is finished and complete. This means God was satisfied with Jesus as THE final sacrifice. This means Jesus now is the sovereign ruler over all his enemies.

Jesus is greater than the law because He fulfilled it. He completed the work that only He could.

We can run to the Father and fall into grace because He is the surgeon that removed our imperfections forever and transformed us from the inside out.

3. Call to believers

Holy hearts are proved by holy lives.

“The doing flows out of the being.” (Donna Gaines)

It’s not about rigid rules or expectations, but because of Jesus, its about dying to ourselves and living a life of holy thankfulness to Him.

We’ve been given a freedom not to do whatever we want and justify our sin, but we’ve been given a freedom for a new way of living for Him.

a. “enter into his presence with boldness”

Jesus’s body was “torn” so we can now come to God boldly.

The veil isn’t folded or ready to be rehung later. It’s torn, never to be replaced.

b. “let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith”

Meaning: come close

The real problem was these discouraged Christians weren’t drawing near. Maybe it was from a feeling of unworthiness, but we draw near to God not by our own merit but his!

A lack of worship leads us away from God. Therefore, worship is the way we get back. We draw near to him by valuing him and showing him worth. We remember what he’s done in full assurance and faith.

c. “let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering”

Meaning: stand firm in our faith

Discouragement made Jewish believers waver from the truth. They needed a renewed confidence in who Jesus was and what he did. That is why there is continuous theme throughout this book showing that Jesus is greater. Remembering that would make them stand strong in the faith.

d. “consider one another in order to provoke love and good works”

In light of what Jesus has done and will do, we are to consider one another. We are to spur one another on, provoke one another to love and good works.

e. “don’t neglect gathering together”

Discouragement made Jewish believers avoid community when they needed it the most. This is how Jesus uses us in one another’s life. We are to care for one another, encourage, spur one another on as we gather together.

Technology was never meant to be a replacement for community. We need one another. Forsaking the fellowship is a sure way to give place to discouragement and give the enemy a foothold. There is protection in numbers.

Why we gather:

1. obey God (told not to neglect)
2. so we can give to others

The purpose of coming to church isn't just to get something, but to give something. We are part of something greater ourselves.

The choices we make prove what we really believe. Faithfulness to Jesus proves the genuineness of our faith. Lack of faithfulness to Jesus proves our lack of faith.

Those who are true followers of Jesus will live by faith. They will trust in the completed work of Jesus and faithfully endure until the end.

"The sacrifice of Christ is effective, then, forever because it fulfills God's will. It replaces the old system. It sanctifies the believer. It removes sin. It destroys the enemy. It has eternal security built into it. And, lastly, it fulfills the promise for a new covenant. It's so perfect, you can't add anything to it. All you need to do is believe. This is the most foundational, most central, most essential achievement of Christ. By it all other achievements stand. Don't hide this. Tell it from the housetops. In Christ all guilt is removed, and all wrath averted. (Piper)

Jesus is Greater!

Homework Questions:

Name one thing that Jesus is greater than and explain why.

Name some ways the Jewish believers were struggling. Why is it important to know this?

What was the “complication of the law?”

How was the law beneficial?

What is the connection between mirror/Spanx and the law/sacrifices?

What does the law foreshadow? How do we know?

How did the continual sacrifices reveal insufficiency?

What did the constant standing of the priests reveal?

What did the sitting of Jesus reveal?

Fill in the blank from the quote from Donna Gaines. “The doing flows out of the _____.” Explain what that means.

Read Romans 12:1. What is true worship as defined by this verse? How can you flesh this out?

Why does the Hebrew author explain the practical application as “the new living way?”

Turn to Hebrews 10 and fill in the blanks. (Translations will vary but that’s ok!)

“Enter into his presence with _____” (Explain what this means.)

“let us _____ with a true heart in full assurance of faith” (Explain.)

“let us hold on to the confession of our hope _____” (Explain.)

“_____ one another in order to provoke love and good works” (Explain.)

“don’t _____ gathering together” (Explain.)

Read Hebrews 10: 26-27. This does not mean we lose our salvation. What does it prove?

Read Hebrews 10:38. What does it say? What does it mean?

What characteristics of God are displayed in chapter 10?