

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>1</sup> For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. <sup>2</sup> Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? <sup>3</sup> But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. <sup>4</sup> For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

<sup>11</sup> And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup> For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

<sup>15</sup> And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, <sup>16</sup> "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," <sup>17</sup> then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." <sup>18</sup> Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

- Hebrews 10:1-18 (English Standard Version)

## Reflection

Then Aslan turned to them and said: "You do not yet look so happy as I mean you to be." Lucy said, "We're so afraid of being sent away, Aslan. And you have sent us back into our own world so often." "No fear of that," said Aslan. "Have you not guessed?" Their hearts leaped and a wild hope rose within them. "There was a real railway accident," said Aslan softly.

"Your father and mother and all of you are – as you used to call it in the Shadowlands – dead. The term is over: the holidays have begun. The dream is ended: this is the morning."

And as he spoke he no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story, which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.

- C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle* (p. 228)

# Sermon Outline

**Living in the Shadowlands**  
Hebrews 10:1-18

*Consider Jesus*  
Brad Anderson

*God purges the deadness of our souls by placing new life within our hearts...*  
(Hebrews 10:16-17)

**How do we experience this new life as it flows to us, extends beyond us, and shapes us a community of faith?**

**As the law continually reminds us of sin, sacrifice, and imperfection...**

(Hebrews 10:1-4)

**As the will of God is answered by a willing life...** (Hebrews 10:5-10)

**As we begin to taste the timelessness of his perfect and perfecting life...**

(Hebrews 10:11-18)

## Reflection Questions *(taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)*

- What repetitious activity do you dislike most: Cleaning the bathroom? Mowing the lawn? Shaving? Driving to and from work? Doing the dishes? Getting out of bed? Why? What daily rituals do you enjoy most?
- Why is the law insufficient? Knowing how a shadow is produced, how then is the law a "shadow" of reality? Where is true reality?
- What is one positive function of the annual animal sacrifice?
- In what ways does Christ replace the inadequate sacrifices of the law? How does Jesus' obedience relate to our holiness?
- What is the significance of the contrasts between the old sacrificial system and the new (Hebrews 10:11-13)? How did Jesus' once-and-for-all sacrifice make future sacrifices unnecessary?
- In the context of verse 14, in what sense are Christians already made perfect (holy), while still in the process of being made holy (or perfect)?
- How much of your time is spent with a gnawing and vague sense of guilt: All the time? Most of the time? Some of the time? A fraction of the time? Why is that?
- Do you live your life as if you were already made perfect, or were being made holy (See Hebrews 10:14)? Why or why not? In what way is God calling you to practice greater holiness?
- If you were asked to memorize one verse from this section, which would you choose and why?