

Hebrews 10:15-18 Commentary

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CONSIDER JESUS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

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Charts from [Jensen's Survey of the NT](#) - used by permission
[Swindoll's Chart](#), [Interesting Pictorial Chart of Hebrews](#), [Another Chart](#)

**The Epistle
to the Hebrews**

INSTRUCTION Hebrews 1-10:18				EXHORTATION Hebrews 10:19-13:25
Superior Person of Christ Hebrews 1:1-4:13	Superior Priest in Christ Hebrews 4:14-10:18			Superior Life In Christ Hebrews 10:19-13:25
BETTER THAN PERSON Hebrews 1:1-4:13	BETTER PRIESTHOOD Heb 4:14-7:28	BETTER COVENANT Heb 8:1-13	BETTER SACRIFICE Heb 9:1-10:18	BETTER LIFE
MAJESTY OF CHRIST	MINISTRY OF CHRIST			MINISTERS FOR CHRIST
DOCTRINE				DUTY
DATE WRITTEN: ca. 64-68AD				

See [ESV Study Bible "Introduction to Hebrews"](#)
(See also [MacArthur's Introduction to Hebrews](#))

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Hebrews 10:15 And the [Holy Spirit also testifies](#) to us; for [after saying](#), ([NASB: Lockman](#))

Greek: [Marturei \(3SPAI\) de emin kai to pneuma to agion; meta gar to eirekenai. \(RAN\)](#)

Amplified: And also the Holy Spirit adds His testimony to us [in confirmation of this]. For having said, ([Amplified Bible - Lockman](#))

Barclay: And to this the Holy Spirit is our witness, for after he has said: ([Westminster Press](#))

NLT: And the Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so. First he says, ([NLT - Tyndale House](#))

Phillips: The Holy Spirit himself endorses this truth for us, when he says, first: ([Phillips: Touchstone](#))

Wuest: Moreover, there testifies also to us the Holy Spirit. For after having said,

Young's Literal: and testify to us also doth the Holy Spirit, for after that He hath said before,

AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ALSO TESTIFIES TO US FOR AFTER SAYING: Marturei (3SPAI) de hemin kai to pneuma to hagian meta gar to eirekenai (RAN):

- Heb 2:3,4; 3:7; 9:8; 2 Sa 23:2; Nehemiah 9:30; John 15:26; Acts 28:25; 1 Pe 1:11,12; 2 Pe 1:21; Rev 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22; 19:10
- [Hebrews 10 Resources](#) - Multiple Sermons and Commentaries

THE HOLY SPIRIT TESTIFIES

And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying- First the Spirit says to believers there is a brand new arrangement regarding the Law (He will put the Law in our heart and mind) (Heb 10:16) and then He describes that our sins are forgiven and remembered no more (Heb 10:17) all possible because of the once for all sacrifice of our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the One Who spoke in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and He still speaks these words to us that we might not doubt for a moment their truth, for as Jesus said we shall know the truth and the truth will set us free. (Jn 8:32) We are free in Christ.

Spurgeon - And what more veritable witness can we have? That to which the Holy Ghost bears testimony must never be questioned by us.

In the Old Testament the **Holy Spirit** spoke...

2Samuel 23:2 (The last words of David - 2Sa 23:1) "The **Spirit of the Lord** spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.

Nehemiah 9:30 "However, You bore with them for many years, and admonished them by **Your Spirit** through Your prophets, yet they would not give ear. Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

Acts 28:25 And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, "The **Holy Spirit** rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,

1 Peter 1:10-note As to this salvation, the **prophets** who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, 11 seeking to know what person or time the **Spirit of Christ within them** (reflects the fact that in the OT, the Spirit took up temporary residence in some men in order to accomplish a specific purpose for God - He has the same "job" today in believers, except of course He dwells in us forever and ever, Amen!) was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the **Holy Spirit** (referring of course to the Spirit's activity in the NT saints) sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

This verse shows that the **Holy Spirit** is our Teacher, the One Jesus promised declaring that...

When the **Helper** comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the **Spirit of truth**, who proceeds from the Father, He will **bear witness** of Me (Jn 15:26)

The Spirit reveals God the Father and God the Son by inspiring the writing of Scripture. The Spirit has revealed in the past

The **Holy Spirit** is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing (He 9:8-note)

He reveals in the present as in this verse (**bears witness = present tense** = ongoing activity - martureo is also the first word in Heb 10:15 for emphasis!)

Therefore, just as the **Holy Spirit** says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE (He 3:7-note)

It was the Spirit Who first led people to write the Scriptures Peter recording that

no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men (cp Neh 9:30 above) moved by the **Holy Spirit** spoke from God (2Pe 1:21-note)

The **Holy Spirit** continues to guide God's people to understand them, as Hebrews shows (cf 1 Jn 2:20, 27, 1 Cor 2:13, 15, 16). The Spirit is the Inspirer and Teacher of Scriptures and the One Who enables us to understand and to live (Php 2:13-note) according to the Scriptures.

The verb tense of **testifies** here is interesting as well. **The Holy Spirit "bears witness," in the present, through the prophet Jeremiah, who wrote in the past.** This tells us that not only did the Holy Spirit inspire Jeremiah but **currently speaks through Him to us**. The Scriptures, though they were written long ago, speak to us today. Hallelujah!

Bears witness (3140) (**martureo** from **martus/martys** = witness, one who has information or knowledge of something & hence can bring to light or confirm something; English ~ martyr) means to be a witness, to testify, to give evidence, to give testimony, to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something. To be well reported. It means to provide information about a person or an event concerning which the speaker has direct knowledge. **Martureo** in some context is used in the sense of making an important and solemn declaration. It can be used in the sense of confirmation or approval and so to affirm in a supportive manner.

Martureo - 76x in 72v - NAS = add... testimony(1), attested(1), bear... witness(1), bear witness(1), continued to testify(1), gained approval(2), given(1), gives(1), good reputation(1), having a reputation(1), obtained the testimony(1), obtained the witness(1), received a good testimony(1), speaking well(1), testified(17), testifies(7), testify(25), testifying(5), testimony(5), well spoken(3), witness(1), witnessed(2), witnesses(1).

Matt 23:31; Luke 4:22; John 1:7f, 15, 32, 34; 2:25; 3:11, 26, 28, 32; 4:39, 44; 5:31ff, 36f, 39; 7:7; 8:13f, 18; 10:25; 12:17; 13:21; 15:26f; 18:23, 37; 19:35; 21:24; Acts 6:3; 10:22, 43; 13:22; 14:3; 15:8; 16:2; 22:5, 12; 23:11; 26:5; Rom 3:21; 10:2; 1 Cor 15:15; 2 Cor 8:3; Gal 4:15; Col 4:13; 1 Tim 5:10; 6:13; **Heb 7:8, 17; 10:15; 11:2, 4, 5, 39**; 1 John 1:2; 4:14; 5:6f, 9f; 3 John 1:3, 6, 12; Rev 1:2; 22:16, 18, 20.

Martureo is another key word in Hebrews, with 7/81 (almost 10% of the NT uses)

Hebrews 7:8 (note) - In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one receives them, of whom it is **witnessed** that he lives on.

Hebrews 7:17 (note) - For it is **attested** of Him, "YOU ARE PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

Hebrews 10:15 (note) - And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying,

Hebrews 11:2 (note) - For by it the men of old **gained approval**.

Hebrews 11:4 (note) - By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he **obtained the testimony** that he was righteous, God **testifying** about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

Hebrews 11:5 (note) - By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he **obtained the witness** that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.

Hebrews 11:39 (note) - And all these, **having gained approval** through their faith, did not receive what was promised

"We have the threefold revelation of God in this passage, a very definite spiritual and practical exemplification of the Holy Trinity, in the will of God (Hebrews 10:9)), the work of Christ (Hebrews 10:12), and the witness of the Spirit (Hebrews 10:15)." (Thomas)

After saying (lego) - Saying is in the [perfect tense](#) which speaks of the permanence and lasting effect of what the Spirit has spoken through the prophets. It was spoken in time and it will stand for eternity. You can stake your life on this "perfect tense!" His promise of the New Covenant will endure eternally.

Cross References on Hebrews 10:15 -

Heb 2:3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 **God also bearing witness** (sunepimartureo - present tense) **with them**, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

Heb 3:7 Therefore, just as **the Holy Spirit says**, (lego - present tense) "Today if you hear His voice,

Heb 9:8 The **Holy Spirit is signifying** ([deloo](#) - present tense) this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed, while the outer tabernacle is still standing,

2Sa 23:2 "**The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me** And His word was on my tongue.

Neh 9:30 "However, Thou didst bear with them for many years, And **admonished them by Thy Spirit through Thy prophets**, Yet they would not give ear. Therefore Thou didst give them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

John 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, **He will bear witness** (martureo) of Me,

Act 28:25 And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, "**The Holy Spirit rightly spoke** through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,

1Pe 1:11 seeking to know what person or time **the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ** and the glories to follow.

1Pe 1:12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which **now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit** sent from heaven things into which angels long to look.

2Pe 1:21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God**.

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit says** to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit says** to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.

Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit says** to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.

Rev 2:29 He who has an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit says** to the churches.

Rev 3:6 He who has an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit says** to the churches.

Rev 3:13 He who has an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit says** to the churches.

Rev 3:22 He who has an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit says** to the churches. "

Rev 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Hebrews 10:16 "THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM," He then says, (NASB: Lockman)

Greek: [Aute e diatheke en diathesomai \(1SFMI\) pros autous meta tas hemeras ekeinas. legei \(3SPAI\) kurios. didous \(PAPMSN\) nomous mou epi kardias auton, kai epi ten dianoian auton epigrapso \(1SFAI\) autous](#)

Amplified: This is the agreement (testament, covenant) that I will set up and conclude with them after those days, says the Lord: I will imprint My laws upon their hearts, and I will inscribe them on their minds (on their inmost thoughts and understanding), ([Amplified Bible - Lockman](#))

Barclay: "This is the covenant I will make with them after these days, says the Lord. I will put my laws upon their hearts; and I will write them upon their minds," ([Westminster Press](#))

NLT: "This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts so they will understand them, and I will write them on their minds so they will obey them." ([NLT - Tyndale House](#))

Phillips: 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them'. ([Phillips: Touchstone](#))

Wuest: This is the testament which I will make with them after those days, the Lord says, I am putting my laws upon their hearts, and upon their minds I will write them.

Young's Literal: 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, giving My laws on their hearts, and upon their minds I will write them,'

THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS SAYS THE LORD: aute e diatheke en diathesomai (1SFMI) pros autous meta tas hemeras ekeinas, legei (3SPAI) kurios:

- Heb 8:8, 9, 10, 11, 12; Jeremiah 31:33,34; Romans 11:27
- [Hebrews 10 Resources](#) - Multiple Sermons and Commentaries

GOD'S PROMISE TO CUT A NEW COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH AFTER THOSE DAYS - Remember that these are the words the Holy Spirit is speaking (Heb 10:15). And they refer of course to the New Covenant promised in the Old Testament in Jeremiah and other passages.

Related Resource:

- [New Covenant in the Old Testament](#)

Wuest - The writer now quotes the prophet Jeremiah again as to the finality of the New Testament. He places the Jewish recipients

of this letter in the position where they will either accept their prophet and thus the New Testament, or in rejecting the New Testament, they will be rejecting their own prophet. He declares the inspiration of the Old Testament, for he says that the Holy Spirit spoke the words. Jeremiah was only His penman. ([Hebrews Commentary online](#))

The writer again quotes **Jeremiah** (quoting from the Greek, the Septuagint -Lxx, not quite but almost verbatim)...

Jeremiah 31:33+ "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel (He 10:16 = "with them") after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

This is the same promise **Paul** records in Romans 9-11 which deals with the "Jewish Question" (What will God do with the Jews?) writing...

"All Israel (see Zech 13:8-9+) will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION (see Zech 12:10-14+, Zech 13:1+, Zech 13:8-9+), HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB." "This is My covenant (referring to the New Covenant) with them (the Jews - Je 31:31+), when I take away their sins." (Romans 11:26-27+)

Covenant (1242) (**diatheke** from **dia** = two + **tithemi** = to place pictures that which is placed between two) and thus a covenant is something placed between two, an arrangement between two parties. This term was commonly used in the Greco-Roman world to define a legal transaction in settling an inheritance. **Diatheke** denotes an irrevocable decision which cannot be cancelled by anyone. A prerequisite of its effectiveness is the death of the disposer and thus **diatheke** was like a "final will and testament". In reference to the divine covenants, such as the Abrahamic covenant, **diatheke** is not a covenant in the sense that God came to agreement or compromise with fallen man as if signing a contract. Rather, it involves declaration of God's unconditional promise to make Abraham and his seed the recipients of certain blessings. The New Covenant of course is made effective by the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the Cross for on the night before he was crucified Luke records...

And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is **the new covenant in My blood**. (Lk 22:20+)

Make (grant) (1303) (**diatithemi** from **dia** = through or as an intensive, root meaning = "two" + **tithemi** = to place or put) properly means, to place apart, to set in order, to arrange. If one considers the root meaning of **dia** ("two"), then the definition could be rendered "to place between two" as a covenant which is something that is placed between two, an arrangement between two parties. This verb is used in the NT only in the **middle voice**.

Them = **Jews** (cp the intended audience of the announcement of the New Covenant in Jer 31:31-33+) yet this covenant is now available to anyone who believes that Christ's blood is satisfactory and sufficient to save them from the penalty of their sins -- eternal destruction and separation.

The ultimate fulfillment of some of God's promises to Israel in Jer 31:38-40 await complete fulfillment in the [millennial age](#)

Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the city will be rebuilt for the LORD from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. 39 "The measuring line will go out farther straight ahead to the hill Gareb; then it will turn to Goah. 40 "And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the LORD; it will not be plucked up or overthrown anymore forever."

F F Bruce - "In Ch 8 the oracle of Jeremiah 31:31-34 was quoted in order to prove the obsolescence of the old economy; now it is quoted again in order to establish the permanence of the era of "perfection" inaugurated under the new covenant. "God has spoken in His Son"; and He has no word to speak beyond Him."

Ms. Marsh once said, "There was quoted to my father, the Reverend W. Marsh, a saying of old Fuller's. 'He that falls into sin is a man. He that grieves at sin is a saint. He that boasts of sin is a devil.' My father replied, 'There is only one thing more, he that forgives sin is God.'"

Cross References:

Heb 8:8-12 For finding fault with them, He says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, When I will effect a new covenant With the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;

Jer 31:33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, Know the LORD, for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the

LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Rom 11:26-27 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB." 27 "And this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART AND UPON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM: didous (PAPMSN) nomous mou epi kardias auton kai epi ten dianoian auton epigrapso (1SFAI) autous:

- [Hebrews 10 Resources](#) - Multiple Sermons and Commentaries

EXTERNAL LAW ON STONE INTERNAL LAW ON HEARTS

I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM- External laws now are made internal. This is a bit mysterious to me, but God says it so I believe it! We have the Law in our heart and the Spirit of Jesus in our heart to enable us to obey. The Spirit gives us the **desire** (the "want to" - my fallen flesh still does not "want to") and the **power** (Php 2:13NLT+). With God's sufficient supply of His Word and His Spirit, we are now equipped to obey the command to **Work out** ([present imperative](#) = command to make this our lifestyle, our habitual practice - only possible as we jettison self-reliance and lean wholly on [the Holy Spirit Who enables us to obey](#)) our salvation in fear and trembling." (Php 2:12+), which is simply a call to progressive sanctification or progressive growth in Christ-likeness, a progressive growth in holiness. But notice that even there, while we are clearly responsible to "work out," we can only do so by depending on the supernatural power of [the Holy Spirit](#), to work out what He has worked in! Does that make sense? It is not "Let go, let God," but "Let God and let's go!" His part, our part! God's sovereign provision and our solemn responsibility! The result is supernatural synergism (so to speak).

Wuest - A distinctive feature of the new (covenant) was to be the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit Who would be caused to take up His permanent abode in the believer under the New Testament dispensation (1 Cor 6:19-20). Heretofore, He had come upon or in individuals in order to equip them for a certain ministry, and then would leave them when the time of that ministry was over. He did not personally indwell them for purposes of sanctification. The Old Testament saint was regenerated, thus becoming a partaker of the divine nature, and thus had that impetus to the living of a holy life. The New Testament saint has both the advantages of regeneration and the personal indwelling and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. Thus, under the First Testament God wrote His laws on stone, whereas under the New Testament He writes them upon the heart. ([Hebrews Commentary online](#))

Swindoll - This new arrangement now made possible through Christ brings all the resources we need and places them within us. As the apostle Peter put it: "His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3). The sin issue that had destroyed our relationship with God and hindered righteousness and spiritual growth has been dealt with. And more than that, we have a new ability to follow in Christ's footsteps—to offer our bodies as "a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God" (Rom. 12:1). The Hebrew believers who had been slipping backward into their old fascination with the Law and its sacrifices needed to be reminded of its limitations. They had to hear in no uncertain terms that it was impossible for the blood of animal sacrifices to take away sins (Heb. 10:4). In essence, they needed to hear the good news that the perfect sacrifice of Christ was one for all, once for all, and free for all. (Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary – Hebrews)

Spurgeon - What the law could not do with its iron fetters, the Gospel has done with its silken bonds. If God had thundered at you, you would have grown proud like Pharaoh when he said, "Who is Yahweh that I should listen to his voice?" (Ex 5:2) But when the Lord Jesus spoke softly to you, you bowed before Him, and said, "He is my Lord and my God" (John 20:28). The blustering wind of the law made you bind about yourself the cloak of your sins, but the genial warmth of the sun of the Gospel constrained you to cast away the garments of your sin (**Ed**: The exact meaning of the rare verb [periaireo](#) "take away" in Heb 10:11+), and fly to the Savior. Oh, what a blessed covenant this is! Christ's death has established a covenant of grace in which there is no flaw, and no possibility of failure, for the one condition of the covenant has been fulfilled by Christ and now it stands as a covenant of "shalls" and "wills" on God's part from which He will never run back. It is not, "If they do this, and if they do that, I will do the other," but it is all "I will."

Upon (epi) means to place upon. It is interesting that the Greek of the Hebrew (Septuagint - LXX) of this passage from Jer 31:33 has the preposition **eis**, which means "into" and has the primary meaning of motion or direction toward (their hearts).

God supernaturally deals with the deadly otherwise undefeatable power of **Sin** (notes on Sin in Romans 6) by writing His perfect law on our hearts so that by virtue of our new nature (2Co 5:17+) we now supernaturally hate sin (something we "naturally" love!) from the inside out (so to speak) and love God's will and walk in His ways (we are not puppets, but still must daily, moment by moment make the conscious choice for God's will - cp Php 2:12+), not by external laws constraint (but by His holy law and His Holy Spirit -

see Php 2:13+, see Ezekiel 36 below). That's the new covenant = a New Heart

Ezekiel records God's promises concerning the New Covenant and this great passage also includes God's immutable promise of the "**power Source**" to enable us to obey His Law...

Moreover, **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you**, and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes (God's provision - cf Php 2:13+), and you will be careful to observe My ordinances (Believer's responsibility - cf Php 2:12+). (Ezekiel 36:26-27+)

And I shall **give them one heart**, and shall put a new spirit within them. And I shall take **the heart of stone out of their flesh** and **give them a heart of flesh**, that ([term of purpose](#)) they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances, and do them (**Ed**: empowered by the indwelling Spirit). Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God. (Ezekiel 11:19-20+)

Thomas Vincent writes... **Labor for a thorough understanding of the covenant**, both the covenant which God made with Christ on behalf of man—and the covenant which God has made with man through Christ. **Acquaint yourselves with the covenant** God made with Christ on behalf of man. Whatever worth and value there was in the righteousness of Christ, yet God might have required a personal righteousness and satisfaction, and Christ's righteousness might have stood us in no stead. But God eternally covenanted and agreed with Christ that if He would take human nature, and work out a righteousness for fallen man, it would be accepted; that if He would take to Himself the body of a man that God would prepare for Him, and make His soul an offering for sin, that is, suffer what His justice required for the sins of man—He would see His seed and justify many (Isaiah 53:10, 11). It is through this covenant with Christ that Christ's righteousness is accepted on behalf of sinners, God having agreed before that it should so be. **Acquaint yourselves with the covenant** which God has made with man through Christ, where upon the account of Christ God has promised remission of sins and eternal life. ([The Only Deliverer from the Wrath to Come](#))

Related Resources: Study of Covenant in the Scripture

- Lesson 1 Covenant: Summary Table
- Lesson 2 Covenant: The Exchange of Robes
- Lesson 3 Covenant: The Exchange of Armor and Belts
- Lesson 4 Covenant: Solemn and Binding
- Lesson 5 Covenant: A Walk Into Death
- Lesson 6 Covenant: The Oneness of Covenant
- Covenant: Oneness Notes
- Lesson 7 Covenant: Withholding Nothing from God
- Lesson 8 Covenant: Abrahamic versus Mosaic
- Lesson 9 Covenant: New Covenant in the Old Testament
- Lesson 10 Covenant: Why the New is Better
- Lesson 11 Covenant: Abrahamic vs Old vs New

Devotional The Mercy Seat

"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." [Heb. 10:16, see Jer. 31:33]

In 1 Chronicles 28:2, David says concerning the temple: "I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it." The ark is the footstool. We need to bear that in mind as we consider Hebrews 10:15–17.

Inside the ark was the tablets of the law of Moses. Above the ark was the mercy seat, on which the blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled on the Day of Atonement. We who were Christ's enemies have been made his footstool. We have become the human form of the ark of the covenant.

The author of Hebrews combines this symbolism with a statement from Jeremiah 31:33–34. These verses say that God will write his laws on our hearts. This fulfills the symbolism of the ark. Just as the law was inside the ark, so it is now inside of us. Just as the ark journeyed through the wilderness, with God enthroned above it, so now we journey toward our sabbath, with Christ enthroned above us.

Between the ark and God's enthroned presence in the pillar of cloud was a slab of gold called the mercy seat. Remember that blood

was put on the mercy seat. When God looked down at the ark, representing his people, he saw them symbolized through the blood on the mercy seat, the blood that represented Christ.

Christ now sits enthroned on the mercy seat. When God the Father looks down at us, the new ark, he sees us through Jesus. Jesus is above us. God sees him and remembers his blood. And so the author of Hebrews continues his quotation from Jeremiah: "The sins and lawless acts I will remember no more" (Heb. 10:17).

The animal sacrifices reminded God of sins year by year, because that blood could never remove sin (Heb. 10:3–4). But the blood of Jesus, which we plead, reminds God of Christ's atoning death. For this reason God does not remember our sins any longer. Instead he remembers Jesus, and through Jesus he remembers that we have fled for refuge under his feet.

Coram Deo -- Imagine this scene that has been painted for us. Above is God, angry at sin. Below is the ark, or rather it is we who now are in the place of the ark. Between God and us is the mercy seat, Jesus. Jesus mediates between God and us, and God is now satisfied and at peace with us. Think through the implications of this picture as we pray "in Jesus' name." Does that add meaning to this phrase we often say without meaning at the end of our prayers?

Hebrews 10:17 "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO * MORE."(NASB: Lockman)

Greek: [kai ton amartion auton kai ton anomion auton ou me mnesthesomai \(1SFPI\) eti.](#)

Amplified: He then goes on to say, And their sins and their lawbreaking I will remember no more. [Jer. 31:33, 34.] ([Amplified Bible - Lockman](#))

Barclay: he goes on to say: "And I will not remember any more their sins and their breaches of the law." ([Westminster Press](#))

NLT: Then he adds, "I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds." ([NLT - Tyndale House](#))

Phillips: And then, he adds, 'Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more'. ([Phillips: Touchstone](#))

Wuest: And their sins and their lawlessnesses I will positively not remember any more.

Young's Literal: and 'their sins and their lawlessness I will remember no more;'

AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE: kai ton hamartion auton kai ton anomion auton ou me mnesthesomai (1SFPI) eti:

- [Hebrews 10 Resources](#) - Multiple Sermons and Commentaries

AN INCREDIBLE DIVINE PROMISE!

Wuest - The other distinctive feature of the New Testament is the fact that God remembers sins and iniquities no more. The constant repetition of the sacrifices demonstrated that the sin question was not settled. The once for all offering of the Messiah shows that sin is paid for and put away. ([Hebrews Commentary online](#))

THOUGHT - The Christian must endeavor to do with their sin exactly what God has done: forget about it. As well, this reminds us that the believer is in no way on probation. Before God his past sin has no bearing on God's present dealing.

Sins (266)(**hamartia**) literally conveys the idea of missing the mark as when hunting with a bow and arrow (in Homer some hundred times of a warrior hurling his spear but missing his foe). Later hamartia came to mean missing or falling short of any goal, standard, or purpose. Hamartia in the Bible signifies a departure from God's holy, perfect standard of what is right in word or deed (righteous). It pictures the idea of missing His appointed goal (His will) which results in a deviation from what is pleasing to Him. In short, sin is conceived as a missing the true end and scope of our lives, which is the Triune God Himself. As Martin Luther put it "Sin is essentially a departure from God."

Ryrie adds that **sin** "is not only a negative idea but includes the positive idea of hitting some wrong mark."

Lawless (458)(**anomia** from **a** = negates what follows + **nomos** = law) literally describes that which is without the law and signifies,

not merely the abstract idea, but disregard for, or actual breach of, the law of God. **Anomia** means "no law," and emphasizes an attitude of disregard for the statutes of God. It means living as if there were no law. A person who rejects God's authority doesn't care what God thinks about his habits.

Lawlessness is living as though your own ideas are superior to God's.

Lawlessness says, "God may demand it but I don't prefer it."

Lawlessness says, "God may promise it but I don't want it."

Lawlessness replaces God's law with my contrary desires. I become a law to myself.

Lawlessness is rebellion against the right of God to make laws and govern His creatures. Lawlessness signifies everything that is contrary to the will and law of God and is more intentional and flagrant sin. It is direct and open rebellion against God and His ways.

Here the writer quotes in part from Jeremiah 31:34... They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, **and their sin I will remember no more.**"

Compare **Jehovah's** great promise in Isaiah 43:25 - "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake; and **I will not remember your sins**"

Spurgeon - When the prodigal is received and forgiven, he is not put at the end of the table, below the salt, or sent into the kitchen with the servants, as if his faults were forgiven but yet remembered. He is invited to the table, and he feasts there upon the best the house affords. The fatted calf is killed, the ring is on his finger, and there are music and dancing for him—as sweet music and as joyous dancing as for the constantly obedient elder son. Not only so but more, for there is more joy over him than over the son who did not go astray. God in this sense forgets His people's sins.

I will remember them no more - The statement that God will remember sins no more (Hebrews 10:17) means that He will no longer call them back to memory with a view to condemning the sinner (cf. Romans 8:1). Since God is omniscient He remembers everything, but He does not hold the forgiven sinner's sins against him or her. This verse has been a great help to many sinners who have found it hard to believe that God really has forgiven them (cf. 1 John 2:2).

The Mosaic Law and the sacrifices of the Law brought a remembrance of sin and the offerer's conscience could not be cleansed. But Christ's sacrifice is the basis for the New Covenant and any sinner who comes to Christ will have his sins forgiven and God will remember them no more. Sins are forever washed away by the sacrifice of Christ and the sins of God's blood-purchased people cannot again come up. Why? They are remembered no more, having been cast into the sea of God's forgetfulness "forever."

Remember ([3403](#)) (**mimnesko** through the idea of fixture in mind or of mental grasp) means to recall information from memory, but without necessarily implication persons have actually forgotten.

Clearly the omniscient God knows everything, but here we see on the basis of His infinite, transcendent grace, mercy and love, He covenants to deal with us by putting our sins behind His back (Is 38:17), casting them into the sea (Mic 7:19), wiping them out (Is 44:22), placing them as far as the East is from the West (Ps 103:12 - Why didn't He say "north" and "south"? Clue: Where is the "east pole"?) **And all God's people respond "Glory! Hallelujah! Thank you LORD!"**

If you have put your faith in Jesus and asked Him to forgive you, the past is truly forgotten. "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12).

No more - This phrase is actually a great **double negative (ou me)** which gives the strongest negation to this "negative promise"! Again cause for God's people to begin "shouting"!

Puritan **Thomas Brooks** wrote that... Caesar was painted with his finger upon his scar, his wart. God puts His fingers upon all His people's scars and warts—upon all their weaknesses and infirmities, that nothing can be seen but what is fair and lovely. "You are so beautiful, My beloved; there is no flaw in you!" Song 4:7. The meaning is, "I will fully forgive their sins; I will never more mention them; I will never more take notice of them; they shall never more hear of them from Me!" Though God has an iron memory to remember the sins of the wicked—yet He has no memory to remember the sins of the godly! "I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Hebrews 8:12

Brooks records... That which Cicero said flatteringly of Caesar, is truly affirmed of God, "He forgets nothing but the wrongs which daily are done him by his people."

Spurgeon - What a wonderful covenant that is—not that He will bless you if you keep the law, but that you shall be enabled to keep

it, and that He will lead you to do so by putting His law, not on tables of stone, where your eye can see it, but on the fleshy tablets of your heart, where your soul shall feel its force and power, so that you shall be obedient to it. Meditate on those glorious words: **"Their sins and their lawless deeds I will never remember again."** Once in the end of the world God Himself descended from the skies and was veiled in our inferior clay. Here on earth God's eternal Son lived and dwelt like one of us. In the fullness of time, when the sins of all His people had been laid upon Him, He was seized by the officers of justice and was taken away as having our sins upon His own person. On the tree was He fastened that He might die, the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God. Christ stood in the place of His people, and when God's wrath fell upon sin it fell upon Him and spent itself upon His person. There is no wrath left in God's heart now against those for whom the Savior died. Christ has suffered all.

Spurgeon in Faith's Checkbook has the following devotional entitled...

Absolutely No Remembrance: According to this gracious covenant the Lord treats His people as if they had never sinned. Practically, He forgets all their trespasses. Sins of all kinds He treats as if they had never been, as if they were quite erased from His memory. O miracle of grace! God here doth that which in certain aspects is impossible to Him. His mercy work miracles which far transcend all other miracles. Our God ignores our sin now that the sacrifice of Jesus has ratified the covenant. We may rejoice in Him without fear that He will be provoked to anger against us because of our iniquities. See! He puts us among the children; He accepts us as righteous; He takes delight in us as if we were perfectly holy. He even puts us into places of trust; makes us guardians of His honor, trustees of the crown jewels, stewards of the gospel. He counts us worthy and gives us a ministry; this is the highest and most special proof that He does not remember our sins. Even when we forgive an enemy, we are very slow to trust him; we judge it to be imprudent so to do. But the Lord forgets our sins and treats us as if we had never erred. O my soul, what a promise is this! Believe it and be happy.

Charles Stanley - In the book, Tramp for the Lord, Corrie Ten Boom addresses the subject of forgiveness:

"Forgiveness is the key which unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred. It breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness. The forgiveness of Jesus not only takes away our sins, it makes them as if they had never been."

This is the same principle mentioned in Hebrews 10:17 (NASB): "THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE." (Ed: Of course God is omniscient but He chooses to not remember our sins) Hanging on to past failures and sins distorts God's view of who we are in Christ. He tells us that we are new creatures, saved and redeemed, but guilt and shame keep us from looking up into His wondrous face of love and acceptance. By focusing on the past, we block God's future intent for our lives. Buying into false guilt leads to feelings of defeat that may end in hopelessness and fear. People who struggle with lingering guilt often have a hard time accepting God's love. They cannot imagine how the Lord could possibly use them for His glory, especially when they think about their past sins. But think for a moment. If this were true, God would have never chosen Moses, David, and Paul (3 "big time" sinners) as vessels for His work. Corrie had a saying that many people have come to love:

"When God forgives your sin, He buries it in the deepest sea and puts up a 'no fishing' sign."

(Corrie also had a great quote - 'Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.')

A Past Long Gone - According to the English novelist Aldous Huxley, **"There are no back moves on the chessboard of life."** Yet we remain aware of things we have done and things we have left undone. Our sins worry us. They motivate us to wish fervently that somehow we could undo the past.

That's why those who put their faith in Jesus can be thankful for God's message in both the Old and New Testaments. When Paul preached in Antioch, he said, "By [Jesus], everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:39). The law condemned us (Ro 7:10, 11), but Jesus offers deliverance and new life (Ro 8:1).

Are you worried about what you've done in the past? Rejoice! God has "cast all our sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19, cp Is 38:17). Are you still concerned about your sins? Rejoice! "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more" (Hebrews 10:17). And "I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions" (Isaiah 44:22).

If you have put your faith in Jesus and asked Him to forgive you, the past is truly forgotten. "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). Trust and rejoice!—Vernon C Grounds ([Our Daily Bread, Copyright RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved](#))

My sin—O, the bliss of this glorious thought—

My sin, not in part but the whole,

Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.
—Spafford

God's forgiveness frees us from the chains of regret.

Hebrews 10:18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin ([NASB: Lockman](#))

Greek: [hopou de aphasis touton ouketi prospora peri amartias](#)

Amplified: Now where there is absolute remission (forgiveness and cancellation of the penalty) of these [sins and lawbreaking], there is no longer any offering made to atone for sin. ([Amplified Bible - Lockman](#))

Barclay: Now, where there is forgiveness of these things, a sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. ([Westminster Press](#))

NLT: Now when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices. ([NLT - Tyndale House](#))

Phillips: Where God grants remission of sin there can be no question of making further atonement. ([Phillips: Touchstone](#))

Wuest: Now where a putting away of these is, no longer is there an offering for sin.

Young's Literal: and where forgiveness of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

NOW WHERE THERE IS FORGIVENESS OF THESE THINGS THERE IS NO LONGER ANY OFFERING FOR SIN: hopou de aphasis touton ouketi prospora peri hamartias::

- Mt 26:28, He 10:2,14
- [Hebrews 10 Resources](#) - Multiple Sermons and Commentaries

ABSOLUTELY COMPLETE FORGIVENESS

The long section on the high priestly ministry of Jesus ends here (Hebrews 7:1 to Hebrews 10:18). Priestly ministry was such an important part of old Israelite worship that the writer gave it lengthy attention here. The writer showed that Jesus is a superior priest compared with the Levitical priests, and that His priesthood supersedes the Levitical priesthood. He also pointed out that Jesus serves under the New Covenant that is superior to the Old Covenant. Furthermore His sacrifice is superior to the animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant. Finally, Jesus' priesthood brings the believer into full acceptance with God, something the former priesthood could not do. Therefore the readers would be foolish to abandon Christianity to return to Judaism. Contemporary believers are also foolish to turn away from Christ and the gospel.

S Lewis Johnson - Now, finally, in verse 18, he comes to the climactic statement, "Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin." No more remembrance of sin, he has said earlier, no more offering of sin, no more conscience of sins because there is no more offering for sin. This is a truth Mr. Spurgeon said, "That might well make David dance before the Ark of the Lord." In a sense, this is the last, it's the decisive word of the argument of the section of the Epistle to the Hebrews from chapter 1 until here.

Forgiveness (859) (**aphesis** from **aphiemi** = action which causes separation and is in turn derived from **apo** = from + **hiemi** = put in motion, send) literally means to send away or to put apart. The root meaning of **forgiveness** is to put away an offense. In secular Greek literature, the related word **aphiemi** was used to indicate the sending away of an object or a person and came to include the release of someone from the obligation of marriage, or debt, or even a religious vow. In its final form this word group came to embrace the principle of release from punishment for some wrongdoing.

Aphasis means release, as from bondage, imprisonment. Luke gives us insight into this aspect of **aphesis** quoting Jesus' proclamation in the Jew in the synagogue in Nazareth declaring that

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM **RELEASE (aphesis)** TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY

OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED" (Lk 4:18+ quoting from Isaiah 61:1 where the Septuagint translates the Hebrew word **deror** = liberty, Lxx = **aphesis**).

All men are born captives of sin (we incurred a debt we could not pay and thus were given over to enslavement to the harsh task master "Sin") and also slaves of Satan (cp He 2:14, 15) and in need of **release**. (and redemption which effect the release - redemption = paying the price to set us free, release = the putting away of our debts because of the payment of the price of Christ's precious blood). The truth alone can **release** and set men free (Jn 8:31, 32, 36) and specifically this truth is the truth about the Messiah, our eternal "**Scapegoat**" (cf the OT teaching on the scapegoat on the day of atonement described in Lev 16:8, 10, 26) Who carried away our sin debt **forever**, having paid the price in full (Jn 19:30)!

Are you still captive to sin? You are if you have never received Christ's free gift of His full payment for your sins. Come to the fountain of blood that flows from Immanuel's veins and be set free so that you might be free indeed.

The Theological Lexicon of the NT...

(Aphesis) has multiple shades of meaning, some of them quite everyday, like the sending out of ships (Demosthenes, Corona 18.77–78); but there are also technical applications, for example in architecture, and in sports, where it refers to the starting line for the athletes in the dialulos; in astrology, it refers to the point of departure, the beginning. In Aristotle, it refers to the emission or expulsion of fish roe (bees release their excrement; 6.22.576a25: a mare remains standing at the moment of delivery; Part. An. 4.13.697a24: "the spiracle of cetaceans is for expelling water."), and in Hippocrates it becomes a medical term, the emission of gas being a symptom of illness. Aphesis can also mean "exhaustion, prostration": "forgetfulness and prostration, loss of voice ... signs of illness" (Epid. 3.6).

Aphesis is used especially for persons, usually as a legal term for a layoff, for the release of slaves or prisoners (Polybius 1.79.12; Plato, Plt. 273c), the repudiation of a spouse ("Pompey sent his wife a *bill of divorce*"), an exemption from military service (Plutarch, Ages. 24.3), a dispensation from an obligation: "A councillor who does not come to the meeting chamber at the appointed time shall pay one drachma for each day's absence unless the council grants him a dispensation" (ean mē heuriskomenos aphesin tēs boulēs apē, Aristotle, Ath. Pol. 30.6). In Demosthenes, aphasis is usually a "discharge" in the technical sense of freeing someone from an obligation ("There was a settling of accounts and a *release* relative to the bank lease"; C. Naus. 28.5), but also a "settlement" ("My father was able to recover the debt after the settlement," C. Naus. 38.14) and a "remission" ("This *remission* of interest did not wrong the creditors"). On rare occasions (**Ed**: In contrast to Biblical use) it refers to the forgiveness of an offense: "What we have said concerning forgiveness of a parricide by a father shall be valid for similar cases" (Plato, Leg. 9.869 d). The term does not seem to have been used by the moralists, however.

In the papyri, aphasis refers especially to the draining of water from pools and especially to sluice gates ("the sluice gates at Phoboou" or the conduits from which water flows out into the fields. (Spicq, C., & Ernest, J. D. Theological Lexicon of the New Testament. 1:238. Peabody, MA.: Hendrickson)

No longer any offering - In other words when God forgives sins on the basis of the atoning work of His Son, the forgiveness is perfect and complete and no longer needs sacrificial offerings. When the real Lamb has come there is no longer need for the "symbolic" lambs, which were but shadows of the Lamb of God.

Wuest - The writer now draws an important conclusion to all this. He says that in view of the fact that sin has been paid for, there is no more need of the constant repetition of sacrificial offerings. And that is exactly what the writer is attempting to instill into the minds and hearts of his readers, namely, that the New Testament in Jesus' blood is superior to and takes the place of the First Testament in animal blood. ([Hebrews Commentary online](#))

Offering (4376)(**phosphora** from **pros** = toward, before + **phero** = to bring or bear) literally is "a bringing before" and thus describes the act of offering or a bringing to and metonymically to that which is offered (a gift, a present). The major Scriptural use of **prospora** is found in Hebrews 10 (5x out of a total of 9 uses in the NT - Acts 21:26; 24:17; Ro 15:16; Eph 5:2; Heb 10:5, 8, 10, 14, 18), thus it behooves one to study these passages in context to derive a good sense of the meaning of the word.

Spurgeon reasons that "If the sins themselves have gone, and God will remember them no more, no further sacrifice is required for them. What need do you have of cleansing if you are so clean that God Himself sees no sin in you? O glorious purgati on by the atoning sacrifice of Christ! Rejoice in it, and praise the Lord for it forever and ever."

Horatius Bonar gives us some history on this **offering** writing that...

All through Scripture we find traces of the blood. 'You shall bruise His heel' was the first reference to it (Ge

3:15). The bruised heel of the woman's seed was to be the foundation stone of our deliverance. It was to be deliverance by blood. The bruised heel was to tread upon the serpent's head (Ro 16:20-note) In connection with this announcement as to the bruised heel, sacrifice was ordained; and thus the truth began to be developed; victory for the sinner through the blood of One who was to be slain.

'The blood is the life' (Dt 12:23). Not that blood and life are actually the same thing—the one is material, the other immaterial. But the blood is the 'life made visible'—the liquid link between body and soul, which, once broken, brings death. The blood poured out is the life drained away from the body—the departure of the soul from its material dwelling. Thus the blood and the life are identified. God identifies them; law identifies them. Blood 'shed' is the symbol or visible exhibition of 'death'.

Death was the penalty of man's guilt. The wages of sin is death (Ro 6:23). The soul that sins—it shall die (Ezek 18:4). If, then, another life is to be taken for our life, and another death is to be substituted for ours, the true expression of this is the drawing the blood from the victim, and putting that blood on us. This is the symbolic declaration of the great substitution, the great transference—one life for another, one death for another (cp Ge 9:4,5). Death, with all its consequences, lies on the transgressor until another death comes (in the symbolic form of blood), and washes it away. When the sinner receives God's testimony to 'the blood of the Lamb' (Re 7:14-note, Re 12:11-note), then the transference is at once completed—death passes away...

The blood of the Lamb contains the pardon. (Hebrews 9:22-note) 'Without shedding of blood is no remission.' By the shedding of blood then, there is remission of sins. The many blood sheddings have ceased (Hebrews 10:18); and the one blood shedding, which in its value, and efficacy, and suitableness is everlasting and infinite, remains. Taking it as the payment of the penalty, substituted by God for our non-payment of it, we are forgiven. He who receives the divine testimony to the blood is in so doing forgiven. That blood, by covering his sins, brings pardon—pardon to anyone who is willing to take pardon in this way from God. (See [The Blood Of The Covenant](#))

The OT sacrifices were merely an "offering" and while they were the means God had specified to provide for temporary "relief" (covering the sins), they did give at least limited access of sinful man to a thrice holy God. In Christ's redemptive work, "FORGIVENESS" was the perfect completion of atonement. The blood of sacrificial animals effected a temporary covering, but the sacrificial system in itself could not take away the sin and its debt (which required forgiveness), the debt of which was slavery to Sin in this life and death in eternal separation from God in the next life. Christ's sacrificial death provided the perfect atonement (He 9:14) with everlasting efficacy (thus there was **no longer any offering** necessary).

Forgiveness - aphasis - love the picture of this word (apo = from and hiemi = send, put in motion) sending away -- action causing separation. Was a legal term meaning to repay or cancel a debt. Thru shedding of His blood Christ took the sins of world upon Himself & carried them an infinite distance away with no return possible (compare the scapegoat in Lev 16:21 which clearly pointed to Jesus).

Folks still wrestle with memories of sins Christ has carried away and need to be reminded that the gracious God has given us several pictures to help us understand that forgiveness means they are totally forever forgiven...

- Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. (Notice it does not say as far as "north is from south" - We have a north and south pole but no east or west pole - speaks of infinite, endless forgiveness)
- Isaiah 38:17 "Lo, for my own welfare I had great bitterness; It is Thou who hast kept my soul from the pit of nothingness, For Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back.
- Isaiah 44:22 "I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud, And your sins like a heavy mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."
- Micah 7:19 He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.

God is able to forget our past. Why can't we? God throws our sins into the depths of the sea and puts up a sign on the shore that reads, "No fishing." In ancient times the depths of the sea were completely inaccessible to us. The limits were how far a man could dive with one lungful of air. In modern times we have submarines that can go anywhere on or below the sea's surface, so we do not fully appreciate this figure of speech. Perhaps the inaccessible aspect would be clearer if we changed the statement to "God has cast all of our sins into a nuclear waste dump." That's truly inaccessible! And that's forgiveness!

When we are attacked by fiery missiles of past sins confessed and repented of, we need to recall the truth to mind of the breadth

and length and height and depth of God's forgiveness on the Cross, foreshadowed by beautiful OT metaphors and types -

- Lev 16:20, 21 the scapegoat sent off into the wilderness never to be seen again!
- Ps 103:12 - as far as E is from W! Isa 38:17 - Cast all my sins behind His back!
- Isa 44:22 - wiped them clean!
- Micah 7:19 - Tread them under foot, cast them into the depths of the sea! --- and put up a "No Fishing" sign like Corrie Ten Boom likes to say)

Story of Corrie Ten Boom having to put in practice what she believed about FORGIVENESS -

Commenting on Micah 7:19 Corrie Ten Boom wrote "When God forgives your sin, He buries it in the deepest sea and puts up a 'no fishing' sign."

BUT THERE IS MORE TO THE STORY!

Corrie Ten Boom had been a prisoner in the German concentration camp at Ravensbruck. The conditions were horrible and the treatment by the guards was no better!

Two years after the war, Corrie is speaking at a church in Munich. She has come from Holland to a defeated Germany, bringing with her the message that God does indeed forgive. There in the crowd, a solemn face stares back at her. As the people file out, a balding, heavyset man moves toward her—a man in a gray overcoat, a man clutching a brown felt hat. Suddenly a scene flashes back in her mind: the blue uniform; the visored cap with its skull and crossbones; the huge room with its harsh, overhead lights; the humiliation of walking naked past this man... this man who is now standing before her. "You mentioned Ravensbruck in your talk. I was a guard there," he says. "But since that time I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well." He extends his hand toward her and asks, "Will you forgive me?" Corrie stares at the outstretched hand. The moment seems like hours as she wrestles with the most difficult decision she has ever had to make. Corrie knows Scripture well, but applying this passage seems to be too much...

If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive (aphiemi in the aorist imperative = command conveying a sense of urgency - Do this now and do it effectively!) him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive (aphiemi) him." (Luke 17:3, 4)

Here stands the enemy, the former Nazi SS officer. His very presence stands for cruelty and the stench of crematoriums at Ravensbruck. As Corrie ten Boom stares at the rough hand offered by her former captor, she knows in her head what she has to do—forgive! But her emotions scream silently in opposition. The very message she has been sharing with the victims of Nazi brutality emphasizes that she must forgive those who persecuted her. Forgiveness is a necessity. But Corrie stands paralyzed as the battle rages between her mind and her emotions. She recalls that moment in her classic book "The Hiding Place"

And I stood there—I whose sins had again and again to be forgiven—and could not forgive. [My sister] Betsie had died in that place—could he erase her slow terrible death simply for the asking?

Imagine Corrie's dilemma. She knows that those who have forgiven their enemies have also been able to rebuild their lives regardless of the physical horrors they suffered. But those who continue to nurse their bitterness remain imprisoned... not in Hitler's horrid concentration camps... but within their own wounded souls. Corrie knows the cost of bitterness—the very bitterness she is battling—because the Bible says, See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. (Hebrews 12:15-note, quoting from Dt 29:17)

Corrie ten Boom learned that she not only needed to be forgiven by God, but also that she needed to forgive as God forgives... She needed to show mercy

The horrors of World War II are now far behind Corrie, but the horrors of the war between forgiveness and unforgiveness still rage. How can she find the strength to take the hand of someone who represents the evil regime that destroyed the two people she held most dear? How can she forgive this man? To Corrie's dismay, she discovers she cannot!

Corrie writes of this fateful moment in The Hiding Place -

His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often... the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side. Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him. I tried to smile. I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me Your forgiveness. As I took his hand, the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a

current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me. And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on His. When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself.

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Andrew Murray

Hebrews 10:15-18.

THE writer has concluded his argument. He has made clear that the sacrifice of Christ, as the offering up of His body to the will of God, had opened for us a new way into the Holiest. Through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ we have been sanctified. When He had offered one sacrifice for ever, He sat down on the right hand of God. By one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. His sacrifice is over, and has everlasting power; in virtue of it He sits on the throne, expecting His final triumph; those He has sanctified are perfected for ever. The sacrifice is of infinite worth; it has opened the entrance to a state of perfect and everlasting holiness and glory; nothing is now needed but to rejoice and wait and see the King on the throne applying and revealing the power of His finished work.

The writer appeals to the words of the institution of the new covenant (Hebrews 8:6-13), in support of what he has said. He does so with the words, And the Holy Ghost also beareth witness to us. The words of Jeremiah are to him the words of the Holy Spirit. He believes in a direct inspiration. It was the God who knows the end from the beginning, who had planned all from the least to the greatest in the preparation of redemption, who had revealed to Jeremiah the new covenant that would be made centuries later. It was the same Holy Spirit who had inspired the first record of Melchizedek, and the Psalm with the oath of God, who had ordered the tabernacle and the veil to signify that the way into the Holiest was not yet open, and had watched over the first covenant, and its dedication not without blood, through whom the promise of the new covenant was spoken and recorded. Our writer appeals to Him and His witness.

He does so as one who himself has the teaching of that Spirit. Anyone might read the words of the covenant, and of the death of Jesus; no one could connect and expound them in their divine harmony and their everlasting significance but one taught by the same Spirit. These men preached the gospel with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; the Spirit, from the King sat down upon the throne, revealed in and to them the will of God, and the eternal power of the one sacrifice, to open the way into the Holiest.

And what is now the witness of the Holy Ghost in the new covenant? The witness to the two blessings of the covenant in their divine inseparable unity. I will put My laws in their heart, and their sins will I remember no more. The complete remission of sins, the removal of sin out of God's sight and remembrance for ever, was promised. Now, our writer argues, where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. The one offering hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. The death of Christ has opened up and introduced us into a relationship to God, a state of life before Him, in which sin has been finally put away, and God receives us into His fellowship as those who have been sanctified in Christ. He receives us into the Holiest of All through the blood. The blood that sprinkles the mercy-seat also sprinkles and cleanses our conscience, bringing the full remission, the full deliverance from sin and its power, into our inmost being; and, fitting our heart to receive that Spirit of heaven which witnesses with the blood, as a Spirit of life, puts the law within us, as the law of our life.

And so we enter into the finished work of Christ, and the rest of God in it; enter the perfection with which He Himself was perfected for evermore, and hath perfected us for ever; into that Holiest of All, into which God fulfils the promise, I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people. And the offering of the body of Christ once for all, the one sacrifice for ever, becomes, in ever-growing blessedness, the one thought, the one trust, the one joy, the one life of the believer. His salvation and redemption are finished and eternal realities, His perfection and sanctification too. Our one need is to believe and abide in and receive what our Priest-King on the throne imparts through His Spirit: a full entrance into the no more offering for sin, with all that flows from it, in the person and throne and work of our Priest for ever: this is the entrance into the Holiest.

And the Holy Ghost also beareth witness to us. It is easy to understand the truth of the forgiveness of sin as one of the elementary foundation truths, of which we read in (Hebrews 6:1). But if we seek to press on to perfection, and to know what the fulness of salvation is into which it leads, we may count upon the Holy Spirit to reveal it, to witness to it, in our inner life. He reveals it not to the mind, or as the reward of earthly study, but to the poor in spirit and them that are of a lowly heart. It is in the heart God sends forth the Spirit of His Son; the heart that longs for and chooses and loves and waits for this life of perfect fellowship with God more than its chief joy, shall have it witnessed by God's Spirit that the no more offering for sin is indeed the opening up of the Holiest of All. The Holy Ghost who comes from heaven, bears witness of what is in heaven. We can know nothing really of what takes place

in heaven but by the Holy Ghost in our heart. Dwelling in us He gives in our inmost life the full witness to all the efficacy of Christ's atonement and His enthronement in the presence of God.

1. The one central truth to which the Holy Spirit testifies is this: that the old way of living and serving God is now completely and for ever come to an end. Death and the devil are brought to nought; the veil is rent: sin is put away; the old covenant is disannulled, vanished away, taken away. A new system, a new way, a new and eternal life has been opened up in the power of Christ Jesus. Oh to have our eyes and hearts opened to see that is not merely a thought, a truth for the mind, but a spiritual state of existence which the Holy Ghost can bring us into.

2. The Holy Ghost beareth witness. For this He came down on the day of Pentecost out of the heavenly sanctuary and from our exalted Priest-King, to bring down the heavenly life, the kingdom of heaven to the disciples, and make it real to them, as a thing found and felt in their hearts.

Each one of us needs and may claim the Holy Ghost in the same Pentecostal power, and the new, the eternal, the heavenly life will fill us too. **Andrew Murray. The Holiest of All**