

STRUCTURE

The Lesser: Law's Repeated Sacrifices Cannot Perfect Those Who Draw Near (10:1–4)

- **10:1 Claim:** because the law is only a shadow of the good things to come, it can never make perfect those who draw near by its same, annual sacrifices
 - **10:2–3 Support:** mere repetition of day-of-atonement rituals proves their intrinsic ineffectiveness to perfect
- **10:4 Absolute principle:** impossible for *animal* blood to take away *human* sins

***Tension: consciousness of sin remains!*

The Greater: Once-For-All Offering of Christ's Body Perfects Those Being Sanctified (10:5–18)

- **10:5–10 Christ's self-offering, according to God's will:** he offers his body to do God's will (wholesale obedience/devotion), in fulfillment of Psalm 40:6–8
- **10:11–14 Effectiveness of Christ's single offering to perfect for all time:** In contrast to Levitical priests, Christ—by a single sacrifice—perfects for all time those being sanctified [Levitical ministry: priests stand; multiple sacrifices daily, repeatedly were ineffective]
 - **10:15–18 Assurance of finality of Christ's offering:** Holy Spirit testifies to believers of God's inward transformation and decisive forgiveness through Christ's new-covenant offering in Jer 31:34 (*after promising Jer 31:33, Spirit adds his commitment not to remember new-covenant members' sins*)

UNIFYING THEME

In contrast to the Levitical priests and their sacrifices as prescribed by the law, Christ in whole devotion and by a single offering has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified, by securing decisive forgiveness of their sin and rendering obsolete any more offering for sin.

AUTHOR'S AIM

The pastor aims to bring to a culmination his main argument about Jesus's superiority as high priest to the Levitical priests (Heb 5:1–10:18) in service of strengthening his hearers' assurance of Christ's redemptive accomplishment and, in the next passage, calling them to respond (i.e., to draw near, hold fast, and encourage one another; Heb 4:14–16; 10:19–25).

1. **PROBLEM:** The law could never perfect worshipers by removing their sins. (10:1–4)
2. **SOLUTION:** What the law could never do to perfect worshipers, Christ has done through his single, once-for-all offering of his body to God that perfects for all time those being sanctified. (10:5–14)
3. **OUTCOME:** What the law could never do to perfect worshipers, Christ has done through his single, once-for-all offering of his body to God that perfects for all time those being sanctified, the finality of which the Holy Spirit also testifies to believers. (10:15–18)