

MOVING TOWARD MATURITY

What in the World is God Doing?

TEXT: Heb. 10:14

INTRODUCTION: Thus far in our study we have examined whole passages of Scripture, sometimes encompassing more than a chapter. Now we focus our attention on a single verse, Heb. 10:14. We do so because it is one of those sentences in God's Word that covers so much. In a few words, but great depth of meaning, this one verse answers a question a lot of people ask from time to time in their lives, "What in the world is God doing?"

Let us look and see.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

I. GOD MADE ONE OFFERING.

A. That sacrifice was made at the cross.

B. Jesus carried His own blood into the heavenly sanctuary and offered it to the Father to make atonement for our sins.

Hebrews 9:11-12 ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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.

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

C. The cross is the pivotal point of all past history.

1. The cross is not an afterthought. The cross was not plan B when Plan A did not work. Jesus Christ is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.
2. All of the Old Testament points prophetically to the cross.
 - a. In **Genesis**, God foretold that Christ would suffer at the hands of Satan. This is the first reference in the Bible to the cross.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you

shall bruise His heel.

- b. In **Exodus**, the Passover Lamb was slain so its blood could be put over the doors of the household of faith and keep death away from God's people.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

- c. In **Leviticus**, the Day of Atonement offered to God's people an incredibly detailed foreshadowing of the work of atonement Jesus would do upon the cross.

- d. In **Numbers** the brazen serpent was lifted up in the camp so that all who looked upon it in faith might be rescued from a fiery death. Jesus said in

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

- e. In **Deuteronomy**, the law of the old covenant was given that would be a schoolmaster to show Israel their need for Christ and which would eventually be replaced by the new covenant in Christ's blood.

1 Corinthians 11:25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper,

saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- f. The **Books of History** repeatedly show the inability of man to keep a covenant of law without the benefit of the new covenant of grace begun at Calvary.

- g. The Writings or the **Books of Poetry** often spoke both of Christ's death and of His reign as eternal Messiah and King.

Psalm 2 ¹ Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, ³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." ⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. ⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶ "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." ⁷ "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' " ¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

- h. The **Prophets** joined the poets in the proclamation of both His coming and His redemptive work.

Isa. 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD,
 "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow;
 Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Sins as scarlet offers the picture of the indelible nature of sin. Once scarlet dye has set in a piece of goods, nothing gets it out without damaging the fabric. The same is true of sin from man's perspective. God alone has the power to erase the terrible stain of sin. This He did by the cross.

D. The cross is the pivotal point for all future history.

1. We await the rapture of the church. **Who will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air?** Those who have been saved by the blood of the cross.
2. The world awaits the tribulation. **Who will be left upon the earth as the worst days to ever befall mankind begin?** Those who have not come to faith in the Christ of the cross.
3. **Who will enter the glorious days of the millennium?** Only those who have first been to Calvary, to the foot of the cross.
4. And **who will witness the new heaven and the new earth and see the New Jerusalem descend out of heaven to the ground?** Those who have understood and responded to the gospel that Christ died for our sins upon the cross!

E. The cross is the pivotal point for our history.

1. How we respond to what Jesus did on the cross is critical to our **success in life** from God's vantage point.
2. How we respond to the Christ of the cross affects all of our **relationships in this world**.
3. Most importantly, how we respond to the crucified Lord determines our **eternal destiny**.

What is God doing? He has made a single offering that is the dividing point for all men throughout all time. **God has focused all of time upon that one event: the cross!**

II. GOD PERFECTS FOREVER.

A. The word "perfects" means completed.

1. This is a form of the same verb used in Jesus' cry from the cross, "It is finished."

B. The tense of the verb means a finished act with a continuing effect.

1. The tense is perfect, active, indicative - one time event with a continuing result.
2. The implication of this statement is a guarantee of a final result. God brings

about the final result. This is why we are secure in our relationship with God. **Our relationship is based on what Christ has finished on the cross, and it has a continuing effect upon our lives, even forever!**

What is God doing?

He is bringing people into this perfected lasting salvation through faith in Christ Who made the one offering. Thus the joy in heaven described in Luke 15.

C. This is why God makes each of us witnesses.

D. This is why God puts every saved person on mission.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

III. GOD IS SANCTIFYING THE SAVED.

A. Our end is finished, perfected; but God still wants to do some changing in us here and now.

B. Sanctification means making us like Christ.

C. The action here is continuous and present.

D. Sanctification is the proof of salvation.

CONCLUSION: You can analyze history by this understanding.

1. Why did the Roman empire rise to power as it did? God getting ready for the one offering.
2. Why God allow the destruction of the World Trade Center by terrorists on 9-11? God was perfecting some by bringing them to faith. God was sanctifying others by making them more like Christ.

You can analyze what's happening in your own life.

1. The offering has been made for you.
2. Has God brought you to perfection through salvation?
3. Is He sanctifying you or someone through what He is allowing to happen in and around your life?