

NEW DAY... NEW WAY

What in the World is God Doing? And What in the World are We Doing?

TEXT: Heb. 10

INTRODUCTION: How many of you have been attending SABC for more than four years? Good! I am sure all of you remember that as I preached through the Book of Hebrews a little over four years ago, that I preached a message with this title: "What in the world is God doing?"

Now, don't get up and leave, because I am not just going to preach the same message. In fact, I am adding a second title to the sermon: What in the World are We Doing?

I am doing this because we have learned something together, have we not? **We have learned to seek to discover what God is doing and to join Him in His work.** We have learned not to just make our own plans and then ask God to come on board and bless our grand ideas. We have learned that His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts higher than our thoughts. So, we try to find where and how God is working and join Him in what He is doing.

Therefore, this passage of Scripture in Hebrews chapter 10 is of great importance to us as Christians. Because this chapter offers a very clear description of what God is indeed doing in the world. The whole chapter explains it, but verse fourteen puts the truth in a capsule.

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

Let us look at two things:

What God is doing?

How we are joining Him in His work?

WHAT GOD IS DOING

I. GOD MADE ONE OFFERING.

A. That sacrifice was made at the cross.

Heb. 10:10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

B. The cross is the pivotal point of all history.

1. Have we not seen this clearly as we have read through the Bible this year? The cross was 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.
Psalms 2 ¹Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ²The 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."

Books of Poetry

Psalm 2 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.

- 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.

C. The cross is the pivotal point for the future.

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!

D. The cross is the pivotal point for each of us and every man and woman.

1. How we respond to what Jesus did on the cross is critical to our **success in life**.
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!

HOW DO WE JOIN GOD IN THIS WORK?

- By being clear concerning the gospel.

- **Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins.**
- **He rose from the dead.**
- **God gives forgiveness and eternal life as a free gift to those who trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.**
- **By being faithful to always declare the gospel.**

I was grateful to hear the testimony of Larry Reesor a few weeks ago after he visited with so many of you at the Center of Hope. He said everybody he talked to told him,

“We don’t just give food and clothing ...

We don’t just give medical care ...

We don’t just give baby clothes and diapers ...

We give the gospel!”

WHAT GOD IS DOING

II. GOD PERFECTS FOREVER.

A. The word “perfects” means completed.

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

1. **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.

HOW DO WE JOIN GOD IN THIS WORK?

C. Jesus has made each of us witnesses to Himself.

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.

1. **If we have been saved, we are a witness!** Good or bad, Faithful or faltering, but we are witnesses!
2. **We are empowered in our witness.**

Through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Through the power of the gospel itself.

Through God's supernatural provision for the spread of the gospel.

- **We are to go and proclaim the gospel locally and globally.**

WHY DOES GOD TELL US TO USE THIS ACTS 1:8 STRATEGY?

I do not know every reason.

We do not have to know the reason. Jesus is Lord!

But I have figured out one reason.

i. Some suggest an alternate strategy.

Some suggest that a church should evangelize its own immediate surroundings and plant churches there instead of traveling distances to our Judea, Samaria or Ends of the earth.

They often say there are plenty of lost people here. We don't need to go to other countries.

That would certainly be easier.

Consider what would have happened if God had adopted this strategy.

What if God told the first church in Jerusalem...

- Just **evangelize Jerusalem and the immediate area** - say an area with a **25 mile radius**.
- **Within 10 years**, start some other churches in that 25 mile radius.
- **Train those churches you start, to also start churches** - reaching out as far as **25 miles from their church**.
- So **every 10 years, the ring of evangelized area expands by 25 miles**.
- The area with churches preaching the gospel would expand by a ring, 25 miles wide.
- That looks pretty good!
- Notice now that we are near the North African city called Alexandria.
- One more ten year period and we are there.
- Using this strategy, it has taken us 130 years to bring the gospel to Alexandria and plant a church.
- However, historically, we know when the gospel arrived in Alexandria using God's Acts 1:8 plan.
- The gospel came to Alexandria and a Christian church began no later than 42 A.D, 9 years after Pentecost!

So, which is better? Man's strategy or God's Acts 1:8 strategy

God's Acts 1:8 Strategy is always better.

- If the church had used man's strategy, it would have taken 600 years for the gospel to have reached Rome and Tunisia.
- Using God's Acts 1:8 strategy it took 23 years for a church to be planted in Rome and 47 years for the church to begin in Tunisia.

If the church through the ages had used man's strategy to just evangelize and plant churches in a 25 mile radius

and let the gospel spread this way instead of God's way,

the gospel would not arrive in Panama City, FL

for another 6 centuries!

Do you see that God's way is better than our way?

So the next time some dear American brother or sister says, **"Why do we need to take the gospel to Africa or India or Brazil or some other place where it costs so much to go and takes so much time and trouble. We have plenty of lost people all around us."**

Just say lovingly to them, **"Because if God had done it that way, you and I would still be lost in our sins and on our way to an eternity in hell."**

CONCLUSION: And that, my dear friend, is why SABC is an Acts 1:8 Church.

Because in the Scripture and in person, we have discovered what our great, magnificent, wonderful God is doing.

And we have joined Him, as He commanded us, in His glorious work.

Have you? If not, you can. Here's the steps:

- **Be saved.**
- **Join Christ's church.**
- **Submit yourself to being a witness for Christ.**
 - **Start in Jerusalem.**
 - **Then take the next step to Judea, Samaria, or one of the end of the earth places.**

Hundreds of our people are on this journey, and you can join us!