

Bible Study Questions

Everything You Ever Hoped For: Perfection

Focus

Unlike the repeated sacrifices of the priests under the old covenant, in accordance with the will of God, Jesus came to offer His body as the one time sacrifice that has forever taken away our sins, and thus nothing more needs to be done to accomplish that. The aim, therefore, is to build our confidence that our sins really are forgiven forever.

Read

[Hebrews 10:1-18](#)

Listen

CCNYC teaching on Hebrews which can be found on our [website](#)

As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.

Questions for Review

(The purpose of these opening questions is to review the passage that was recently preached on in order to make sure that everyone understands the basic structure, events, people, and point of the passage.)

1. Work through some basic review questions for this passage – for example:
 - What's the context? (Where are we in Hebrews; the New Testament; and the Bible as a whole?)
 - Who are the people and/or situations that this passage is addressing?
 - What clues are there about the author and his circumstances?
 - Is there a conflict or high point in this passage? (What is the structure of this passage that builds to that point?)
 - What was the main point or theme of this passage that was identified in Sunday's sermon?
 - What surprises are there in this passage?
2. What questions do you still have about this passage that you'd like to discuss?

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Questions for Reflection and Application

(The purpose of these reflection questions is to help each other not just understand what the passage is saying, but to think more deeply about what it means so that we can then accurately apply it to our lives today.)

1. Verses 1-4 emphasize why the old covenant was insufficient to take away sin. What are the reasons given for its insufficiency? (Be sure to carefully follow the line of argumentation used here, noticing such words as 'since' and the resulting conclusions that are drawn.)
2. Why does the author note that rather than bringing forgiveness of sin, the sacrificial system actually brought a reminder of sin? Why is that significant?
3. How does the quote from Psalm 40 referenced in verses 5-10 help us understand the mission of Jesus in this world? What was His mission?
4. In verse 11, the author explicitly begins to contrast the sacrifices of the old covenant with the death of Jesus. What exactly does he compare? What about Jesus' sacrifice does he emphasize in contrast to the old sacrifices? How do these aspects reflect the insufficiency of old covenant sacrifices and the sufficiency of Christ's?
5. In verses 15-18, what is it that the Holy Spirit is bearing witness to and what are the implications for your life?
6. In this passage, 'perfect' has to do with the forgiveness of sin and the result that God therefore no longer holds our sin against us as a ground for condemnation. In verse 10, 'sanctified' is used in that same way to refer to our status before God as those who are truly forgiven and now set apart for Him. However, in verse 14, the word 'sanctify' seems to be used to instead refer not to our unchangeable status before God but to the process of transformation that God works within us whereby we learn to say 'yes' to obeying God and 'no' to sin. With that in mind, how is verse 14 particularly helpful as you continue to battle the ongoing presence of sin in your life?

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7. Sunday's sermon discussed the importance of having gospel confidence (for use of the word 'confidence', see 10:19, 35). In what way does this passage build your confidence that Jesus' work on the cross truly takes away your sin and that there's now nothing more that needs to be done for you to be forgiven?
8. Do you have trouble believing that the gospel is good news (not good advice), that it's about you receiving (not achieving), and that the emphasis is on what Jesus has done (not on what you need to do)? If so, why? Can you truly say that you believe there are no more 'offerings' that need to be made to take away your sin? Why is this so important?
9. What is it that undermines your gospel confidence? How can the church be of help to you in this area and how might you be of help to others?

Ongoing questions to ask of any passage:

1. Has studying this passage in any way challenged your understanding about who God is and what He's like? If so, how so?
2. In light of studying this passage, is there any behavior or attitude that you need to personally address in your life? If so, how specifically will you address it?
3. How does this passage help you to love, trust, and worship Jesus more fully?