

THE SAVIOUR'S INVITATION

And Other Evangelistic Sermons

by

Hyman Appelman

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SERMON ELEVEN

ONCE FOR ALL

“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me: in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then, said I, Lo, I come” (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, “Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: but this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (Hebrews 10:1-14).

I invite you to study with me Hebrews 10:10, **“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”** This text will fill your minds, still your souls, thrill your hearts. Jesus Christ once for all. I want you to remember these five blessed words. May the Holy Spirit guide us in our meditation.

First, Jesus Christ is once for all in creation, once for all in the creation of this entire universe. John said, **“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”**

When in the beginning God spoke the creating words, they were more than the mere utterance of God. The words were the mighty power of the Son of God bringing the universe into being. But that is not all.

Jesus is also unqualifiedly once for all in preservation, in His tender provision for our welfare, for our sustenance, in all the multitudinous providences of our lives. **“Whatever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son”** is still the open sesame to the treasures of God. The Name of Jesus gives us the only right we have to go to God in prayer. The Name of Jesus is God’s signature on the checks of heaven.

Does God answer an unsaved man’s prayer? Except for the cry God be merciful to me a sinner, He does not. There is only one way to come to God, and that is in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you do not have that Name in salvation, or if after you are saved you fall into sin and have no right to the merits of that precious Name, your prayers will go unheeded and unanswered. **“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me,”** is still in the Book.

It is possible to utter so-called prayers and have them bring a malediction instead of a benediction, a curse instead of a blessing. Unless our hearts are right, unless we come in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our prayers are an insult to God. But even that is not all.

Jesus Christ is once for all not only in creation, not only in preservation, but above all, beyond all, over all, in redemption. “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.” There is no redemption outside the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is once for all in the prophecies, in the types, in the sacrifices, in all of the revelations of the Bible, in all of the manifestations of God to the children of men. Thank God, Jesus Christ is once for all yesterday, once for all today, once for all forever, once for all with God, once for all with men, and some victorious day, when He chains the adversary forever in the pit of hell, He will be once for all with the Devil. In these verses Paul brings us three wondrous truths. They are so superlative that I thank God for the privilege of passing them on to you. My outline is borrowed, but because of its excellence I hasten to bring it to you.

First, Jesus Christ is once for all in atonement. “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.” He is once for all in atonement. **“Now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”** He is once for all in atonement because of the superiority of the sacrifice, even Himself.

You do not need theological training to understand that His atoning body and blood were worth more than the entire universe. The superiority of Jesus over the world He created is so manifestly evident that it needs no amplification, explanation, illustration.

He is once for all in atonement not only because of the superiority of the victim, but also because of the virtue of His blood.

A person living in the time of the Temple who had committed a sin, brought a sacrifice and the priest placed it on the altar before God. That sacrifice took away the particular sin committed by that person. The virtue of Jesus’ blood is for every sin, for every sinner, for all time, for all eternity.

Jesus is once for all in atonement not only because of the superiority and the value of His sacrificial blood, not only because of the exceeding virtue of it, but also because of the perpetuity of God's acceptance of the Cross. "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

There is no possibility of falling so far from grace that the superiority, the virtue, the perpetuity of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ loses its power to redeem. Our salvation depends on the tremendous verity that Jesus Christ once for all—for all men, for all sin, for all time, for all eternity—made satisfactory propitiation, acceptable to and accepted by God.

The second truth in our text is this: Jesus Christ is once for all in enthronement. "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God . . . Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The enthronement of the Lord Jesus Christ is God's amen to His atonement. God, in raising Jesus from the dead, in taking Him back to Himself in glory, in seating Him at His own right hand, accepted forever His atoning blood as a satisfactory offering for our sins.

It was Lockyer who said that the Resurrection is God's receipt for Calvary. If Jesus Christ had died not once but a thousand times, I for one would have doubted His ability to save, doubted the effectiveness of His shed blood had He not been raised from the dead. When God rolled away the stone from the tomb, when Jesus came forth as Conqueror over death and the grave, God, crowning Him with the crowns of the ages, put into His hands all authority in heaven and in earth. Because of this matchless display of power I must accept the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ as sufficient for my sins. I can have no doubt. If I believe in the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ, it is easy for me to believe that I am justified by His precious blood. It is easy for me to say amen to Paul when he says, "**Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**"

First of all, Jesus Christ is enthroned as King. He is the Lord of lords. Jesus is King. The Bible clearly, unmistakably, eternally, definitely declares, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." God said to His Son, before Bethlehem's manger, before Calvary's Cross, "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."

My friends, that is where we who are the children of God stand. If the Lord has given Jesus the heathen for an inheritance, some day He will come to possess them, to rule over them. If the ends of the earth are the inalienable, eternal inheritance and possession of Jesus Christ by the irrevocable decree of God, rest assured that in God's own good time Immanuel will reign over them. There must be a physical, possessive sovereignty.

This text cannot be interpreted in any other way than that Jesus will be enthroned over the affairs of the world.

The term “heathen” refers to the Gentiles. God will give Jesus the Jews. One day God will give His Messiah physical overlordship on the throne of David in Jerusalem, over David’s people. The Jews accept that truth, although they deny that Jesus is the Messiah.

There is a time coming when Jesus will rule over Germany, over Italy, over Russia, over Japan, over England, over America, over all the nations. All empires, kingdoms, republics and sovereignties will bow before Him, confessing Him to be Lord of all. Thank God! I am hurt in my soul when anything is taken away from His glory. Yet I do not have to be. He can well take care of Himself. He does not need my jealousy. He will work it all out after His own good pleasure, and in His own good time. I believe, as did Job, that I shall see Jesus in my flesh. I am hoping, trusting, praying, waiting, and, in a small way, working for that day. It will be glorious to behold my Redeemer in the panoply of heaven, holding the God-promised scepter of His father David in His mighty right hand, with the nations of the earth bowed at His footstool.

Jesus is enthroned not only as King but also as Priest. He is a Priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek, without beginning or ending of days, without father or mother. He has already been enthroned as our High Priest, and is in the holy of holies interceding for us. He is not like a man, who can die or sin away his right to be a priest. He is without spot or blemish, without variableness or shadow of turning. He is in the very presence of God. He Himself is the mercy seat. His blood is the atonement He offers as He pleads for us day and night. We all can fully, unhesitatingly subscribe to the statement of Paul when he says, “**He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**”

Jesus Christ is once for all in enthronement. God accepted His atonement for our sins, crowning Him with the crowns of eternity, giving Him the power, the prestige, the promise, the position of a high priesthood that shall know no end, of a kingdom that shall outlast time.

You will find one more thing in this text. “**From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.**”

Not only is there an atonement, not only is there an enthronement, but, thank God, there is coming a time of dethronement, when the Lord Jesus Christ shall triumph over all His enemies, and we shall be gloriously victorious with Him, in Him, through Him.

There are three enemies which the Lord Jesus Christ faces now. We, the children of God, also face them.

First, there are the kings of this earth, the dictators, the unbelieving rulers, the godless leaders of men and nations, who are trying to establish a bloody, tyrannical worldly program.

Second, there is Satan himself with all his wiles, with all his machinations, with all his cruel power.

The third enemy is death.

*The first enemy the Lord Jesus Christ will put down at His coming is the kings of this earth, the so-called mighty ones who put themselves above God. “**The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever.**”*

What a wonderful world that will be! That is God’s answer to Hitler, to Stalin, to Mussolini, to the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism, to all those who try to build a house or a nation without God. There will come a time when in the beauty of holiness, in the acme of power, the Christ of God shall dethrone the lofty ones of the earth.

*The second enemy the Lord Jesus Christ will overthrow is Satan. “**And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**”*

Just think of it! There is coming a world without Satan, a world without sin. Would you not like to live in such a world? Thank God, you may, in, and through, and by, the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan seems to be supreme now, but his triumph is short lived, and will soon be replaced by eternal defeat.

*The last enemy Jesus will cast down is death. “**And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**”*

Even death will fall beneath the might and authority of the blessed Son of God. Do you know what that means? Let me summarize it. There is not one of us but has loved ones who have gone down into the grave. The conquest of the Lord Jesus Christ over death means that these dear loved ones in Christ will come with Jesus when He comes. He will tear even their bodies loose from the hold of death. It makes no difference if their bodies were shattered by explosions, buried at sea, pulverized by the passing of the years. Jesus said He would conquer death. He will conquer dissolution. He will bring those who put their faith in Him out of their graves.

I cannot describe our appearance, but I know that our flesh shall be beautified. I will tear the glasses off my face and throw them away to let them sink into hell with the rest of the things that make this world a torment. There will be no more dentists’ drills. There will be no more bloodstained operating tables. I believe this earth will be changed and made perfect and beautiful. I am eagerly waiting to see the day when this world will be filled with everything delightful and attractive.

It means one more thing. There will be no more death. There will be no more funerals, no more crepes hanging on doors, no more undertakers, no more mourners, no more funeral sermons. Death will be banished forever by the mighty power of Him who is the Lord of death, but more than that, the Lord of life.

How can we avail ourselves of that atonement, that enthronement, that dethronement? By doing three things.

First, we must accept Jesus as our Saviour and His shed blood for our salvation. We must receive His death for our life.

Second, we must give ourselves to Him in service, that we may know we are doing His will, and are well-pleasing in His sight.

Third, by day and night, with singing, with happiness, with rejoicing, with thanksgiving, we must study and meditate upon the Word of God, so that His promises may give us hope, joy, inspiration, assurance.

Take these words with you: Jesus Christ once for all in atonement, Jesus Christ once for all in enthronement, Jesus Christ once for all in dethronement, Jesus Christ once for all yours forever if you will have Him, if you will accept Him, if you will enthrone Him, if you will live and abide with Him in the blessed pages of His Book, applying its doctrines, obeying its commands, rejoicing in its triumphs.

God bless you, each of you, all of you, and save you, and sanctify you, and glorify you, for Jesus Christ's sake.

~ end of sermon 11 ~

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