

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

7 August 2016

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Call to persevere (Hebrews 10:19)

A.M. Lesson:

Fellowship (1 John 1:1-7)

P.M. Lesson:

Sins of omission (James 4:17)

Wednesday:

Study on "Covenant"

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

*Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them. Psalm 111:2
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.*

Analyzing OT quotes in the NT

Neil Short

Hebrews 10:5-7 cites Psalm 40:6-8. When a New Testament writer quotes something from the Old Testament, it is profitable to try to analyze the particular quoted passage. What is the original meaning of the text? Why did the New Testament writer select that particular text. How does the text support the message of the New Testament writer?

Let us consider Hebrews 10:5-7.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

The Hebrews author is pursuing an argument that "involves the transitory character of the levitical sacrifices and the permanent character of what Christ has done. The author has found an ideal text for this purpose" (Hagner 154). He concludes with verse 10.

And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of

Jesus Christ once for all. (Hebrews 10:10)

That is, the levitical system of offering sacrifices is no longer an effective human appeal to God for pardon of sin. In fact, according to the writer, it never was an effective appeal to God.

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (Hebrews 10:4)

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins.

(Hebrews 10:11)

The writer also observes that, if Christ's sacrifice succeeded where the levitical system failed, it is time for the levitical system to disappear.

He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. (Hebrews 10:9b)

This theme began earlier in Hebrews and was stated concisely in 8:13.

In speaking of "a new covenant," he has made the first one obsolete. And what is obsolete and growing old will soon disappear.

The writer of Psalm 40 was not speaking specifically about Jesus. However, the psalmist's meaning relates closely to that of the Hebrews author. The psalmist is promoting the fact that God values obedience over sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22). God intends for the king to learn God's will and to obey it, not to disobey and resort to sacrifices. The

psalm focuses upon worship and preaching.

He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord. (Psalm 40:3)
I have not hidden your saving help within my
heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your
salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and
your faithfulness

from the great congregation. (Psalm 40:10)

Between these verses appears our text of
interest, emphasizing that God prefers obedience
and study over sacrifice.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.

Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart." (Psalm 40:6-8)

Wait a minute! What is this stuff about an "open
ear" in verse 6? Hebrews 10:5 is talking about a
prepared body, not an open ear. Did the Hebrews
writer deliberately misquote the verse in order to
make his point? Not really. The author is preferring
the reading of the Greek translation of the Hebrew
Scriptures, the Septuagint.

Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not; but a
body hast thou prepared me: whole-burnt-
offering and sacrifice for sin thou didst not
require (Psalm 40:6, Brenton).

On the Greek "body" rather than Hebrew "ears,"
F. F. Bruce says, "It is... an interpretative paraphrase
of the Hebrew text. The Greek translator evidently
regarded the Hebrew wording as an instance of *pars
pro toto*; the 'digging' or hollowing out of the ears is
part of the total work of fashioning a human body"
(240, cf. Hagner 154). God formed the ears, along
with the rest of the body, to function in the human
vocation of obedience.

Now, the Hebrews author is invoking the Greek
version of that verse appreciating how the language
works in application to the Lord's own bodily
sacrifice that is able to forgive sins. Hebrews 10:12
says,

But when Christ had offered for all time a single
sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand
of God."

The Hebrews author invokes the language of the
psalm as applicable to Jesus. "We should
understand our author to mean that the words of
the psalm express the attitude Jesus had in his heart
and mind as he lived on earth. His incarnation was
itself a living expression of the sentiment of the
words from this psalm" (McClister 335).

There is much in the New Testament about the
Lord's attitude, self-sacrifice and willingness. We are
encouraged to have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5; 1 John 4:2;
2 John 7.

Cited:

Brenton, Lancelot. *The Septuagint with Apocrypha: Greek and
English*. Hendrickson, 1851, 1998.

Bruce, F. F. *Hebrews*. NICNT. Eerdmans, 1990.

Hagner, Donald. *Hebrews*. UBCS. Baker, 1990.

McClister, David. *Hebrews*. Florida College Press, 2010.

News:

*John Cunningham's sister Gloria Sawyer
George Appleton, Sam and Rita's son from
Texas, has been diagnosed with a rare
form of leukemia.*

Tatyana Knowlton is traveling in Russia.

Robin and Tamara Richards are on vacation.

Prayer list:

Christian Children's Home in Portales, NM

Dan Keele—mission work

Healing: Robin Richards, Sam Ap-

pleton, John Cunningha,

Norma Robinson, Linda Bol-

ing, H.L. Boling, Tatyana

Knowlton

Health and personal: Nic and Ani Self



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**Editorial notice: After this issue, Neil
Short will no longer be editing the
Safford Church of Christ bulletin.**