

Advent 2024 Week 4

Christ Brings True Peace

Hebrews 10:1-10

Intro

As I reflect on the meaning of Christmas I have realized that life is really just a bigger Nakatomi Plaza. Inside the Nakatomi Plaza of life there are Hans Grubbers all over the place who are trying to bust through the bank vault in order to take life's treasures for themselves.

What we don't realize is that apart from Christ we are more like Hans Grubber than we are like John McClane. Every attempt to find happiness in this world apart from Christ is an attempt to steal from God, to take what is His (and He wants to give) out of turn.

The only way out of the hamster wheel is to give up on trying to capture happiness and peace for ourselves apart from Christ, and to trust Christ to give us all that we need. We must rest in Him. That is where peace is.

Discover

I. Our problem is that we cannot fix ourselves (1-4)

- A. The sacrificial systems of the Hebrews and the other peoples of the world are not all that different from the way many Americans think and live.
 - 1. Most people are well aware that humans are broken and that we have to figure out some way to be restored to our proper glory.
 - 2. In some cultures they sacrifice animals and even other people in order to appease the gods. In others, they seek to appease the gods through kind acts, personal justice, self-righteousness, and/or supposed self-improvement.
- B. Human systems for justification never work because they cannot deal with the root issue.
 - a) Colossians 2:17 ESV, "These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ."
 - 2. The root issue is that we are sinful and in order for us to be made just, we must no longer have any sin.

3. Our best efforts cannot possibly remove sin from us, therefore even the best and most righteous among us stands no chance of standing before a holy God in the end.
 - a) Truly, we cannot even stand as righteous before our fellow humans, must less God. Even when we do appear to be growing in righteousness, we generally fall into pride if we perceive that the righteousness is our own.
4. Scripture is clear that if our attempts to cleanse ourselves of sin could be successful, they would be and we would not have to keep trying over and over again.

II. The solution to our problem is Christ (5-7)

- A. Rather than coming with typical burnt offerings or sacrifices, Christ brought Himself.
 1. Unlike any of us, Christ is not stained by sin and carries a righteousness that is His own which means He is worthy before God.
 2. Because He is totally clean and worthy before God, He is able to intercede on our behalf.
- B. Having made us in His own image, the Father was pleased to redeem us for our good and for His glory.
 1. The only way this could possibly be accomplished would be for someone who is like us in every way except perfect and without sin would come and substitute Himself in our place.

III. Christ's offering brings true and lasting peace for all who believe (8-10)

- A. Romans 5:1-6 ESV, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [2] Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. [6] For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly."

Nurture

Who is God? He is Christ who has come into the world.

What has He done? He sacrificed Himself so that we might have peace with God.

Who are we? We are those whom Christ has sanctified through His offering of His own body to cover our sins.

What are we being called to do? We are called to cease our striving to bring peace for ourselves through our works, and to trust in Christ alone to save us. Then we respond by doing good in His name with thankfulness.