

Lenten Devotional Reflection
25 March 2020 (Lent Day 25)

Scripture: Hebrews 10: 4-10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁴For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Message

In today’s scripture, the author quotes Psalm 40:5-6 to transfer the background of the poet’s writing to Jesus Christ. In verse 5, “sacrifices” and “offerings” have a general meaning, followed by a response of “not desired”. In verse 6, “burnt offerings” and “sin offerings” have a representative meaning, followed by a response of “no pleasure”. Verse 8 repeats and reinforces the offering system in the Old Testament law is imperfect, outdated and replaceable, and emphasizes the uniqueness of Christ.

“but a body you have prepared for me” echoes Psalm 40:6’s “but you have given me an open ear”, which the writer uses to explain at the same time the meaning of “willing to offer yourself”. In the time of Old Testament, if a slave wants to serve a master for life, the master will bore the slave’s ear through with an aul to show the master’s acceptance of the slave’s dedication. Jesus Christ is special because He did God’s will to be a “sacrifice” of the world.

The author of today’s scripture uses Psalm to tell us that Jesus came to complete God’s will to sacrifice himself. God is pleased with this sacrifice which can benefit all of us.

Reflection

1. Try to quiet yourself and tell yourself that you are a blessed Christian through Jesus' sacrifice.
2. Try to recall how did you feel God and respond last time?
3. How can you live a dedicated Christian life?

The Revd Jonathan LUE Lee-buh (Kindly Light Church)