

BEARING THE REPROACH OF CHRIST

(Heb 13:8-14)

1. **This text is** an exhortation to Jewish Christians to leave behind a covenant that was fulfilled, thus obsolete & “ready to vanish away” (Heb 8:13).
 - a. This would be necessary in order for them to be identified with Jesus the Christ.
2. **This text also** indicates that they could not serve Christ & avoid persecutions.
 - a. Their choice to become Christians had a price tag – as it does today (2 Tim 3:10-12).

[Jesus took on a heavy burden & paid a high price to sanctify us (Heb 13:12; 2:9-11).

We too then can expect to pay a heavy price to be God’s sanctified. The Christian must bear His reproach (13:13).]

I. DISCUSSION OF vss. 10-13

A. Verse 10 – Christ is the altar (Metonymy).

1. The bronze altar (Exo 27) was the place for offering animal sacrifices.
2. The golden altar (Exo 30), before the veil, was the place for burning incense.
3. Christ is now the offering upon the altar of which we partake (Jn 6:35, 48, 51, 63, 68).
 - a. And by Him we can offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God (Heb 13:15; 1 Pet 2:5).
4. The Hebrew writer is pointing out that Christians are able to enjoy the true blessings, which the rites under the Old Law only typified.

- a. For every O.T. ceremony, which involved the furnishings, there is a N.T. counterpart.
- b. Of the two I've mentioned:
- Bronze altar: the animal sacrifices upon this altar typified the sacrifice of Christ, the sinless Lamb of God (1 Pet 1:18-19; Heb 10:11-14), but it also typifies the sacrifice of our own lives to God's service (Rom 12:1; Phil 4:18).
 - Golden altar: stood outside the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Incense was offered upon it, which typified prayer. But the death & resurrection of Christ tore away that veil, & now God's people are permitted to approach the very throne of God with their prayer (Heb 4:14-16; 10:19-20).
- c. So the O.T. ceremonies emphasized earthly & temporary things, while our worship & service under the N.T. is everything God intended for it to be, i.e., spiritual & eternal (Heb 11:39 - 12:2).
- d. Therefore, we must approach the worship of God with great gravity & reverence.
- e. The Jews who were still participating in temple worship had no right to partake of the blessings in Christ (Heb 13:12; 1 Cor 10:18).
- B. Verse 11 – Jews were not allowed to eat the flesh of any sin offering whose blood was carried into the sanctuary by the High Priest.
1. What did they do with it (Lev 6:30; 16:27)? They burned the skin, flesh & entrails outside the camp.
- C. Verse 12 – The sin offering was a type of the Lord's sacrifice.
1. He voluntarily became our sin offering for the atonement of our sins; He endured the pain, shame & reproach of the cross "outside the camp": beyond the gate or walls of the city (at Golgotha's hill).

2. He then took His blood (symbolically) into the heavenly sanctuary to make atonement for the sins of the world (Heb 9:24, 12).

a. When the veil of the Temple was torn in two, the shed blood of Christ appeared in the presence of God for us.

3. These are wonderful & vital elements of truth, but the author of the Hebrew epistle is leading his readers (including us) up to this next point:

D. Verse 13 – The Christian is commanded to be courageous & to follow Jesus outside the camp, bearing His reproach: *the same reproach that He bore*.

1. All, who wish to partake of the benefits of His sacrifice, must do so outside the camp.

2. For the Jew that meant leaving behind Judaism, & taking up the reproach of Christ.

[For the Christian these verses admonish us to leave the camp of the world, with all its fleshly appeal & temporal attractiveness, & to go forth or come out to Him to bear & share His reproach (2 Cor 6:17; Rev 18:4; 1 Jn 2:15-17).]

II. DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES OF BEARING HIS REPROACH

A. “Reproach” – insult, disgrace, defamation

B. “Bearing” – to endure patiently the rigor (harshness) of a course of conduct.

C. Examples of bearing His reproach:

1. First, notice that Christ bore the reproach of His Father (Rom 15:1-6; Psa 69:7-12).

a. We get a sense of how Jesus felt after He cleansed the Temple (Jn 2:17; Psa 69:9).

- “Byword” - proverbial saying: one that personifies a type; one that is note-worthy or notorious; a frequently used word or phrase.

b. Christians receive the same reproach for speaking out against sin, false doctrine & the sectarian spirit within the church which has cast off the restraint of divine inspiration.

2. Compare Onesiphorus with Phygellus & Hermogenes (2 Tim 1:15-18).

a. Two were trying to drum up a following, & the other bore the reproach of Christ.

[We need to develop such a love for God & His Word that we have no place in our hearts to love anything else.

Only then can we “go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.”]

IV. BEARING HIS REPROACH WILL ENABLE US TO OFFER SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES OUTSIDE THE CAMP

A. Heb 13:15 – continuous praise to God.

1. Our words of praise from pure & reverent hearts are like beautiful fruit placed upon the altar.
2. How easy it is for suffering saints to complain, how important it is for them to give thanks to God.

B. Heb 13:16 – the good work of sharing.

1. This covers many things we can do for others, but such things will never be our practice until we go forth outside the camp bearing His reproach.

C. Heb 13:17 – submission to overseers.

D. Heb 13:18 – prayer that our lives, sacrificed outside the camp, will impact & influence others to do the same.

CLOSING

- A. [Read Hebrews 13:20-21](#) & extend invitation.

- B. Are we bearing the reproach of Christ in our lives? Or are we ashamed of Him?

- C. Are we willing to go outside the camp to Him to bear His reproach? Or are we afraid of the dangers?

- D. To bear His reproach we must leave the world behind, lift up love for the Lord & His Word.

God's Plan For Our Salvation:

Hear the gospel of Christ: Acts 2; 5; 13; Rom 10:17

Believe Jesus to be the Son of God, Savior, Lord, Christ: Jn 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31

Repent of sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30; 1 Jn 3:4; Acts 3:19

Confess faith in Christ: Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

Baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins: Gal 3:27; Rom 6:3-4; Acts 2:38

Be Obedient to Christ: Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 Jn 9; Rev 2:10; Jn 12:48