

HOLY AND PERFECTED TO BE A TRUE WORSHIPER

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." (John 4: 23-24)

In April 2020 we celebrate Easter again. Easter (the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus) has something to do with the sacrifice of Christ. To be true worshipers who want to be sanctified and perfected, we also need to understand what is written in Hebrews chapter 10. Hebrews 10: 1-18 explains the superiority of Christ's sacrifice as a perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 10: 1-18), so that in the passage, up to verse 19 ff., it is said that now we can have the courage to enter the holy place. The term "holy place" implicitly refers to the Most Holy Place (Hebrews 6: 19-20; 9: 3). Worship in this most holy place is intended as a life of worship, that takes place in His presence, where the role of a high priest, who in the New Testament is called a worshiper in spirit and truth, is crucial. And Hebrews 10:21 discusses Jesus' position as High Priest (not just an ordinary priest) who is the head of the House of God. And we are His house, if we come to firmly hold on to the trust and hope that we exalt (cf. Hebrews 3: 6). And because Christ brought His own perfect blood into the Most Holy Place, all of us who have been redeemed by the power of His blood now have direct access to the Most Holy Room. This is a strong contrast to the sacrificial system in the Old Testament. During the Old Testament the Israelites did not have direct access to the Most Holy Place. They were only represented by the high priest (Hebrews 9: 7) and even then, it was only carried out at certain times and conditions. That is why, what Christ has done is called in Hebrews 10:20 as a new way (in the sense that "it did not yet exist") and life (because of the risen, living Christ). So, this new way of living has been opened by Christ through the curtain, which is His own body. The picture of Jesus' life as a curtain is something interesting. From the perspective of one perspective this curtain illustrates the dividing line between God and humans, but from the perspective of the other side this curtain is also related to the glory of God on the one hand and human needs on the other. Christ is the High Priest of the House of God. What is meant by the house of God here is not the temple of God, but all of God's people, both in the Old and New Testaments (3: 2-4, 6; cf. 1 Cor 3:16). As high priest Christ has offered a perfect sacrifice, once and for all, so that a new way of living can be available to us. The word "before God" in Hebrews 10:22 in the Greek text uses only one word, namely *proserchomai*, which literally means "come to". The addition of the word "God" to the word facing refers to worship (communal) to God. The present tense used for the word "let us face God" in Hebrews 10:22 implies the constant idea of worshipping God. If the Israelites could not directly enter the Most Holy Place and were only represented by the high priest once a year, we now must respect the new way of living by continually approaching God. This is what God expects. Lord Jesus said in John 4:23, *"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."* What was said by the Lord about 2000 years ago is now happening. God wants us to continue to be true worshipers who want to pray, praise and worship God in His presence. Let us be sanctified and perfected in holiness and perfection. Happy Easter!

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