Good Morning to all our brothers and sisters in Christ. Welcome to Cinco de Mayo and Taco Tuesday. I expect that you will all be supporting your favorite Mexican restaurant tonight if only at the carry-out window.

Yesterday we read that we are children of a new covenant. Christ inaugurated that covenant by entering the eternal temple through His own blood, offered once for all (9:11-12). That obtained eternal redemption for us, His church. So we are children of a new covenant and receive the promise of the eternal inheritance (v. 15).

One of the themes of the author of Hebrews is the finality of all these things. This comes out in his repetition of the words, *eternal*, *once for all*, *forever,* and *made perfect*. We find Chapter 10 opening up with “For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?” He is writing to Jews who lived these festivals and holy days. If you have seen the new Ben Hur movie you would get a better understanding of how the Jews celebrated them. In one of the opening scenes the Hur family is celebrating Passover with feasting, and singing and dancing and great joy. These holidays were the highlight of the Jewish life. They were remembering that God passed over their sin! So their need for continual sacrifice for their sin was also passed over in the celebrations. Their joy made them forget that this is never settled; it is never done!

The author was stressing to them that the sacrifices were supposed to remind them that the sacrifices were never enough. They never ended, because their sin never ended. He uses Psalm 40 to show that they should have realized this as David had when he wrote this Psalm. God has never needed sacrifices. They were for our sake. He desired one permanent sacrifice. He states directly in 10:10 “By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ *once for all*.” He goes on in verse 14, “For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”

Perfected means finished. The faith of Abraham in believing God, the faith of David and Daniel and Joseph were perfected at the cross of Christ. We who live now in Christ must realize that all of our salvation was finished at that cross. Our life is not over, but our faith is finished for eternity. If Jesus tarries, then in a thousand years every new believer will be just as saved and finished as if there were already enjoying that eternal inheritance with all the redeemed in the heavens.

The Jews, to whom this author was writing and whom he knew so well, needed to see that in Jesus Christ our High Priest the sacrifices were finished. The access to God that was hidden behind the veil was now open to everyone who believed. Jesus leads us through it once for all.

In Christ Pastor EA