

Shadows

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

Hebrews 10:1-2

NUGGET – I enjoy maps, especially Google Earth. One of the things I've learned from looking at this perspective on the earth is to use the shadows to tell me the relative size of something. Just for fun, look on Google Earth and find the Kennedy Space Center. When you look at the shadow of the [Vehicle Assembly Building](#) (switch to satellite view and its right there above the 'map' box) you'll see what I mean about shadows helping you understand relative sizes. The VAB was built to assemble the Saturn V rocket that took men to the moon. The shadow of that building is huge!

That huge shadow speaks of the reality of the size of the VAB, but that shadow is not the substance of the building. So also in the nugget verses today, the shadow of the law is huge, but it is not the substance, we're to see of the good things themselves. But what are those 'good things' that the law is a shadow of?

We're told that the yearly sacrifice of the blood of bulls and goats as performed under the old law could not accomplish the fulfilling of the law, could not take away sins. (vs 3-4) But the better thing, the substantive thing, the thing that the law is just a shadow of, is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

It says in verses 12-14 *12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. 14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

So by fulfilling the demands of the law, by sacrificing Himself on the cross and rising to new life again, Jesus Christ has made the perfect complete sacrifice that the law was the shadow of. The shadow of the cross is huge! It completes forever and for all time, the sacrifices that the law required.

And when Jesus sat down at the right hand of God, that indicates that not only is the sacrifice complete but also there is nothing to be done in addition to it. We can add nothing to the sacrifice of Christ on our part. We cannot presume that we have to make amends for our sins, we simply cannot. All the sacrifice needed under the old law, has been completed. The substance of the Substitute – Jesus Christ – has accomplished the total sacrifice necessary to fulfill the law.

We are to live as ones 'who are being made holy'. We are not making a sacrifice to merit anything under the law by seeking to live in a holy way. That is not sacrifice for sin on our part; it is living *in* the grace of Christ under the shadow of the cross.

APPLICATION -

1. Look up a local landmark on a map that you've not visited before. Then go and see it. See how the substance compares with the 'shadow'. Take a few moments then to ponder the greater reality of what Jesus sacrifice under the law. Then rejoice that His sacrifice is complete for you.

PRAY – Dear Lord Jesus, You have completed once for all the sacrifice for sins. Your work on the cross has made the perfect atonement that the blood of bulls and goats could not accomplish. We thank you for giving us the shadow of the cross to live under as You, by the Holy Spirit work Your holiness in us. In Your name we pray, amen.