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If your haven't read Casey's meditation on "Hitting the Mark", I'd encourage you to stop here, and read it before continuing.

As Casey noted, we've been looking at the priesthood of Jesus in our study of Hebrews on Wednesday nights. And after making it clear that Jesus' priesthood is far superior than what went before it, the author focuses on the sacrifices offered by both, and clearly states that it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

He then goes on to say, "Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, 'Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, but a body Thou hast prepared for Me; in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (in the roll of the book it is written of Me) to do Thy will, O God.'""

As I was preparing for our study, it struck me how amazing that statement really was. The author was quoting from Psalm 40, and has Jesus, stating through the words of David, that God had prepared for Him a body that would do what the bodies of bulls and goats could never do.

My excitement turned into confusion, however, when I actually read the Psalm. Rather than say "a body Thou hast prepared for Me", it reads, "My ears Thou hast opened." Why the change? Did the writer of Hebrews misquote the Psalm to make a point? Surely not.

I quickly checked various translations to see if there was one that read as quoted in Hebrews, but found none. Then I spotted a footnote in the NIV that said, "Hebrew; Septuagint *but a body you have prepared for me*". That was an answer that simply raised another question.

The writer of Hebrews obviously quoted from the Greek translation of the Old Testament. But why did seventy Jewish scholars, working nearly 400 years before Christ, change David's words about having his ears opened to the truth that God didn't want animal sacrifices, into a prophecy about a sacrificial Messiah they were not looking for? A Messiah who would give His body for the forgiveness of sins.

The only answer I can come up with is that once again we find evidence that the Holy Spirit worked behind the scenes to make sure we could understand why Christ did what He did for us. God Bless, Rick



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HITTING THE MARK

by Casey Blakley



Mark Rober, a former NASA engineer turned YouTuber is known mostly for making wild and off the wall inventions. Some of these include a rock throwing machine capable of skipping a rock 60+ times across a lake, a rocket propelled golf club capable of launching a golf ball an undetermined distance at speeds exceeding 150mph, and the infamous glitter bomb package designed to give would-be porch pirates an unexpected and unpleasant surprise immediately after opening their recently stolen package. Among these and others he also has an interesting video where he designs and builds a dart board that is able to sense the initial vector of a thrown dart and simultaneously move into position so that it guarantees a bulls-eye every time. Aside from the marvelous feat of engineering and programming required to accomplish such a task, I'm struck by the similarities between this fantastic parlor trick and Jesus as our mediator to God.

Nearly 3 years after seeing this video I was able to make the connection during a Wednesday night Bible Study in which we were studying a section of Hebrews 7. This chapter details the differences between the old Levitical priesthood and the new and improved priesthood initiated by Jesus. Verse 16 tells us the former passed down "on the basis of a law of physical requirement" and the latter "on the basis of the power of an indestructible life". Picking up the text in verse 23, we read: "The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore, He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

ἁμαρτία, a word commonly used for sin in the Bible is a word that means "to miss the mark". If you're anything like me, you can probably picture your performance in a game of darts as a great example of this. The old order, the old Law was only able to show us where that mark was and was only capable of pointing out where and when we miss the mark. At best it gave us a mulligan on our throw. This Law was vastly inadequate for the purpose of perfecting us. Jesus, however, established a new order of priesthood, one that lasts forever, and as we just read, is continually making intercession for us to God. I find it fascinating that the original word for intercession literally means "to hit the mark." In fact, in classical Greek, this word was often used as a direct antonym of ἁμαρτία. It doesn't matter how bad we are at hitting the mark. If we place our trust in this new priesthood, He has made intercession to put us right before God. (Continued inside)

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship Service
Bible School
9:15 AM
10:45 AM

STATISTICS

Worship 115
 Offering \$12,651.61

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-3/8/20

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Greeters | Erica Blakley |
| Visitors' Stand..... | Gary & Lori Gredzieleski |
| Communion Meditation..... | Otto Huber |
| Ushers..... | Casey Blakley |
| | Chuck McLaughlin |
| | Rich Mann |
| | Brad Stirmell |
| | Kirk Polley |
| | Scott Bales |
| | Mike Donaldson |
| WORSHIP NURSERY | |
| Toddlers..... | Erica Blakley |
| | Jake Divjak |
| Infants..... | Jeni Sperry |
| | Marilyn Wenneborg |
| | Emma Warwick |
| | Sunday School |
| Toddlers..... | Julie Divjak |
| Infants..... | Vicki Small |
| | Rebecca Smith |

The Hidden Word

JAMES 1:5

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

Let Us Pray For...

--Lee Zimmerman awaiting tests to determine why he is having a difficult time walking.

--Family of former business partner of Bryne Willey who passed away leaving behind a wife and two small children.



CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

When I read this, I couldn't help but picture the video of the dart board constantly moving in place so that all the shots hit the intended target. As all analogies break down on some level, a more accurate picture may be one that redirects the dart itself to hit a stationary target, but indeed, I think this can still act as a powerful picture of Grace in our lives. Christ's priesthood is superior because it perfects us, even now with intercession before God. That single act of grace 2000 years ago is more-than-sufficient for Christ's new priesthood to finally bring us once-and-for-all into right standing with God. "For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified." - Hebrews 10:14

As we gather around this table today, we reflect, not on the sin that once separated us from God, but on the salvation we've received from our great High Priest - Jesus.



We are still playing volleyball at the LSCA gym on Sunday nights, and adults and teens are invited to join us. Play begins after Sunday night activities at the church around 8:00.



In addition to the regular need for ziplock bags and laundry detergent, the pantry is need of jellies and fruit cocktail.



Junior/Senior High School

Some of you have really enjoyed playing with the adults on Sunday evening and we have enjoyed having you. To that end, I thought it would be fun to challenge another youth group to a few games of volleyball. This way we can dominate and fellowship with other Christian students at the same time.

So, it looks like we will be playing against the youth of Cornerstone Christian Church on Sunday, March 15th. Since we have the gym reserved at LSCA for the adults starting at 8:00pm, we are going to meet Cornerstone out there at 6:30pm that evening to play for around an hour and a half. The church van will be leaving CCC at 6:15 for the camp, if you are driving then we will meet you out there.



For further information about the ministry of Christian Student Fellowship, or to make reservations for the fundraising banquet, please contact Otto Huber.

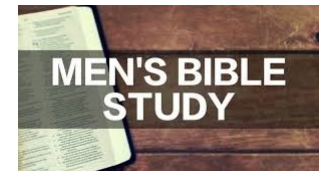


Junior High School

Our conference is finally here! I am super excited that 7 Junior High students kids will be traveling to Bloomington to experience this event. If you would like to pray for them by name, they are Carter, Jett, Jack, Ayden, Lily, Kaelyn and Allie. Of course, feel free to lift me and Tina up in your prayers along with the other 1,000 students and sponsors.

Regarding prayer, that is exactly what the topic for discussion will be for most of the conference. What is prayer? How does it work? When should you pray? Are there specific words you should use? These are all relevant questions for many students as they work through different aspect of their relationship with God.

For those going, we are meeting here at CCC at 4:30pm on Friday and will return around 5:30pm on Saturday. You will need overnight supplies, a sleeping bag/pillow and money to cover two meals on the road. Please bring a little extra for optional expenses either at the conference or while traveling. See you all soon!



We laid the foundation for our study of Ephesians last week by looking up some references of Paul's interactions with the Ephesians in the Book of Acts. This week, we will be jumping right into the first couple chapters of the book which cover Ephesians 1: 1-14. We will discover indeed how rich we are in Christ!