



**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Thursday, March 25, 2021**

**Scripture:** Hebrews 10:4-7, 10

**TITLE: Stop Trying**

One of my least favorite days of the month is the 5<sup>th</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> means my mortgage is due. Each month I make my payment, only to have to do it again the next month. It's a bit depressing, but I got myself into this mess. Sometimes, though, I wish someone would come through and just pay off my mortgage.

Well, that's just wishful thinking, but each one of us starts off in this world with our own debt. It's a sin debt. We can never pay it off. It has to be paid off by someone else. But here's the good news: Once He does pay it off, we are debt-free forever. What do I mean? Listen to the writer of Hebrews in Hebrews 10.

“For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. <sup>5</sup> That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God,

“You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings.

But you have given me a body to offer.

<sup>6</sup> You were not pleased with burnt offerings

Or other offerings for sin.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘Look, I have come to do your will, O God—

as is written about me in the Scriptures.’”

...<sup>10</sup>For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.” (Hebrews 10:4-7, 10, NLT)

It may sound weird to us today, but for over a thousand years, the Old Testament priests would sacrifice animals to cover the sins of the people, but it had no saving power. It was symbolic of an inward reality to be made real through the saving One - Jesus Christ.

Though the majority of people aren't sacrificing animals today, people are playing the game of religion. They say prayers, they give money, they serve, they volunteer, they attend worship services and other activities to look pleasing to God. The problem is it never works, and it's never enough.

What's the solution? To rest in the grace of God. To rest in the final sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

So here's my challenge for you today: stop playing the game of religion. Now, I didn't say, “Stop obeying Jesus.” James said that faith without works is dead. So we will be obedient children out of love when we are saved. But we will stop banking on our actions to save us or to keep us saved.

I'd love to hear from you today. How has this been a struggle in your life? I know it has been in mine—comment below how you've tried performing for God's love and how this teaching changes it.

Jesus came and died to provide us a way to God, freely by grace through faith. So today, stop playing the game of religion. Stop performing *for* God's love. Instead, rest in that grace and perform *from* His love. The difference is life-changing and life-giving.

Now, together, let's go win the day.