

Hebrews 10:1; Heb 8:10
The Good Things Foreshadowed

- I. Our Text – Hebrews 10:1-2 and 8:0
 - A. **Heb 10:1** For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. **2** Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins?
 - B. **Heb 8:10** For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord. I will put My laws in their minds and inscribe them on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they will be My people.
- II. Intro
 - A. I got a call this week from someone in our class whose house had a construction type issue. [\[1\]](#) The sheetrock over a window was cracking and bulging. Something was wrong. Before we opened up the wall I speculated on several things that might possibly be causing the problem. I was careful to say that I really did not know what the problem was until we opened up the wall.
 1. When we opened up the wall above the window there was termite damage. The termites ate the boards above the window out and then they ate 2 other boards holding up the board over the window and 2 other boards that helped support the roof.

2. Well now I knew what the problem was. I told the framer who was doing the work to tear out the sheetrock to the floor because that is where the termites were coming from.
3. I told the lady in whose house we were working and her brother exactly what the problem was. I explained to them how termites have to return to the soil each day to replenish themselves with moisture. If they don't get this moisture then they dry out and die. So when we tear the sheetrock out to the floor we are going to find a hole or crack or something that allows the termites to get from the soil through the concrete pad and up to the boards that are damaged.
 - a. I was kind of an expert on termites at that point. You can look up what I said about them. It is a fact.
4. The framer tore the sheetrock out to the floor around the boards that were damaged and I was wrong. There was no crack or hole allowing the termites to get back into the soil. The damage stopped at the piece of treated lumber that the boards that were damaged stood upon.
5. We then had to step back and re-figure. I did not know nearly as much as I thought I did. My knowledge of termites was kind of thin.
6. We discovered that the termites instead of accessing the boards they ate from the ground, got in to the boards from the roof. The roofers when they built the house 10 years ago did not fill in some nail holes. The termites entered through the roof. There was just enough moisture when the spring rains came that the

termites could go down from the roof to eat and return to the roof to replenish themselves. When the spring rains turned to dry summer days they flew off.

7. Here is the first point in my story: I was so certain in my knowledge of termites that I knew and could state the cause of the problem even before the wall had been torn out.
 8. Here is the second point of my story: I don't know nearly as much as I think I do.
 9. Here is my conclusion: Walk humbly through this world because we don't know all we think we do. The world is not as "thin" as our knowledge.
- B. Now Sunday School is not about stories with a fable type ending. It is not about dishing out moralisms. I told the story to help us understand a bit of what our author is developing in Hebrews when he talks about the law and what Christ has done for us.
- III. Our text this morning tells us that the law is but a shadow of the good things to come.
- A. The law casts an image of the good things that come with Christ and the good things that will come for all eternity. We can get an idea of what Jesus brings us through the law, but we don't get the full picture. The law is thin in this regard. It is thin. It is partial. It is not complete. It is like my knowledge of termites.
 1. There is so much more that Jesus brings than what we find written in the shadows of the Old Testament law.
 2. Knowing the law as it is written in the Old Testament – or knowing the law as we get it from natural revelation –

yields only a partial knowledge of what God has for us.

- B. Hebrews 8:10 tells us that when Jesus came God took the law out of the shadows and put it into our heart.
 - 1. How is that any different?
 - a. I will go back to my termite story. I was pretty quick and sure about everything. I “knew” my subject and what I was talking about. I had read about it in the past. Studied up on termites and the evidence was right there in front of me. I made my determination based on facts and what I saw
 - b. But I was wrong. (This by the way is not the first time I have made quick judgments and been wrong.) But it did connect a little bit with me this time as I had been considering our text and the shadow of the law.
 - c. If I had taken my knowledge and been patient with it and not so quick to draw my conclusions; and if I had approached it with a little humility – then I would have gotten the right answer without having gone through the wrong one first.
 - d. To put that in terms of our Christian life – and what I think Hebrews is pointing to and would call “the good things to come” – it means that we have been called to live in loving obedience to the Lord. That is for our heart and mind and our soul to be a part of what we do – and not just a code of laws governing us. The code of laws is pretty thin and shadowy in nature. When we stop and let the love of Christ fill our hearts and minds and reflect on

what he has done for us – it slows down rash decisions; we get more information; and we live a fuller life.

- C. During this covid shut down I have used some of the time to read different things. Two of the books that I read recently have as part of their plot incidents where people made quick decisions based on what they saw and the iron-clad information that they were given. Turns out it was not so iron-clad. The information was partial and skewed.
1. Othello, the play by Shakespeare, has one of the most villainous characters in all of literature in it – a guy named Iago. Iago sets Othello up through the play so that Othello sees with his own eyes and then hears a conversation and comes to believe that his wife whom he loves cheated on him. Othello ends up killing the wife he so adored. Everything that Othello knew and led him to act was false.
 2. Another play, Hippolytus, was written about 400 years before Christ by a Greek named Euripides. It tells the story of a Greek King who ends up exiling his illegitimate son because the king believes – No, he knows – that his illegitimate son had an affair with his wife. Turns out he was wrong. His information was not correct. I will not ruin the story by telling you the ending, but it is one in which the king regrets his action against his son. [\[2\]](#)
- IV. The law in our hands – all by itself – is not enough. It is only a shadow. What God has done for us in Christ is put the law in our heart and mind. So, as we deal with others, we

don't just get the facts and act on that. Jesus has better things for us than that.

- A. He wants us to have better interactions with each other. He wants us to have relationships with each other that reflects the love and work of God in our life. And so he puts the law in our hearts and minds so that when we deal with each other it is with patience and kindness and humility and rejoicing and hoping in the right – and all the things that encompass love. It takes the “thinness” of mere law out of life and gives us the fullness God intends us to experience.
- B. What a wonderful gift we have from our Lord.