

SEPARATION TO CHRIST
(Hebrews 13:10-14)

I. A VARIETY of Interpretations

A. “We” may refer to the CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

1. The “ALTAR” could be the “LORD’S SUPPER”
2. The “altar” could be a figure for the CROSS or JESUS
3. Objections
 - a. Difficult to avoid the conclusion of Roman CATHOLICISM and Greek ORTHODOXY
 - b. Would essentially REPLACE the old JEWISH ritual with a new CHRISTIAN ritual

B. “We” may refer to the JEWISH COMMUNITY

1. Presents the OT ritual as an ANALOGY for CHRIST, who is SUPERIOR
2. Constitutes a final call for JEWISH CHRISTIANS to SEPARATE from OT JUDAISM

II. The “ALTAR” of the JEWS (Heb. 13:10-11)

- A. The PRIESTS were to EAT most offerings (Lev. 4:22-35; 6:25-26)
- B. They were FORBIDDEN to EAT the ANNUAL offerings for SIN on the Day of ATONEMENT (Heb. 7:27; 9:7, 25; 10:1-3)
 1. They were SLAUGHTERED on the ALTAR

- a. A BULLOCK for the HIGH PRIEST (Lev. 4:3-7, 12)
 - b. A GOAT for the entire CONGREGATION (Lev. 4:13-21)
- 2. Their BLOOD was applied to the MERCY SEAT
- 3. Their carcasses were carried "OUTSIDE the CAMP" to be BURNED (Lev. 16:27)

III. The ANALOGY with JESUS (Heb. 13:12)

- A. Jesus DIED "OUTSIDE the GATE" (Mt. 27:32-33; Mk. 15:20; Jn. 19:20)
- B. He was the OFFERING for OUR SIN
 - 1. The OT sacrifices were a PICTURE of sin's REMOVAL
 - 2. They provided TEMPORARY COVERING that had to be REPEATED ANNUALLY
 - 3. Jesus' sacrifice actually REMOVES our SIN
- C. He SEPARATES us to GOD through HIS BLOOD

IV. The APPLICATION for the BELIEVER (Heb. 13:13-14)

- A. We are called to JOIN Him "OUTSIDE the CAMP"
 - 1. Requires RENOUNCING what we HAD BEEN
 - 2. Requires IDENTIFYING with CHRIST in full ALLEGIANCE
 - 3. Requires "BEARING His REPROACH"
- B. We are REMINDED of our ETERNAL INHERITANCE
 - 1. We are merely TEMPORARY RESIDENTS on earth (11:13)
 - 2. Our ETERNAL HOME is yet to COME (11:10, 16)