

## ONCE

Hebrews 9:26 “He (Jesus) has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

There is currently an add on T.V. for a special exterior paint. The spokesperson in the add states that if you apply this particular paint to your exterior walls you will “never have to paint again.” ONCE! That’s it! I don’t know about you, but I am fairly skeptical about any paint lasting for my lifetime. Actually, the guarantee is only 25 years, but even that is a long time, isn’t it?

There are skeptics who have great difficulty with this statement that Jesus was sacrificed once. In the Old Testament, the Jews were given an elaborate sacrificial system by God that required them to offer sacrifices repeatedly. There is a denomination today that says every time you receive Holy Communion Jesus offers Himself as a sacrifice for your sins. The writer to the Hebrews in chapter 9 states that “Jesus has appeared once . . .to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

Is ONCE enough? Was Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of all of humanity sufficient, or is more needed? How is it possible, some ask, that those going to Holy Communion receive the body and blood of Jesus. How can He repeatedly give His body and blood to so many people? Yet, Jesus, “took bread . . .gave it to His disciples and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body. . .’ and ‘Drink of it... this cup is . . .My blood. . .’” (Matthew 26:26-28)

Is ONCE enough? “By one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.” (Hebrews 10:14) “Where these (sins) have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.” (Hebrews 10:18) Yes, ONCE is enough because Peter says Jesus was sacrificed as “. . .a lamb without blemish or defect.” (1 Peter 1:19) John the Baptist said He is the “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” (John 1:29)

Is ONCE enough? Almighty God, at the Transfiguration of Jesus said of Him, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” Listen to Jesus who tells you He died for you in payment for your sins. Listen to Jesus who tells you if you believe in Him you will not perish but receive everlasting life.

ONCE is all that is needed. One Savior. . . One sacrifice . . . One resurrection. . .  
One Jesus sitting at the right hand of God interceding for you.

Prayer: LORD Jesus Christ, Son of God and my personal Savior, thank You for Your  
One sacrifice in payment for my sins. Thank You for pleading to Your Father that  
He will forgive me my sins and grant me eternal life in heaven. In Your holy name.  
Amen.

One thing's needful; LORD, this treasure Teach me highly to regard.  
All else, though it first give pleasure, Is a yoke that presses hard!  
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striving,  
No true, lasting happiness ever deriving.  
This one thing is needful; all others are vain—  
I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!

Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure, Jesus, is revealed in You.  
Let me find in You my pleasure, And my wayward will subdue,  
Humility there and simplicity reigning,  
In paths of true wisdom my steps ever training.  
If I learn from Jesus this knowledge divine,  
The blessings of heavenly wisdom is mine.

Nothing have I, Christ, to offer, You alone, my highest good.  
Nothing have I, LORD, to proffer But Your crimson-colored blood.  
Your death on the cross has death wholly defeated  
And thereby my righteousness fully completed;  
Salvation's white raiments I there did obtain,  
And in them in glory with You I shall reign.

Therefore You alone, my Savior, Shall be all in all to me;  
Search my heart and my behavior, Root out all hypocrisy.  
Through all my life's pilgrimage, guard and uphold me,  
In loving forgiveness, O Jesus, enfold me.  
This one thing is needful; all others are vain—  
I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!  
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