

# NOTHING BUT JESUS

THOUGHTS FROM MAJOR KEN SMITH

Many religions offer various ways to reach out to God. Often through doing good works, people try to earn their salvation in order to ensure their place in an eternal afterlife.

The ancient Israelites lived by the Old Covenant, whereby animal sacrifices were brought to the priest to atone for their sins. In particular, the Day of Atonement, as described in Leviticus 16, was a yearly reminder that all of Israel's daily, weekly, and monthly ritual offerings were not sufficient to permanently atone for sin. It was the only time during the year when the high priest would enter the holy of holies to make atonement for the sins of all Israel. This act of paying the penalty for sin brought reconciliation (a restored relationship) between the people and God. Atonement means "covering." The purpose of the sacrifice was to repair the broken relationship between humans and God by covering the sins of the people.

**God sent Jesus to be a perfect sacrifice for our sins. Scripture says:**

"For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. But our High Priest [Jesus] offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time." (Hebrews 10:10-12 NLT)

**Hymn writer Isaac Watts captivated that sentiment when he wrote these words (SASB 186):**

Not all the blood of beasts  
On Jewish altars slain,  
Could give the guilty conscience peace  
Or wash away our stain.

But Christ, the heavenly Lamb,  
Takes all our sins away,  
A sacrifice of nobler name  
And richer blood than they.

**With confidence we can therefore sing:**

What can wash away my sin and make me whole again? Nothing but Jesus.  
For my pardon this my plea, more of You and less of me. Nothing but Jesus.

I want to know You, I want to see You at work in my life.  
I want to feel You, to walk beside You ev'ry step that I take.

How precious is the flow that makes me white as snow!  
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

**Lord, thank You for offering Your life as the perfect sacrifice for my sin. Help me to turn to You each and every day, and to grow in my relationship with You as I learn to know You more. Continue Your work in my life, I pray. Amen.**