

## **Better Hebrews 9:1-10**

### **Intro**

I love hearing people's story. Thank you Steve for sharing with us this morning. It is awesome to see God move in a person's life, especially when we don't even realize it. Long before Steve planned to follow Christ, long before he even realized how much God truly loved him God was working. Even in the darkest times of Steve's life God was and still is working.

### **Transition**

Maybe you are sitting there today and your thinking, "I'm not a Christian, I'm just checking things out," or maybe your thinking "I've been a Christian for a long time." I say the same thing to both of you, whether you realize it or not God has been and still is working in your life. He is directing us all to the same place, the cross of Christ where we find new life.

**Sticky Statement: Christ died and rose again to usher in a promise of new life.**

### **Passage**

1 Now the first covenant also had regulations for ministry and an earthly sanctuary. 2 For a tabernacle was set up, and in the first room, which is called the holy place, were the lampstand, the table, and the presentation loaves. 3 Behind the second curtain was a tent called the most holy place. 4 It had the gold altar of incense and the ark of the covenant, covered with gold on all sides, in which was a gold jar containing the manna, Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. 5 The cherubim of glory were above the ark overshadowing the mercy seat. It is not possible to speak about these things in detail right now.

Hebrews 9:1-5

In Exodus 25-30 God gave the Israelites instructions on how and where to worship Him.

There was no speculation, no uncertainty, God was very specific.

Last week we were introduced to the Tabernacle this week we take a little closer look at it.

The tabernacle was the place that God would dwell with His people.

His presence would rest behind the second curtain also known as the Holy of Holies.

The tabernacle was where worship of the one true God was centered.

The tabernacle was a central point in the life of the Israelites.

The ability to approach God was limited to only once year and only by the High Priest.

Look back to verse 2 with me:

2 For a tabernacle was set up, and in the first room, which is called the holy place, were the lampstand, the table, and the presentation loaves.

Hebrews 9:2

There were two rooms in the tabernacle this verse looks at some of the items inside the first room.

The author refers to it as the Holy Place.

First we see the lamp-stand.

It represented God's constant presence with His people, guidance, and divine illumination.

It also provided light for the priest to offer sacrifices in the Holy Place.

The table is where the presentation loaves were placed.

The presentation loaves would be changed on a weekly basis.

The presentation loaves or The Bread of the Presence.

12 loaves one representing each tribe of Israel represent God's provisions and fellowship with each tribe.

4 It had the gold altar of incense and the ark of the covenant, covered with gold on all sides, in which was a gold jar containing the manna, Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. 5 The cherubim of glory were above the ark overshadowing the mercy seat. It is not possible to speak about these things in detail right now.

Hebrews 9:1-5

The altar of incense represents God's continual presence with His people.

The manna reminded the people that God meets the needs of His people.

Aaron's staff was a reminder of how God kept Israel alive in the desert and of Aaron's priesthood.

The tablets served to remind people of God's covenant with them.

The ark shows God's love and steadfast faithfulness towards the people of Israel.

The cherubim were guarding the presence of God.

verse 5 ends with "but I won't go into detail right now."

The authors original audience would have been familiar with these objects and the temple.

Everything was covered in gold.

Gold was extremely valuable at the time.

This shows the value of heaven and heavenly worship.

Jesus is the light of the world (lampstand)

Jesus is the bread of life (presentation loaves, manna)

## Jesus is the New Covenant (Tablets and Ark of the Covenant)

Pick up in verse 6 with:

6 With these things prepared like this, the priests enter the first room repeatedly, performing their ministry. 7 But the high priest alone enters the second room, and he does that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. 8 The Holy Spirit was making it clear that the way into the most holy place had not yet been disclosed while the first tabernacle was still standing. 9 This is a symbol for the present time, during which gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the worshiper's conscience. 10 They are physical regulations and only deal with food, drink, and various washings imposed until the time of the new order.

Hebrews 9:6-10

In verse 6 the author moves from the Tabernacle itself to those that worked in the Tabernacle.

We see that priests enter the first room over and over.

Offering sacrifices for the people and making sure the lamp stand is maintained properly.

He then mentions what most call the Holy of Holies.

The High Priest alone was allowed to enter and even then it was only once a year.

He never entered with blood to atone for the sins of himself and the people of Israel.

The description of the sin in verse 7 is interesting.

the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

Hebrews 9:7d

People tend to group sin into two categories.

1. Sins of commission—we know its wrong, yet we do it anyway.
2. Sins of Omission—Failing to do what we know we should do.

The author of Hebrews says there is a third category that sin falls into; Sins of Ignorance or unintentional sins. Sins we commit without even realizing it.

In verse 8 we finally see why the author is telling us all this about the temple.

The Holy Spirit was making it clear to the people that while the temple stood man could not fully enter into the presence of God.

The sacrifices would have to be offered over and over until a major shift happened and the final sacrifice was made.

Once the truly perfect sacrifice was offered the Holy of Holies would be opened and man could finally commune directly with God.

When Christ died the curtain that separated the Holy of Holies from the first room of the temple was torn from top to bottom.

The people are no longer separated from the presence of God.

We can enter into the Most Holy Place because of our Great High Priest!

Verse 9 reminds us that the gift and offerings given at the Tabernacle could not perfect the conscience of the worshipper.

They mattered in they temporarily satisfied the wrath of God but they could not bring true heart change to the worshipper.

Look back at verse 10 with me:

10 They are physical regulations and only deal with food, drink, and various washings imposed until the time of the new order.

Hebrews 9:10

All the regulations that dealt with food, drinks, ways to wash one's self were only physical solutions that would not last.

Something more was needed a new order or a New Covenant was required to fulfill the Old.

Not even the offering given in the Holy of Holies was sufficient to bring permanent eternal change to the people.

A perfect lasting sacrifice was needed.

Jesus was that sacrifice.

### **Application**

Christ did not come so that we would have more rules to follow.

He did not come and die so that we would put our hope in things seen.

He came, died, and rose again so we might experience true heart change.

Each person is created in the Imago Dei. The Image of God.

We all bare His Image, designed to reflect an infinite God.

How ever our sin has marred that image, covered it in filth to point that it can be difficult to recognize at times.

It doesn't matter what lifestyle, addiction, or living situation, you find your sin Christ offers redemption.

**Christ died and rose again to usher in a promise of new life.**

### **Challenge**

Have you experienced new life in Jesus? If so what is He doing in your life now?

## Commentaries Used in Preparation

Christ Center Exposition: Exalting Christ in Hebrews

The Gospel Coalition Commentary on Hebrew by Dennis Johnson