

Better Hebrews 9:11-22

Intro

Transition

Sticky Statement: Christ died to set us free from the debt of our sin.

Passage

11 But Christ has appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come. In the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (that is, not of this creation), 12 he entered the most holy place once for all time, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow, sprinkling those who are defiled, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works so that we can serve the living God?

Hebrews 9:11-14

Verses 1-10 the author talked about the things of the temple and the inability for the Old Covenant to change the heart of the worshipper.

Briefly lets revisit verse 8:

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.

Hebrews 9:8

Under the Old Covenant access to the Holy of Holies was restricted.

High Priest only and only once a year.

Verse 11 begins with a big “but” signifying that things have changed.

What changed?

We also see in verse 11 that Christ has appeared.

God’s plan for salvation has been made visible in Christ Jesus.

Why did this change things?

One reason is that Christ work as High Priest did not occur in the imperfect earthly Temple.

Christ offered His gift not in a man made structure.

It did not take place in a recreation of the heavenly.

Christ carried His gift into the Most Holy Place in heaven once and for all.

His gift was not the blood of a earthly goat or calf but His own.

How did Christ change everything?

He offered His perfect blood.

He offered Himself without blemish at the atoning sacrifice for our sin.

What does it mean to atone for something?

To atone is to make amends for a wrong.

In the case of each person we have sinned.

We have missed the mark of following the laws of God, the 10 Commandments.

Atonement must be made, blood is the only thing strong enough.

The blood of Christ is the only thing that can cover the eternal cost.

Look back at verse 14 with me:

14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works so that we can serve the living God?

Hebrews 9:14

Christ was and is the perfect sacrifice we needed.

His blood holds the power to not only cleanse us externally but also our soul.

He mentions dead works.

These dead works for the Jewish people were the sacrifices offered in the Temple.

They would need to be repeated non-stop.

For us this would be any “good deed” we do trying to earn God’s favor.

These are “dead works” because they don’t bring new life.

Lets look at verse 15:

15 Therefore, he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance, because a death has taken place for redemption from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Hebrews 9:15

Christ goes before God the Father and pleads on behalf of those that call on His name.

For those that have relationship with Jesus, Christ stands and proclaims our redemption.

For us to be redeemed from our sin a death must take place.

This is why animals were sacrificed as a place holder until the time for God's full plan arrived.

Christ died to set us free from the debt of our sin.

16 Where a will exists, the death of the one who made it must be established. 17 For a will is valid only when people die, since it is never in effect while the one who made it is living.

Hebrews 9:16-17

These two verses seem a little strange.

The author is drawing an analogy for the listeners.

The will he is talking is a last will and testament.

A person has a legally binding contract drawn up and ready.

It is only active upon the person's death.

A person's will gives gifts to those named in the will.

Keep that in mind as we read the next portion of our passage.

18 That is why even the first covenant was inaugurated with blood. 19 For when every command had been proclaimed by Moses to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, along with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll itself and all the people, 20 saying, **This is the blood of the covenant that God has ordained for you.** 21 In the same way, he sprinkled the tabernacle and all the articles of worship with blood. 22 According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:18-22

Here the writer reminds us that even in the first covenant, with the nation of Israel, required a death for the gift of forgiveness from sin to be bestowed.

Again the author draws from the Old Testament to help us connect the New.

In verse 20 He quotes from Exodus 24:8

The sprinkling of the blood signified that death was the punishment for breaking the covenant with God.

The fact that God provided a system for animal sacrifices to be offered revealed that a substitute could be used in place of the offender.

In other words, I could sacrifice a calf for my sins instead of giving my life.

Through the sacrificial system God made a way for the temporary atonement of sin.

Through the spilling of the animal blood one had a very visual reminder of the cost of our sins.

Praise God we no longer have to offer regular sacrifices.

Look back at verses 11-12 with me:

11 But Christ has appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come. In the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (that is, not of this creation),
12 he entered the most holy place once for all time, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:11-12

Christ blood has been spilled by His choice and offered on behalf of all that call on His name.

The Old Covenant required the people to offer regular sacrifices because the offerings were only temporary solutions.

Christ blood was enough for eternal redemption.

Christ is the atoning sacrifice.

It is His broken body and spilt blood that pays the debt of sin.

Application

Christ died to set us free from the debt of our sin.

Paul writes this in Romans:

23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 3:23

He also writes this in Romans:

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

We have all sinned and earned death.

BUT God in His mercy gave us the gift of Christ.

Christ came, lived the life we could not, died the death we deserved, rose from the dead, and defeated the punishment we earned.

What does He do after all that? He offers new life to any that would follow Him.

Challenge

Who do you follow?

Commentaries Used in Preparation

Christ Center Exposition: Exalting Christ in Hebrews

The Gospel Coalition Commentary on Hebrew by Dennis Johnson