

**"The Better Sanctuary"**

**Part 8**

**Hebrews 9:1-12**

**Introduction:** Tonight as we return to our study of the book of Hebrews we are again returning to chapter 9:1-12. The writer of Hebrews is focused upon a mission to pull these Hebrew believers forward in their Christian walk.

**Hebrews 6:1-2**

*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,  
<sup>2</sup> Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

Now we know that the believers he is writing to are torn between Christianity and Judaism. We have discussed how they had a divided allegiance which hindered their spiritual growth. In this chapter we shall see another problem within the lives of these believers which also hindered their spiritual growth and their ability to move forward in their Christian walk. This is seen in 2 verses.

**Hebrews 9:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:*

<sup>14</sup> *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

These believers were under the conviction of their conscience and this conviction was driving them to dead works. I will explain what the writer means by this in a moment but before I do I want to give you some thoughts that will help you understand this better.

Everyone one of us is born with a conscience.

**John 1:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

<sup>7</sup> *The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.*

<sup>8</sup> *He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*

<sup>9</sup> *That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

God has given to every individual a conscience as well as the Law of God written within our hearts.

### **Romans 2:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

<sup>15</sup> *Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*

Our conscience is a great blessing from God **BUT** at the same time we must understand that a conscience can be altered which surrounds us, by what we practice, and by what we are taught.

- ✓ **Our conscience can be seared.**

### **1 Timothy 4:1-2**

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils:*

<sup>2</sup> *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

- ✓ **Our conscience can be defiled.**

### **Titus 1:15**

<sup>15</sup> *Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*

- ✓ **Our conscience can be evil.**

### **Hebrews 10:22**

<sup>22</sup> *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

So while the conscience is a blessing from God we must remember that because we are sinners and we live in a fallen world that means that our conscience can be far from perfect. If we get our minds filled with certain practices over and over and this practice becomes part of our lives then our conscience becomes geared toward that teaching. Then when we are exposed to the Truth and we try to step away from the old practice our conscience can be difficult to retrain.

That was exactly what was happening here in Hebrews with these believers. They had been raised in Judaism and under the teachings of Judaism there were ceremonies and rituals constantly. When they were saved they were told they no longer needed to participate in rituals and ceremonies. But as they stepped away their conscience made them feel guilty and so they desired to go back to the ceremonies and the rituals which was an attempt to "PURGE/PURIFY THEIR CONSCIENCE THROUGH THESE DEAD WORKS". They felt as though they had to be involved in the ceremonies and the rituals in order to please God.

They were like many today who do not understand that we are COMPLETE and ACCEPTED in Christ and there is nothing we can do to make God love us more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less.

### **Ephesians 1:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein **he hath made us accepted in the beloved.***

<sup>7</sup> *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

### **Colossians 2:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

<sup>9</sup> *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

<sup>10</sup> *And **ye are complete in him**, which is the head of all principality and power:*

The Hebrew believers were not able to grasp this Truth and so they believed that they had to be busy in the ceremonies and rituals in order to please God but the ceremonies and the rituals were not able to cleanse their conscience. This then hindered their fellowship with God and therefore they were not able to come boldly into His presence. An unknown author recorded the following words:

*"Scripture recognizes, as the Accuser also does, that nothing so impedes your access to God as a guilty conscience. You can't draw near boldly unless your heart is "sprinkled from an evil conscience."*

This is where the Hebrew believers were in their walk. They were attempting to purge their conscience with activity in the ceremonies and the rituals but the writer will explain to them that was not what they needed. But what they needed to do was to REST in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are many believers who live the very same way today. Their conscience makes them feel guilty and so in an attempt to suppress the guilt they busy themselves in service. They believe the busier they are the more God is pleased with them. In this way they try to earn God's acceptance and approval.

**Luke 10:38-42**

*<sup>38</sup> Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.*

*<sup>39</sup> And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.*

*<sup>40</sup> But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.*

*<sup>41</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:*

*<sup>42</sup> But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*

Let us now get into Hebrews 9 and see what the writer has to say.

I. **The Old Covenant's Sanctuary**

**Notice Hebrews 9:1-5**

We have already considered the furniture which the writer speaks of here which was located within the Tabernacle so we are not going to get back into these verses. I will remind you again that the writer never mentions anything which is located in the outer court. He takes his readers here directly into the Holy Place and then into the Holy of Holies. The reason is because it was his desire to get them into the presence of God where they could enjoy the sweet fellowship with Him. He did not mention the Brazen Altar or the Laver because they understood the way of salvation and therefore he was pulling them into a deeper walk with the Lord.

II. **The Old Covenant's Sacrifice**

**Notice Hebrews 9:6-7**

Here the writer speaks of the service of the priests and the service of the high priest. We also considered these activities when we looked at the articles of furniture in the Tabernacle.

**Notice Hebrews 9:8**

The "first tabernacle" in this verse is a reference to all that took place under the Old Covenant. The writer here is explaining that under the Old Covenant it was ONLY the high priest who could enter into the presence of God and that was ONLY once a year. This was the picture which the Holy Spirit desired for all to see. The point being that the common man could not enter into the presence of God under the old economy.

**Notice Hebrews 9:9**

Here the writer reminds his readers that under the old economy as the people brought their gifts and their sacrifices they still never reached the place of "perfection". When the writer speaks of "perfection" he is referring to man's ability to enter into the presence of God.

**Hebrews 7:11, 19**

<sup>11</sup> *If therefore **perfection** were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?*

<sup>19</sup> *For the law made nothing **perfect**, but the bringing in of a better hope did; **by the which we draw nigh unto God.***

Let us remember that Hebrews was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. So we can therefore understand that it is God's desire that we enter into His presence to have fellowship with Him. That is what the book of Hebrews is all about. It is to help the reader to see that Jesus is Better than anything or anyone else of the Old Testament because He has made a way for us to enter into the presence of the Father.

Here in Hebrews 9:9 the writer tells us that the Tabernacle and all the services which took place there were only meant to be symbolic of the New Covenant.

**Notice Hebrews 9:9-10**

I want to borrow from the words of Ray Stedman here and I want to show you 3 points which the writer is making in all of this.

1. If these people turned back to the Old Covenant they needed to realize that as they performed the ceremonies and the ordinances they would only have an impact on the outer man or the body. They would do nothing for the inner man.

**Notice Hebrews 9:10 again.**

The gifts and the sacrifices dealt only with food and drinks and ceremonial washings. This had no effect on the inner man at all.

2. The writer wanted these believers to understand that all of the old economy was symbolic.

**Notice Hebrews 9:9**

The ceremonies and the rituals had no spiritual significance but they were instead symbolic. There was a much deeper meaning in the entire program under the Old Covenant. It was all a picture of the New Covenant that was yet to come. They had come to believe that God was interested in the rituals and the ceremonies and they believed the more involved they were the more God would be pleased with them. Let me show you several verses from Hebrews 10.

**Hebrews 10:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*

<sup>5</sup> *Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:*

<sup>6</sup> **In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.**

3. The writer also wanted his readers to understand that all the ceremonies and the rituals could never purify the conscience.

**Notice Hebrews 9:9**

For anyone to believe that ceremonies and rituals could change the inner man is to believe a lie. Now there is something deeper here that I want you to see.

**Hebrews 9:8**

<sup>8</sup> *The Holy Ghost thus signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle **was yet standing**:*

The words "was yet standing" would be better translated "still has any standing". The point the writer is making here is that as long as these Hebrew believers placed value on the RITUALS of the old economy they would never see true meaning which God desired for them to see. Until they understood the worthlessness of rituals they would be unable to

apply the true meaning and thus they would be hindered in their spiritual walk. The point is that all of the ceremonies of the Old Covenant were all about Jesus Christ. They all pointed to His work upon the cross to make us "perfect" and "complete". They understood the need of His death for forgiveness of sin but they believed (as many today) that they needed to do something special in order to please God and to stay in good standing with Him. So because of their roots in Judaism they believed the ceremonies and the rituals would be pleasing to God and would clear their conscience.

**Conclusion:**

These people needed to understand that Jesus was the answer. They needed to learn to rest in Him. That is what the writer is going to explain to them as he move on and that is what we shall see as wed continue. But before we stop let me just say something that really needs to be stated today. There are many churches today that are all caught up in rituals and in ceremonies. This section of Hebrews makes it very clear that God is not interested in ceremonies and rituals. He desires for us to learn of Jesus Christ, rest in Him and then to abide in Him and enjoy fellowship with the Son and the Father. Notice the Words of Jesus in John 17;

**John 17:3**

*<sup>3</sup> And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*