

"The Better Sanctuary"

Part 9

Hebrews 9:1-12

Introduction: Last week in our study of the book of Hebrews we were in Hebrews 9 where we were looking verses 1-12. The Hebrew believers who had received this letter were not moving forward in their Christian walk and for that reason there was within them a "hollow" or a "void". Their conscience was convicting them and in their search for inward peace they were looking to go back to the Old Covenant practices. They believed that in order to win God's acceptance they needed to busy themselves. But they were wrong. They did not understand that in Christ they were accepted and in Christ they were made complete. There was nothing they could do to make God love them more and there was nothing they could do to make God love them less. The inner peace they were searching for was in Christ not in ceremonies and rituals. The ceremonies and the rituals had nothing to do with the inner man and therefore could not purge the conscience. All the ceremonies and the rituals of the Levitical system were types of Jesus Christ, from the furniture in the Tabernacle to the sacrifices.

In Hebrews 9:1-8 the writer pointed to the furniture of the Tabernacle and the activities of the Day of Atonement and then he stated they were symbolic and they could not bring the common man into the presence of God. He also stated that the ceremonies could do nothing for the inner man and above all else they were temporary until the "reformation" or "until the reality should supersede the type".

Notice Hebrews 9:9-10

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

Notice Hebrews 9:11

¹¹ But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

The word "but" here introduces a contrast. The contrast is between the Old Testament priests which could not make anyone perfect but Jesus did what none of the Old Testament priests could do in that He has made a way for us to enter into the presence of God.

He is a High Priest of "GOOD THINGS TO COME" which is a reference to eternal life and the blessings which yet await us.

Hebrews 8:6

⁶ But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

1 Peter 1:3-4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Notice Hebrews 9:11 again.

We need to notice that Jesus serves in a greater more perfect Tabernacle that is not of this world. Our Savior serves in THE Heavenly Tabernacle and it is there that He serves as our High Priest. These Hebrews believers desired to go back to the Old Covenant in which an earthly priest served in an earthly Temple. The writer tells them here there is a BETTER High Priest who serves in a BETTER Tabernacle.

Now the writer is going to point to the Sacrifice offered in the Heavenly Tabernacle.

I. The Better Sacrifice

Part 1

Notice Hebrews 9:12

When Jesus died on the cross He then passed through the heavens and then into THE Holy of Holies which was into the presence of the Father. It was His blood that was THE payment for our sins. This verse tells us that Jesus only had to enter in ONCE which was contrary to the priests of the Old Covenant who had to offer sacrifices daily. Now with His blood Jesus has obtained eternal redemption for us.

This statement at the end of this verse is and amazing spiritual Truth. Let me take you deeper into this verse for a moment.

- 1. In this verse we see that our eternal redemption was obtained by Jesus Christ.**

I want to use this to refresh our minds on some points we have considered before. The Old Covenant was a **conditional** covenant. That means God promised certain blessings to Israel IF they would keep His covenant.

Exodus 19:3-8

³ *And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;*

⁴ *Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.*

⁵ *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:*

⁶ *And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

⁷ *And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.*

⁸ *And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.*

Israel desired to keep the covenant and even promised to do so but they failed. None of the people of Israel were able to keep the commandments of God. God knew this would be the case so that is why He gave them the Levitical Priesthood and the Old Covenant sacrificial system. So day after day they brought their sacrifices and their gifts. Day after day the priests went through the ceremonial washings and then once a year the high priest would enter into the Holy of Holies and he would make atonement for the sins of the people and for himself. This sacrificial system and this covenant were never meant to be permanent for God had promised a New Covenant.

Jeremiah 31:31-33

³¹ *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:*

³² *Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:*

³³ *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

God had promised a New Covenant because Israel had failed to keep the Old Covenant and the blood of the animal sacrifices could not wash away or take away the sins of the people. So here is how the New Covenant would work: the New Covenant would be unconditional. God would send His Son into the world and Jesus would do for us and for Israel what none of us could do for ourselves, He would keep the Law PERFECTLY and He would then go to the cross and He would be the sinless sacrifice for all of our sins. By His blood He would enter into the presence of the Father and there He serves as our Great High Priest. The Covenant is therefore unconditional because we had nothing to do with it. It was a Covenant between the Father and the Son and the Son satisfied the righteous demands of the Father on our behalf. Let us not forget the meaning of the word "covenant" in reference to the New Covenant.

Covenant - a disposition, arrangement, of any sort, which one wishes to be valid, the last disposition which one makes of his earthly possessions after his death, a testament or will.

The word "covenant" in reference to the New Covenant speaks of a will or a testament. If someone includes you in their will when they die there is nothing you are required to do but accept what has been willed to you. It is unconditional.

The word "covenant" in the reference to the Old Covenant is different. Notice the meaning.

Covenant - divine ordinance with signs or pledges.

The Old Covenant was CONDITIONAL for Israel was required to keep God's commandments. This is why the New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant. The New Covenant is better because Jesus did everything on our behalf.

This brings me to the second point I see in this verse.

2. Our redemption is eternal.

Notice Hebrews 9:12

With His blood Jesus has OBTAINED for us ETERNAL REDEMPTION.

Hebrews 10:12-14

¹² *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

¹³ *From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.*

¹⁴ **For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**

Now let me show you the meaning of the word "redemption". It means to "buy with a price and then to release or set free based upon the price which was paid". The word has the idea of slaves who were sold at an auction. The picture in all of this for us is that we were slaves to sin and unable to break the chains on our own. So Jesus bought us with His blood and then he set us free. We are now free from the penalty, the power and one day we will be free from the presence of sin. This by the way is an ETERNAL FREEDOM. The verse tells us Jesus has obtained for us ETERNAL REDEMPTION. This is what the writer of Hebrews means when he says that Jesus has by one offering perfected us forever.

As the writer moves on he will now give show how the redemption can be eternal. He will show his readers how they are eternally secure in Christ. These next verses are loaded with spiritual Truth.

Notice Hebrews 9:13

Here the writer points to the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of the red heifer. These could cleanse no deeper than the flesh. They could not touch the inner man.

Now it is very interesting that the writer mentions the ashes of the red heifer. The type which is seen in the red heifer is full of comfort for you and me. This we shall find in Numbers 19.

Numbers 19:2-9

² *This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke:*

³ *And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp, and one shall slay her before his face:*

⁴ *And Eleazar the priest shall take of her blood with his finger, and sprinkle of her blood directly before the tabernacle of the congregation seven times:*

⁵ *And one shall burn the heifer in his sight; her skin, and her flesh, and her blood, with her dung, shall he burn:*

⁶ *And the priest shall take cedar wood, and hyssop, and scarlet, and cast it into the midst of the burning of the heifer.*

⁷ *Then the priest shall wash his clothes, and he shall bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp, and the priest shall be unclean until the even.*

⁸ *And he that burneth her shall wash his clothes in water, and bathe his flesh in water, and shall be unclean until the even.*

⁹ *And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin.*

The red heifer was to be slain outside the camp. This helps us to see the red heifer is a picture of Jesus Christ for He too was slain outside the "camp" that is outside the gates of Jerusalem. The point however I desire for you to see here is in verse 9. The ashes of the red heifer were to be gathered and laid aside so that they could be used to mix with water and therefore they were ALWAYS available when they were needed to cleanse the person who had become unclean.

Numbers 19:10-13

¹⁰ *And he that gathereth the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: and it shall be unto the children of Israel, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among them, for a statute for ever.*

¹¹ *He that toucheth the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days.*

¹² *He shall purify himself with it [ashes of the red heifer mixed with water] on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be clean: but if he purify not himself the third day, then the seventh day he shall not be clean.*

¹³ *Whosoever toucheth the dead body of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself, defileth the tabernacle of the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from Israel: because the water of separation was not sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is yet upon him.*

So the ashes of the red heifer were in an endless supply to cleanse anyone who had become unclean.

This is a beautiful picture of the blood of Jesus Christ. There is an endless supply and there is a continual cleansing which assures and solidifies that our redemption is ETERNAL.

Notice Hebrews 9:13-14

Here is the reason why we are secure in Jesus Christ. If the blood of bulls and goats which were offered continually and the ashes of the red heifer could cleanse the flesh how much more can the blood of Jesus Christ which was sinless and offered once for all and which is applied to the heart cleanse the inner man?

Conclusion: Let me now get this back in context. These Hebrew believers were thinking that they could fill a void in their lives and erase guilt from their conscience by going back to the ceremonies of the Old Covenant and by sacrificing animals. But the ceremonies and the sacrifices could only impact the flesh and besides they were only temporary types of Jesus Christ. Now Jesus had come and He had shed His sinless blood on the cross for the payment for ALL sin. They simply needed to understand the significance of the sacrifice and the blood of Jesus Christ and then appropriate this Truth to their own personal lives. The key was FAITH.

Application:

This section of Hebrews we are in is taking us right up to the great "CHAPTER OF FAITH" which is Hebrews 11. The reason is because "FAITH" is the key to inner peace and fellowship with God. We are all going to fail in our walk and there will be times when the Accuser will tell you that you have went beyond grace and then you will carry a false guilt. He may even convince you that the more you do the more God will love you.

Listen! The bottom line is that we are forever secure because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. No matter how far one of God's children has fallen they have never fallen out of His family. We can fall out of FELLOWSHIP but never out of our RELATIONSHIP as children of God.

1 John 1:6-9

⁶ *If we say that we have **fellowship** with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

⁷ *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. {CONTINUALLY}*

⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. {So as to restore our FELLOWSHIP not our RELATIONSHIP}*