

**"The Better Sacrifice"**

**Part 2**

**Hebrews 9:12-10:39**

**Introduction:** As we come back to our study of Hebrews tonight we are stepping into chapter 9 again. The section we are in is focusing upon the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and it is the writer's desire to help the readers to see the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is far better than the sacrifices of the Old Covenant. In Hebrews 9:1-12 the writer pointed to the Tabernacle and the ministry of the high priest on the Day of Atonement. He explained that the Tabernacle and all its furnishings were symbolic of Jesus Christ. He also stated that the blood of bulls and goats were not able to cleanse the inner man, they were not able to bring the common man into the presence of God, and they were not able to cleanse the conscience. He went on in verse 10 to explain that those ceremonies were only temporary until the "reformation" or "until the reality should supersede the type". In Hebrews 9:11 the writer explains that Jesus serves as our High Priest in a better Tabernacle and it is located in Heaven. Then as the writer takes us into verse 12 he begins to point to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and why His sacrifice is so much better than the sacrifices of the Old Covenant.

**Notice Hebrews 9:12**

Here in this verse we saw last week that by His own blood Jesus has obtained for us eternal redemption. The word "redemption" means to be bought with a price. This word has the idea of a slave being sold at the auction block. We were slaves to sin and we were unable to attain freedom from sin's power. It was then that Jesus bought us with His blood and He then set us free. This means we are FOREVER FREE from sin's penalty, power, and one day we will be forever free from sin's presence. This verse tells us that our eternal redemption was obtained by Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross. This is exactly why eternal life is referred to as the FREE GIFT in God's Word.

**Romans 6:23**

<sup>23</sup> *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Romans 5:18**

<sup>18</sup> *Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.*

Now as we get back to Hebrews the writer will continue on the thought of Jesus sacrifice and as he does he will show his readers why the sacrifice of Jesus is better than all the sacrifices of the Old Covenant.

#### **Notice Hebrews 9:13-14**

The sacrificed animals of the Old Covenant had no say in the matter. They were animals who were sacrificed because the Law demanded blood for the atonement for sin. These animals had no will nor were they able to understand the meaning of what was happening. Then above all else the sacrifice of the animal was unable to wash away the sins of the people. The blood of bulls and goats was only able to cover sin. They could make a man ceremonially clean but they could never touch the inner man.

Then we see in verse 14 that Jesus offered HIMSELF. Jesus fully understood the meaning of His sacrifice. He was God and God had become a Man in order to be the sinless Substitute for us and to die to pay the penalty for our sins. The writer tells his readers that the blood of Jesus Christ is able to cleanse the conscience. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from the inside out. The ceremonies of the Old Covenant only could "wash" the outside of a man.

Only the blood of Jesus Christ can clear the conscience of man. These Hebrew believers were looking to ceremonies to take away the guilt just as believers today look to "works" to wipe away guilt. They are as the Hebrews in that they do not understand the power in the blood of Jesus Christ. As we had looked at before, these Hebrew believers had a "hollow" or a "void" within them and it was because they were not growing in their faith. They had come to believe that "activity" for God was the answer but they were wrong. The answer was faith. They needed to understand they were ACCEPTED in Christ and they were COMPLETE in Christ and then they needed to walk by faith in this Truth. Let me show you something we will look closer at as we move on through Hebrews.

#### **Hebrews 10:38**

<sup>38</sup> *Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

#### **Hebrews 11:6**

<sup>6</sup> But **without faith it is impossible to please him**: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

It is not by "works" that we please God nor is it by ceremonies and rituals. It is by saving FAITH and then living FAITH.

Now the writer is going to give us 2 reasons why Jesus death was necessary.

1. **A will is of no effect without the death of the testator.**

#### Notice Hebrews 9:15

<sup>15</sup> And **for this cause** he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Here within this verse we find some amazing Truth about the finished work of Jesus Christ.

**"For this cause"** refers to the power in the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse man from the inside out and to completely wash away all of our sins. Because of this Jesus has become the Mediator of the NEW TESTAMENT. The word "Mediator" refers to "one who intervenes between 2 parties in order to restore peace and friendship". This is exactly what Jesus has done for us.

#### Romans 5:8-10

<sup>8</sup> But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup> Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

<sup>10</sup> For if, **when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son**, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

But there is much more within this verse.

#### Notice Hebrews 9:15 again.

<sup>15</sup> And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, **that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.**

Here in this verse I have bolded and unlined something which we need to grasp. Jesus is the Mediator of the New Testament and before the INHERITANCE could come in Jesus had to pay the price of redemption for the sins of the Old Testament saints who were under the Old Covenant. He did this with His death. Let me remind you that before the death of Jesus Christ on the cross the Old Testament saints did not go to heaven when they died. They went to a place known as Paradise because their blood of bulls and goats could not wash away their sin and so their sin was still on their account. Their account was marked "PAID IN FULL" when Jesus offered His life upon the altar of the cross. Speaking of the Old Testament saints the writer of Hebrews records something interesting in chapter 11.

### Hebrews 11:13

<sup>13</sup> *These all died in faith, **not having received the promises**, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

**Notice Hebrews 9:15 again.**

At the end of this verse the writer uses a very interesting word. He uses the word "inheritance".

The Old Covenant given by God through Moses to the nation of Israel was a "CONTRACT" between 2 parties. It was a contract between God and the people of Israel. As we looked at last week the Old Covenant was CONDITIONAL. This means it was based upon the ability of the people to keep God's commandments.

Here in this verse the writer refers to ETERNAL LIFE as ETERNAL INHERITANCE. This is very important! The reason he does this is because the New Testament is NOT a contract between two parties. In other words our eternal life is not based upon how we live our lives. The New TESTAMENT functions as a "last will and testament". The sacrifice of Jesus Christ was given on our behalf to satisfy the righteous demands of the Father.

### 1 John 2:1-2

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

<sup>2</sup> *And he is the **propitiation** for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

The word "propitiation" means "to satisfy or to appease". The idea is that God is righteous and He is holy and He requires that ALL sin MUST be paid for. He declares that not one man can ever enter into His presence with sin on his or her account. So, on our behalf Jesus Christ went to the cross and He died to SATISFY the righteous demands of the Father. Jesus paid the FULL penalty for the sins of the Old Testament saints and for our sins and now when we accept Him as our Savior we are born into the family of God.

**John 1:12**

<sup>12</sup> *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

As children of God we are therefore heirs of God's estate. So our Eternal Life is an "INHERITANCE".

**Romans 8:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

<sup>17</sup> *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Now the writer of Hebrews will go on and he will explain this thought even more.

**Notice Hebrews 9:16**

Here the writer explains that where there is a testament/will there must be the death of a testator. In other words he is telling us and the Hebrew believers that when a man has a will written up the will is of no effect until he dies.

**Notice Hebrews 9:17**

Here he explains that a testament/will is effective after the man who has written the will dies. While he is alive it has no effect upon the heirs. It is the testator's death which establishes and solidifies the will.

**Example:**

If I write up a will and I name several people on my will, the will of no effect while I am alive. While I am alive I can change my will and remove or include whomever I desire. But after I die those whom I have named as heirs are guaranteed to receive their part of their inheritance.

Now let me pull all of this together. The New Testament functions as a last will and testament. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior we are born into the family of God and therefore as God's children we become His heirs. What is our eternal inheritance? It is the gift of eternal life.

Now our inheritance is NOT based upon what we do or what we do not do. It is based upon the DEATH of Jesus Christ. His death on the cross guarantees our eternal inheritance just as the death of a man guarantees his estate will go to whom he has named as his heirs. Once the man dies the will is not reversible. It is the very same way with the death of Jesus Christ. His death solidified once and for all that our sin debt is paid and our sins have been washed away and now we are joint heirs with Him.

Now we shall see the second reason for the death of Jesus Christ.

**2. Blood is required for the forgiveness of sin.**

**Notice Hebrews 9:18-22**

The blood of the animals was used in the Old Covenant but all the blood of the Old Covenant sacrifices was a picture and a shadow of the blood of Jesus Christ. But the point which the writer makes here in these verses is that Jesus had to die because without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.

**Leviticus 17:11**

*<sup>11</sup> For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*

The Bible is very clear that God requires the shedding of blood in order for the forgiveness of sin. There is no other way of forgiveness. This started way back in the Garden of Eden.

**Genesis 3:21**

*<sup>21</sup> Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

God made coats of skins for Adam and Eve that day in the Garden. This is the first blood shed for sin. It was an object lesson for Adam and Eve that day because the lambs which died to make the coats were innocent. They had no part in the sin. But that day God allowed those lambs to be substitutes for Adam and Eve. The lambs died in their place and provided a covering for their sin.

This was a picture of how God would provide a Substitute for you and me and the Substitute would be His Son who would shed His blood so that we could have the gift of eternal life.

**Conclusion:**

There are 2 points I want to make from this:

1. **There will not be one person in heaven that has not been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ.**

There are many people who believe they can earn their way to heaven or that somehow they can find another way to heaven apart from Jesus Christ. But the bottom line is that without the blood of Jesus Christ to wash away their sin it is impossible for anyone to enter into the presence of God.

2. **When Jesus died on the cross He SECURED eternal life for us.**

His death solidified our eternal inheritance and by His blood our sins are forever washed away.

Let me leave you with an illustration:

Let's say that you were living with a huge financial debt. It is so large that you will never in your life be able to pay it off. Then one day there arrives in the mail a letter which informs you that a rich relative has died and he has left his entire estate to you. It is worth billions of dollars, far more than you could ever spend in a lifetime. You pay your debt off and you are financially secure the rest of your life.

Jesus did something far better for us. He paid our sin debt, past, present, and future. We are spiritually secure for all eternity.