

**"The Better Sacrifice"**

**Part 3**

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

**Introduction:** Tonight in our study of Hebrews we again come back to chapter 9 and it is in this chapter that the writer is explaining how the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross was superior to all the sacrifices of the Old Testament. What we shall look at tonight is a study that will truly bless our hearts as we dive into the text which is before us.

Last week we looked at 2 reasons for the death of Jesus Christ.

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

**Notice Hebrews 9:15**

Jesus Christ is the Mediator of the New Testament which means He is the One who stands between us and God in order to bring peace and reconciliation. He did this by dying on the cross to satisfy the Righteous demands of the Father as our High Priest.

**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 "satisfaction". God is Righteous and He is Holy and He demands that all sin must be paid for and therefore Jesus went to the cross to pay the FULL penalty for our sins and the sins of all the people of the Old Testament. The Old Covenant was an agreement between God and the Nation of Israel. It was a conditional covenant in which the blessings depended upon the ability of the people of Israel to keep God's commandments.

**Exodus 19:3-8**

<sup>3</sup> *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;*

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

<sup>5</sup> 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:

<sup>6</sup> 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.

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

<sup>8</sup> 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.

So the Old Covenant was conditional. But the New Covenant/Testament is completely UNCONDITIONAL. The New Testament functions as a "LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT". That is why at the end of 9:15 the writer refers to eternal life as our ETERNAL INHERITANCE. Eternal life is not something we earn it is a GIFT from God.

### Notice Hebrews 9:16-17

A will is set into effect when the testator dies. Therefore when Jesus Christ died on the cross our inheritance is forever secured. There is no person who can contest the will of God. We are now heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

So His death was necessary to make the New Testament effective.

2. **Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.**

### Notice Hebrews 9:22

Under the Old Covenant sins were not forgiven without the shedding of the blood of the sacrifice. Under the New Testament it is the same. So Jesus Christ had to die because without His blood there would be no forgiveness of sin for you and me. This means there is not ONE person who will enter into heaven any other way except through the blood of Jesus Christ!

This now brings us to where we are tonight. There is a 3<sup>rd</sup> reason why the death of Jesus was necessary.

3. **There had to be a Substitute.**

Throughout the Old Testament we can read over and over again that the animals which died as sacrifices were substitutes who died in the place of another.

### Genesis 2:16-17

<sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

<sup>17</sup> But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God told Adam that in the day that he ate the forbidden fruit he would die. In chapter 3 of Genesis he ate the forbidden fruit. But let me show you what God did.

### Genesis 3:21

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

Here we see that God provided a substitute which died in the place of Adam and Eve on that day. This theme is carried the entire way through the Old Testament. So there must be a Substitute that would die in our place.

### Notice Hebrews 9:23

It was necessary that the PATTERN of that which was in heaven (this would be the earthly Tabernacle in the wilderness) should be cleansed with the blood of the animals. But the heavenly Tabernacle was cleansed with something far better and that was with the blood of Jesus Christ. Now someone would ask, "Why would anything in heaven need to be cleansed?" Let me show you what DELITZSCH says about this:

*"The uncreated heaven of God, though in itself untroubled light, yet needed a purification in so far as the light of love was obscured by the fire of wrath against sinful man".*

Sin had contaminated everything and everyone but God.

### Notice Hebrews 9:24

Here the writer is beginning to look at Jesus as the Substitute for sinful man. The writer tells us that Jesus did not enter into the earthly Tabernacle but He entered into the heavenly Tabernacle into the presence of God for us.

Under the Old Covenant the high priest went into the Holy of Holies once a year to make atonement with the blood of the goat for the people of Israel. Those high priests of the Old Testament were types/shadows of the Great High Priest. When Jesus died His death was our Substitute and He then, as our Great High Priest, took His blood into THE Holy of Holies in heaven and there His death was accepted as the propitiation for our sins. Just as Aaron and all the other high priests had to enter into the Holy of Holies with the blood of the goat for the forgiveness of the sins of Israel, so Jesus HAD to die and enter into the

presence of God to sprinkle His blood upon the mercy seat for the forgiveness of our sins. But there was a major difference.

**Notice Hebrews 9:25**

We have looked at this before but we are going to dig deeper into this tonight. Jesus was not like the Old Testament high priests in the sense that He did not have to continually go to the cross and die for our sins. The Levitical priests had to offer sacrifices over and over again because the blood of the animals could not take away man's sin. The blood of the animals only covered the sins for that year. So they had to go in year after year after year to offer the blood of the bulls and the goats.

**Notice Hebrews 9:26a**

If Jesus death did not pay for all the sins ever committed by mankind then He would have had to die on the cross when sin entered into the world and then go to the cross every year in order to die for the sins which were committed within that very year.

**Notice Hebrews 9:26a-b**

This verse is absolutely amazing! Instead of going to the cross year after year and dying for the sins of the world Jesus died once for all at the "end of the world". The phrase "the end of the world" means "at the end of the age". But it goes far deeper than this. The phrase literally means "at the consummation of the ages". Let me put this in a way that we can really get our minds wrapped around this. When Jesus Christ hung on the cross it was at that exact time that God gathered all the sins of every age that were ever committed from the foundation of the world to the very last sin that will be committed in the future. God the Father then took all of those sins and He smashed them down upon His Son as He hung on the cross.

**Isaiah 53:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

<sup>6</sup> *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and **the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

**Notice Hebrews 9:26b again.**

We see that Jesus Christ appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. When Jesus Christ died on the cross He paid for all of our past sins, our present sins, and our future sins.

Now there are many people who believe you can lose your salvation when you sin. Here is a question to consider in light of that belief. Is there any sin in our lives that we can commit that is not under the blood of Jesus Christ? [That by the way is a trick question.] You see if you answer, "NO" that that means we are then secure in Christ and it is impossible to lose our salvation. **That by the way is the correct answer.**

If someone says there are sins we can commit that are not under the blood of Jesus Christ then you have a major problem. Because in Hebrews 9:22 the Bible tells us without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. If I can commit one sin that is not under the blood of Jesus Christ then I am forever damned because there is no other sacrifice for sins!

#### Hebrews 10:26

<sup>26</sup> *For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.*

If Jesus has not died for every sin we are all doomed and damned because THERE REMAINETH NO MORE SACRIFICE FOR SINS! If there is one sin that Jesus did not die for we have absolutely no hope. When God gathered all the sins of the world and placed them upon His Son He gathered them ALL. If He missed one sin we are wasting our time by being here. We might as well go out and eat drink and be merry because when we die we will perish. Let me show you one more point from this verse.

#### Notice Hebrews 9:26 again.

We are told He "put away SIN not SINS". Why does this not say, "Sins"? This is very important. Jesus put away the PRINCIPLE of sin. The blood of bulls and goats could cover SINS but it could do nothing about the principle of sin. In other words the blood of bulls and goats could not do anything about the power of sin. Those animal sacrifices could not break the power of sin. The words "put away" mean "to abolish". The cross has crucified our flesh and therefore we now can have victory over sin.

#### Romans 6:5-8

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

<sup>6</sup> Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

<sup>7</sup> For he that is dead is freed from sin.

<sup>8</sup> Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

The flesh has been rendered powerless and all of our sins are paid for. This could not happen under the Old Covenant.

### Notice Hebrews 9:27

This verse looks like it is completely out of context but it is not. We need to look at this verse in connection with the next verse.

### Notice Hebrews 9-27-28a

Because of sin man is appointed ONCE to die and then stand before God to be judged.

This is therefore why Jesus only had to die ONCE for our sins. Let us remember He is our Substitute. So as our Substitute He has died ONCE for us (because it was appointed unto us once to die). He also took the judgment that we were appointed to after our death.

### Matthew 27:45-46

<sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

<sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

This separation from the Father was equal to eternal separation from God for us. So just as it is appointed to man to die ONCE and then face the judgment so Jesus only had to die once and on the cross He also faced our judgment.

### Hebrews 9:28

<sup>28</sup> So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

The end of this verse is wonderful. When the writer talks about those who look for His appearing the second time, he has in mind something which the Hebrews would have clearly understood. When the high priest went in the Tabernacle on the Day of Atonement the Nation of Israel surrounded the Tabernacle. They patiently waited for the high priest to

return because when he burst through the curtains to exit the Tabernacle and return to the people they would all rejoice because they knew that God had accepted the sacrifice which the high priest offered on their behalf.

Today we patiently wait for the return of our Great High Priest Jesus Christ. When He returns it will not be to deal with sin because He has already done that ONCE for ALL. When He returns it will be to give to us the full blessings of salvation.

Many people believe when we stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ we will be judged for the sins we committed after we were saved. That is completely wrong!! Our sin was judged ONCE when Jesus died and I can assure you that if the sins we commit today were to be placed on our account we would never be permitted to enter into the presence of God. Our sin was judged and wiped completely off of our account. That is how Paul can write the words of 1 Corinthians 1.

### **1 Corinthians 1:8**

<sup>7</sup> *So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

<sup>8</sup> *Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **Conclusion:**

Newell points out that there are 3 appearances of Jesus Christ here in Hebrews 9 and these 3 appearances confirm our eternal inheritance.

1. His appearance at the cross where He paid for our sin. **Notice 9:26**
2. His appearance in the Father's presence where He intercedes for us as our Great High Priest. **Notice 9:24**
3. His appearance when He returns which is proof God accepted His sacrifice. **Notice 9:28**