

Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 9:15-28

“Getting Rid of Sin” – April 29, 2018



Introduction

For some, the topic of death is taboo. Sure, we hear about it on the news, see it in the movies, and read about it in books, but when death hits close to home, many prefer to avoid the subject all together. Christianity however, puts the death of Christ front and center. Paul preached ‘Christ crucified’. We Christians sing about Jesus’ death and sing about how precious is the flow of *blood* (a metaphor for death – see [Lev. 17:11](#)) that makes us white as snow. Those new to Christianity may be shocked or confused by this, but knowing the death of Christ is an important truth to Christianity, it’s good to know: *why did Jesus die?*

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

Why did Jesus die?

- I. The wages of sin is death (9:15-22)
- II. The free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (9:23-28)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Hebrews 9:15-22](#)

Hebrews has already explored the superior covenant Jesus mediates with all its benefits back in [Hebrews 8:10-12](#) – *a new heart with God’s law written on it, a personal and intimate relationship with God and our sins forgiven*. Jesus death, were told in v15 was the instrument that initiated the new covenant and unlocked all these benefits, referred to as the ‘eternal inheritance’. In this sense, Hebrews compares the new covenant to a will (same Greek word, *diatheke*). A will is not put into effect until the death of the one who issued the will. Does this mean Christians receive the *full effects* of the eternal inheritance this side of heaven? Should we expect our best life now, heaven on earth? Not quite. Notice how [Hebrews 9:28](#) says we still *wait* until Jesus returns. If we had *everything* now, we wouldn’t be waiting. God disperses, through Christ, parts of this inheritance so we have everything we need...but we’re not immune from pain and suffering. That comes when the wait is over, when Jesus returns.

After exploring the nature of a will, Hebrews looks back to the way the old covenant was inaugurated in Exodus 24. Everything was sprinkled with blood to remind the worshiper that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin (v22). How does seeing

the seriousness of our sin affect the way we fight sin *today*? How should our seeing the seriousness of our sin affect our relationships and humility in them?

Additional reading: Luke 18:9-14, Mark 7:14-23, Mark 9:42-48

2) Read [Hebrews 9:23-28](#)

Having left Judaism to follow Jesus, the original readers were being told they were without a priest, for how could Jesus be qualified if He wasn't from the tribe of Levi? Tempted to leave Christ, Hebrews has convincingly argued that Jesus is qualified as a better priest (chapter 7), bringing a better covenant, serving in a better temple (chapter 8), and He brings a better sacrifice (chapters 9-10). Here, we're given three reasons why His sacrifice is better: it provides cleansing from sin thus paving the way to God (vv23-24), by taking away our sin once-for-all (vv25-26) and by being our substitute or representative (vv27-28). Think thru the implications for each reason His sacrifice is better:

Having opened the way to God, how should we respond when our conscience condemns us, and we're tempted to distance ourselves from God? If Jesus' sacrifice is once-for-all, what more do we need to do, to make ourselves *more* right with God? As Oswald Chambers once said, 'The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear god, you fear everything else. 'If Jesus' bearing our sins, as our substitute, secures our future...what does it look like to live confidently *today*?

Additional Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16, Colossians 2:13-15

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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