

GROWTH GROUPS

February 5, 2012

Hebrews 9:15-28

Conversation Starter –

“The way we wait is an indication about what we believe.” This statement was made in the message referring to the way in which we wait for Christ to return. However, the statement could be true in reference to many things. Name some of the things people do as they wait for a highly anticipated game, concert, medical procedure or ceremony, etc.; things that would give indication about how those people feel about the upcoming event.

Understanding –

On Sunday morning, the analogy was made of looking at one image through two different lenses. Through the first lens the image is noticed but considerably blurred. Through the second lens the image can be clearly seen. In this passage one image is presented, the atoning work of God. The Old Covenant system of sacrifices is the first lens helping God’s people to see the form of God’s work but in a blurry way. The New Covenant brings clarity to God’s atoning work by presenting Christ, our great sacrifice of atonement.

1. A covenant is a promise that God makes to his people. The Scripture compares this promise to the promise one makes in the writing of a will. Just as the promise made in a will is not guaranteed until death, so God’s Word says that the covenant must be confirmed by blood. What does this mean? How does this explain animal sacrifices under the Old Covenant?
2. Under the Old Covenant system the high priest went behind the curtain into the “Most Holy Place” to make the atoning sacrifice for the people on an annual basis. In a similar way Jesus, our Great High Priest, is described as having gone into heaven into the presence of God the Father on our behalf. In what ways did the high priest in the Old Covenant foreshadow Jesus? In what ways is the high priest different than Jesus?
3. The account of Christ’s atoning work for us is summed up in verse 28 when it says, he will come again to “to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.” How are we, as Christ’s followers, to be waiting for Jesus’ return? What challenges us from “waiting” in these ways?

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