

Hebrews - A Letter Addressed to Modern-Day Christians

Part 14

Hebrews 9:11-28

Hebrews 9:11-14 [NIV] *“When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”*

We have in this passage of scripture five aspects of the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old Covenant.

- 1 Jesus Christ as our High Priest entered into the real, eternal tabernacle in heaven **not** the copy on earth.
- 2 The New Covenant was ratified by the poured out blood of the very Son of God, Jesus Christ, **not** the blood of physical animals.
- 3 The redemption Jesus offered as High Priest was eternal, **not** just for one year.
- 4 Jesus Christ, the physical Son of Man, lived a perfect sin-free life through the constant presence of the Holy Spirit in His life. [**John 1:32**]
- 5 The sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ that ratifies the New Covenant cleanses us inside, our conscience, **not** just our physical body, from ceremonial uncleanness.

Hebrews 9:15 [NIV] *“For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.”*

What are the results of Jesus Christ becoming the Mediator of the New Covenant?

- 1 **Jesus paid the redemptive price for all who had transgressed under the Old Covenant.**

Romans 3:21-26 [NIV] *“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.** There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, **because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished,** he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”*

Redemption refers to Christ setting sinners free from slavery to sin.

In Old Covenant times, a person’s debts could result in their being sold as a slave, but the next of kin could redeem them, buy their freedom.

Christ purchased our freedom from the penalty of sin, that is eternal death, the price He paid was His own life.

God is justifiably angry at sinners.

They have rebelled against Him, their Creator and Sustainer, and this rebellion has cut them off from God's presence, power and His gift of eternal life.

But God, in His great love and mercy, declares Christ's death to be the appropriate designated sacrifice for our sins.

Christ by His death on the cross, where all His life blood was poured out, took on Himself our deserved death, thus completely satisfying the Holy Creator God's demands for justice.

Jesus Christ's sacrifice brings to us pardon, freedom and deliverance from eternal death.

All who sinned under the Old Covenant, and that was every human being, did not receive from God the deserved punishment, He delayed this until the future sacrifice of Jesus Christ would be available to them as well as us.

This was so that all humanity could be saved from eternal death by faith in the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man and the Son of God.

John 3:16-18 [NIV] *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*

"The world" includes all human beings who will ever live.

2 To all God calls, Jesus' sacrifice and His office of Mediator opens up an eternal inheritance, that includes rest and perfection.

We receive this inheritance through faith in what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 5:4-6 [NIV] *"No-one takes this honour upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." And he says in another place, "You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek."*

God the Father made Jesus Christ, the Son of Man an eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:1-3 [NIV] *"This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace". Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest for ever."*

Jesus does all His work in the power of an endless life, so He can offer and bring to pass an eternal inheritance for all who have faith in Him, that is trust His Word.

Hebrews 9:16-17 [NIV] *"In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living."*

All this could **not** take place until the death of the One who made the covenant, that is our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is also our High Priest and Mediator.

At the time of His death, Jesus Christ put away sin for all humanity, and opened up a path to the beginning of a new life in the favour and power of God the Father.

The death of the One who made the covenant, Jesus Christ, ratifies the covenant and makes available to all humanity the promises that are within that covenant.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ to be our eternal High Priest, enables Him to use His limitless power and authority to ensure the promises are fulfilled.

Matthew 28:16-20 [NIV] *“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. **Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**”*

Our response to this good news is to be instruments in the hands of the Holy Spirit to let all humanity hear and have the opportunity to accept the New Covenant.

Our daily prayer should be to ask the Father, through our High Priest, Jesus Christ, to send the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us to spread this good news.

But remember that every day we have to confess our sins, repent and ask for the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse us of the penalty of our sins. Also, that His righteousness be credited to us as a result of His love and our trust in Him.

Only then will we be a fit vehicle for the Holy Spirit to use.

Hebrews 9:18-22 [NIV] *“This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. He said, “This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.” In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**”*

The writer of Hebrews then reminds his readers of what happened under the Old Covenant, for it to be ratified there had to be a shedding of life blood.

In the case of the Old Testament with its limited promises to this physical life only, it was the blood of animals.

Hebrews 9:23-26 [NIV] *“It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. **For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.** Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.”*

The New Covenant with its eternal promises needed the life blood of One Who was eternal by nature.

John 1:1-4, 14 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.” ... **“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”***

Jesus Christ who was the Word and the Son of God became flesh and blood as the Son of Man, so that He could shed His holy blood to ratify an eternal covenant.

Hebrews 9:27-28 [NIV] *“Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”*

Humanity has two universal appointments, death, then judgement.

Jesus Christ also has two corresponding appointments.

First to offer His life blood once for sin, then to judge humanity.

If we are confidently awaiting the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, having accepted His death and shed blood as a substitute for our deserved death because of sin, then we do not have to fear our physical death nor our judgement. That is as long as we have been seeking to fulfil our commission as disciples of Jesus Christ.

I suggest we read **Matthew 28:16-20** [NIV] again to see if we really are fulfilling this commission given to **all** Christians.