

Spiritual Growth Questions for September 20, 2020

(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

Opener: Are you ever reluctant to join others in worship? Why or why not?

- I. **Read Hebrews 9:15.** How does Christ's role as mediator differ from our culture's understanding of a mediator? Explain the folly of trying to strike a compromise with God.
- II. **Read Hebrews 9:26-28.** How does Jesus' "once for all time" atonement affect the way we view our relationship with him? What is the significance of the three tenses of the word "appear" in this passage? How does this truth anchor our hope in the security of our salvation and help us endure until the end? In what ways does Jesus' example of unconditional atonement defy our culture's understanding of forgiveness and love?
- III. **Application Question:** Why was it necessary for Jesus to be born as a man and die for our sins? What does this necessity teach us about the costliness of our salvation? What does it teach about God's love for us?

Hebrews 9:15 That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant. 16 Now when someone leaves a will, it is necessary to prove that the person who made it is dead. 17 The will goes into effect only after the person's death. While the person who made it is still alive, the will cannot be put into effect. 18 That is why even the first covenant was put into effect with the blood of an animal.

Scripture: Read this passage three times with an open heart and ask the Lord Jesus to speak to you.

Observation: Write down what you see in this passage. Make as many observations as you can.

Application: Write down how you will be different because of what you have just read. Look for lessons to be learned, examples to be followed and promises to be enjoyed. How is Jesus revealed?

Prayer: Write out a short prayer.

II. **Read the following scriptures: 2 Peter 3:1-7, 3:8-13, 3:14-18.** Choose one of the above passages and apply the S.O.A.P. study method. Which one of these passages could we pray for you this week? Who could you be praying one of these passages for this week?

Prayer: Look back over this chapter and ponder what Christ has done for us. Let this guide our praise, worship and thanksgiving!

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews

Nothing but the Blood part two

Hebrews 9:15-28. September 20, 2020

Pastor John Lloyd

The book of Hebrews presents the greatness of Christ like no other New Testament writing. The author knew that by remembering and lifting up Jesus, he would help the readers endure their difficult circumstances. As this book is read, it demands a response. Today, we consider how Jesus is able to bring the ultimate stability to our lives. He can deal with our past. He is able to help us in the present. He will come again to make sure that our eternal inheritance is secure. Jesus finished His work of mediation and salvation. We can draw near to Him confidently because we know He will see us through these challenging times. Jesus is our ultimate stability. We get to be a part of the work He is doing building His church in San Francisco and the world. He will come again! He will come again!

Hebrews 9:15 That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant. 16 Now when someone leaves a will, it is necessary to prove that the person who made it is dead. 17 The will goes into effect only after the person's death. While the person who made it is still alive, the will cannot be put into effect. 18 That is why even the first covenant was put into effect with the blood of an animal. 19 For after Moses had read each of God's commandments to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, along with water, and sprinkled both the book of God's law and all the people, using hyssop branches and scarlet wool. 20 Then he said, "This blood confirms the covenant God has made with you." 21 And in the same way, he sprinkled blood on the Tabernacle and on everything used for worship. 22 In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. 23 That is why the Tabernacle and everything in it, which were copies of things in heaven, had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals. 24 For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf. 25 And he did not enter heaven to offer himself again and again, like the high priest here on earth who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with the blood of an animal. 26 If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice. 27 And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, 28 so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him. (New Living Translation)

Key questions: Why is Jesus the only person who could mediate for sinful humanity? What has his work accomplished? How did he do it? How can this help bring stability to our lives?

Big Idea: The finished work of Jesus brings the ultimate stability.

I. Recognize the incredible work of Jesus as _____.

Radical holiness vs. sinful humanity

Hebrews 9:15 That is why he is the one who **mediates** a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.

Far from suggesting a compromise between two opposing positions, Christ agrees with the Father that we deserve the infinite outpouring of his wrath. He agrees with the Father about the ugliness of our sin. He agrees with the Father about the necessity of a sacrifice. And as our mediator, he agrees to be that sacrifice even as the Father sends him for that task. Albert Moehler

Matthew 26:28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 1 Timothy 2:5

There is no other god, teacher or philosopher except Jesus who can bridge the gap between man and God. Jesus is our mediator!

II. Treasure the eternal _____ given by God's grace.

Hebrews 9:15 That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, **so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them.** For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.

A will is activated by the death of the one who made the will, the testator. The writer's point is that Christ's death activated his incredibly rich will. Jesus died, leaving the greatest inheritance ever. But he also lives to mediate his will. Hughes.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Hebrews 9:16 Now when someone leaves a will, it is necessary to prove that the person who made it is dead. 17 The will goes into effect only after the person's death. While the person who made it is still alive, the will cannot be put into effect. Colossians 1:12

III. How did Jesus do it? Nothing but the _____!

Hebrews 9:18 That is why even the first covenant was put into effect with the **blood** of an animal. 19 For after Moses had read each of God's commandments to all the people, he took the **blood** of calves and goats, along with water, and sprinkled both the book of God's law and all the people, using hyssop branches and scarlet wool. 20 Then he said, "This **blood** confirms the covenant God has made with you." 21 And in the same way, he sprinkled **blood** on the Tabernacle and on everything used for worship. 22 In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with **blood**. For without the shedding of **blood**, there is no forgiveness. (Blood used 6x in Hebrews 9:18-22).

The Old Covenant sailed on a sea of blood, for two vast reasons. First, to emphasize the seriousness of sin. The Bible takes sin seriously, more than any other religion. Sin alienates one from God. Sin is rooted in the hearts of humanity. Sin cannot be vindicated by any self-help program. Sin leads to death—and it will not be denied. The second reason is the costliness of forgiveness. Death is the payment. It will either be Christ's life or ours! Kent Hughes

The blood shows both the seriousness of sin and the great price of forgiveness.

IV. The finished work of Christ brings the ultimate _____.

Three tenses of the finished work of Christ!

Hebrews 9:26b But now, once for all time, he **has appeared** at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice.

There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Immanuel's veins; And sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains. The dying thief rejoiced to see, that fountain in his day; And there may I, though vile as he, Wash all my sins away. Soli deo Gloria! William Cowper. "Fountain filled with blood"

The sufficiency of Christ's atoning death is the centerpiece of our salvation. KH

Hebrews 9:24b He entered into heaven itself **to appear now** before God on our behalf. Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34, 1 John 2:1

Hebrews 9:28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **will appear** a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Jesus is building His Church! Jesus is coming again! He is coming again as both King and priest!

**Choose between the earthly or the heavenly.
Choose between the temporary or eternal.
Choose between the incomplete or complete.**