

Spiritual Growth Questions for September 13, 2020
(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews
Nothing but the Blood part one
Hebrews 9:1-14. September 13, 2020
Pastor John Lloyd

Opener: Why do we sometimes favor the old over the new?

1. What does it mean for Christians to approach God? How does this passage inform our understanding of worshiping God? Where does Scripture command us to approach and worship God?
2. **Read Hebrews 9:2-5.** To what deeper realities do each of these objects in the tabernacle point? What do they tell us about God, the new covenant, Jesus Christ and ourselves?
3. What are sins committed in ignorance? How do unintentional sins reveal the pervasive and insidious effects of sin? In what ways does this kind of sin affect your life and your relationships with other people?
4. **Read Hebrews 9:9-10.** What were the gifts and sacrifices offered under the old covenant good for if they couldn't perfect the conscience of the worshiper? How does this help draw out the contrast between the covenants?

Hebrews 9:11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

I. Use the **S.O.A.P.** Bible study method for the Passage above:

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: Psalm 51:1-6, Ps. 51:7-12, Ps. 51:13-19**

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?

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 will look at how people in the Old Testament approached God and dealt with their sinfulness. The writer will then compare it to how God has made it possible for us to approach Him through Christ with unlimited access and effectiveness. This new way brings cleansing to our souls, gives access to grace and mercy to handle earthly trials and allows us to serve God with joy!

Hebrews 9:1 That first covenant between God and Israel had regulations for worship and a place of worship here on earth. 2 There were two rooms in that Tabernacle. In the first room were a lampstand, a table, and sacred loaves of bread on the table. This room was called the Holy Place. 3 Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room called the Most Holy Place. 4 In that room were a gold incense altar and a wooden chest called the Ark of the Covenant, which was covered with gold on all sides. Inside the Ark were a gold jar containing manna, Aaron's staff that sprouted leaves, and the stone tablets of the covenant. 5 Above the Ark were the cherubim of divine glory, whose wings stretched out over the Ark's cover, the place of atonement. But we cannot explain these things in detail now. 6 When these things were all in place, the priests regularly entered the first room as they performed their religious duties. 7 But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. 8 By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Most Holy Place was not freely open as long as the Tabernacle and the system it represented were still in use. 9 This is an illustration pointing to the present time. For the gifts and sacrifices that the priests offer are not able to cleanse the consciences of the people who bring them. 10 For that old system deals only with food and drink and various cleansing ceremonies—physical regulations that were in effect only until a better system could be established. 11 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. 12 With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. 13 Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. 14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. (New Living Translation)

Key questions: How did the people in the Old Testament approach a holy God and deal with their own sinfulness? How does Jesus make it possible for imperfect/sinful people to approach God? How can God deal with our internal guilt and shame?

Big Idea: Jesus brings 24/7 access and 24/7 effectiveness to every soul who approaches God through Him! **Nothing but the blood of Jesus!**

I. The first covenant offerings brought _____ access and relief.

Hebrews 9:1 That first covenant between God and Israel had regulations for worship and a place of worship here on earth.

(God has always been seeking a relationship with the human race)

Hebrews 9:2 There were two rooms in that Tabernacle. In the first room were a lampstand, a table, and sacred loaves of bread on the table. This room was called the Holy Place. 3 Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room called the Most Holy Place. 4 In that room were a gold incense altar and a wooden chest called the Ark of the Covenant, which was covered with gold on all sides. Inside the Ark were a gold jar containing manna, Aaron's staff that sprouted leaves, and the stone tablets of the covenant. 5 Above the Ark were the cherubim of divine glory, whose wings stretched out over the Ark's cover, the place of atonement. But we cannot explain these things in detail now.

Hebrews 9:6 When these things were all in place, the priests regularly entered the first room as they performed their religious duties. 7 But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. **(Offerings only covered sins of ignorance, there was no forgiveness for premeditated sins, see Psalm 51. God could only be approached through representatives/priests)**

The obstacle between God and man, namely sin was removed by our Lord's atoning death on the Cross. Kenneth Wuest

Hebrews 9:8 By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Most Holy Place was not freely open as long as the Tabernacle and the system it represented were still in use. 9 This is an illustration pointing to the present time. For the gifts and sacrifices that the priests offer are not able to *cleanse the consciences* of the people who bring them.

The Levitical system was a parable of what was to come in Christ. These ordinances did not change the inner man or give access to God.

The Old Covenant gifts and sacrifices brought limited access and effectiveness. Do not settle for temporary solutions!

II. We can approach God 24/7 through _____ access provided by Jesus.

Hebrews 9:10 For that old system deals only with food and drink and various cleansing ceremonies—physical regulations that were in effect only until a better system could be established.

Hebrews 9:11 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that *greater*, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. 12 With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. 13 Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity.

Place of offering earth vs. heaven

Animal blood vs. the spotless blood of Jesus

Continual offerings vs. once for all time offering/eternal

Redemption – original use was the release of slaves by payment of a ransom.

Unlimited access to Jesus brings unlimited boldness for Jesus!

III. Let Jesus bring _____ to the deepest parts of our soul.

Hebrews 9:14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins

Nothing but the blood of Christ can deal with our guilt and shame. Jesus can change us from the inside out. He brings internal cleansing!

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus; What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh! Precious is the flow that makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. From cleansing this I see- Nothing but the blood of Jesus! For my pardon this my plea- Nothing but the blood of Jesus! Naught of works, 'tis all of grace- Nothing but the blood of Jesus! This is all my hope and peace-nothing but the blood of Jesus! This is all my righteousness-Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Unlimited cleansing brings unlimited freedom to worship and serve the living God. What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Ephesians 2:7 So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.