



OKOTOKS EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

THE FINAL OFFERING

HEBREWS 9:11-15

NOVEMBER 24, 2019

SERMON OUTLINE

Communion Relationships

WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF US?

God expects His people to gather together for the purpose
of reflecting His heart towards one another.

If Jesus is alive and present in our midst, then the proof of His presence should be visible.

GOD EXPECTS US TO CONTINUALLY RECEIVE WHAT JESUS
HAS FOR US and PASS IT ON (V. 23)

The reality of brokenness in this world and in us, should never
prevent us from receiving what Jesus has for us and
pass it on. Vv (23b-26)

THIRDLY, GOD EXPECTS US TO EVALUATE OUR
RELATIONSHIPS (Vv. 27-34)

Do we make it a priority to gather together every week to remember and worship Jesus? When we gather do we look like Jesus – are we expressing Him to one another? Is He at the center of how we treat one another? Do our actions proclaim His presence in our midst?

MAIN POINT

Jesus frees us from guilt and ritual and enables us to live in freedom before God.

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

Connect the sermon to the study.

1. What are some traditions and rituals your family has kept since you were a child?

2. How might those traditions and rituals have changed over the years? What caused them to change?

Leader: Traditions and rituals in our families may stay the same for many, many years, but oftentimes they begin to change with the times. A changing family dynamic, a family move, and even a death can cause these things to shift in their significance. The Old Testament is full of traditions and rituals—such as sacrifices for sin—but what we find as we study Scripture is that these traditions and rituals have shifted as well. A death, followed by a resurrection, caused the change.

DIGGING DEEPER

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 9:11-12.

3. Look back at verses Hebrews 1-10. What was the purpose of the high priests' yearly ritual in the temple? Why was this ultimately insufficient?

4. How was Christ's sacrifice similar to that of the high priests? How was it different? How did He eliminate the need for the ritual of sacrifice? Why is this significant to believers?

5. To what “good things” did the writer refer in verse 11? How have you experienced “good things” from Jesus in your life?

Leader: Earthly priests entered sanctuaries “made with hands” to offer animal sacrifices. The high priest could enter the “holy place” only once per year. They served in the presence of men and offered animal sacrifices to God. Christ is High Priest in the eternal sanctuary. His sacrifice, through His death, is a once-for-all sacrifice. Christ serves forever in the presence of God. Christ won blessings for believers by His sacrificial death. Jesus continues to bless His followers by His presence in their lives on a daily, ongoing basis.

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 9:13-14.

6. According to these verses, how did the sacrifice of Christ make a deeper effect than was possible through the blood of bulls and goats?

7. What are some things that people have done in efforts to make themselves right before God?

8. What about you? Are you ever tempted to try and make yourself right before God based on something you’ve done? Why do you think we have that tendency?

Leader: Earthly priests offered the blood of animals, but Jesus offered His own blood. Animal sacrifices did not provide spiritual benefits. They purified the flesh, or made people externally clean. They could not provide inner cleansing. Only Christ’s blood can thoroughly cleanse from sin.

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 9:15.

9. The writer called Jesus the mediator of the new covenant. What do you know about the role of a mediator? Why do we need one with God?

SERMON BASED GROWTH GROUP

10. How does the idea of Jesus' being the perfect mediator impact your understanding of your need for Him?

Leader: A mediator is someone who goes between one person and another, often to settle disputes or differences. Mediators in the old covenant were humans, such as prophets, priests, and kings. They mediated between sinful humans and the Almighty God. Under the new covenant, Christ now serves as the mediator between God the Father and humanity. His death eliminated the need for a human go-between and the need for ritual sacrifices to remove our sins. Christ's sacrificial death offers "the promise of the eternal inheritance," or life eternal. We remember this sacrifice through the practice of Communion as instituted by Christ on the night before His death (1 Cor 11:23-26).

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

11. What religious attitudes or rituals do you depend on to keep you on track with God? What prevents you from fully embracing Christ's sacrifice on your behalf?

12. How does our regular practice of Communion help us remember the mediation of Christ? Why is this important?

PRAYER

Close in prayer by thanking God for the perfect mediator in Jesus Christ. Thank God for the ordinance of Communion as a means of remembering the perfect sacrifice of Christ.

MEMORIZE

¹² 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, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

— Hebrews 9:12

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PASSAGE

HEBREWS 9:1-28

9:1-28 The author turned his attention to a comparison of the ministries of the old and new priesthoods. The regulations for ministry given through the old covenant were for an earthly sanctuary that represented the transcendence of God inasmuch as the people could not enter the holy place in the tabernacle. Only the high priest could enter the most holy place, and he did so only once per year. The sacrificial ministry of the old priesthood was unable to perfect the worshiper's conscience. While the old priesthood was incomplete, the sacrificial ministry of Christ is able to cleanse our consciences. This perfect cleansing enables the followers of Christ to engage in works that serve the living God.

The ministry of Christ is that of a new covenant mediator. His ministry is superior because he does not enter an earthly sanctuary, but into heaven itself, and thus into the very presence of God. Unlike the high priest who entered annually into the most holy place, Christ entered into the most holy place once for all time. Unlike the old covenant that was inaugurated by the death of animals that had no choice in the matter, the new covenant was inaugurated by Christ's voluntary death. Unlike the old priesthood that offered the blood of animals, Christ offered his own blood. Unlike the old priesthood that offered sacrifices continually without effect, the blood of Christ obtained eternal redemption.