

Lesson 18 - Hebrews 9:15-22**Main Idea**

The whole elaborate tabernacle and sacrificial system of the Law was nothing but an illustration to teach us what blood sacrifice and atonement were all about with the goal of pointing us to the perfect and complete sacrifice in Jesus Christ.

Study Questions

1. Why is Jesus the perfect sacrifice for your sins? Since Jesus did not need to ritually cleanse himself as a Levitical high priest did, how does this affect the security of your salvation?
2. How does Jesus' "once for all time" atonement affect the way that you view your relationship with him? How does this truth anchor your hope in the security of our salvation and help us endure until the end?
3. What does it mean for your conscience to be cleansed from "acts that lead to death" (vs14)?
4. In what way does Jesus act as our mediator of the new covenant? How does Christ's role as our mediator differ from our culture's understanding of a mediator? Explain the folly of trying to strike a compromise with God.
5. The new covenant is like a will that bequeaths our "eternal inheritance" (9:15). What was necessary to bring this covenant or will into force (see 9:16-17)?
6. Explain how Moses ratified the old covenant (see 9:18-21). How was the ratification of the new covenant a like and unlike this?
7. Why was the shedding of blood necessary for forgiveness of sins?

8. How is our motivation to share the gospel strengthened by the knowledge that Jesus' death secures redemption for every person who is called? Does this knowledge refine your definition of "success" in evangelism? Explain your answer.

9. What are some of the good gifts that Jesus' priesthood has secured for you in the future? What good gifts has he secured for you in the present? Explain how you can be the benefactor and recipient of these good gifts, even the future ones, right now.

Whole-Bible Connections¹

New Covenant. The Mosaic covenant, established with Israel in the wilderness following the exodus, explains how they are to live as God's people (Ex. 19-20; see Deut. 11:26-32). In the Mosaic covenant God made certain requirements of his people and stipulated that both blessings and curses depending on their faithfulness to the terms of the covenant. The Israelites continually failed to uphold their end. However, Jesus the true and greater high priest fulfilled the old covenant through his perfect life and once-for-all sacrifice on the cross (Heb. 9:1-10:18). Moreover, Christ mediates the new covenant on behalf of God's people (9:15). The old covenant served as a shadow of the things to come in Christ (10:1). For this reason the new covenant is declared in Hebrews as new and better, because in Christ the old covenant finds its fulfillment and completion (7:22; 8:6-13; 9:15; 12:24).

Personal Reflection

- What are one or two things learned from this lesson that really stand out in your mind and make you want to shout, "Hallelujah"?

- How can the practical implications of this study find application in your daily life?

- How might this affect your relationships?

¹ Capps pg. 64