



WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH



CHRIST

Is the

MEDIATOR OF A

BETTER COVENANT

— HEBREWS 9:15-28 —



BIBLE STUDY
JULY 21, 2026



TUESDAY NIGHT
7:00 PM

PASTOR
MIKE HOLLOWAY

This passage explains four major truths:

- Christ established the New Covenant through His death.
- His blood accomplished what animal blood never could.
- His sacrifice was offered once for all.
- His next appearance will not be for sin, but for salvation.

I. Christ Is the Mediator of a Better Covenant

- **Hebrews 9:15**
- "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament..."
- The word **mediator** (Greek *mesitēs*) describes one who stands between two parties to bring reconciliation.
- Under the Old Covenant: Moses served as mediator.
- The covenant depended upon Israel's obedience. The people repeatedly broke the covenant.
- Jeremiah had prophesied a coming covenant in which:
- God's law would be written on hearts. Sins would be forgiven permanently. God would remember sin no more.

I. Christ Is the Mediator of a Better Covenant

- Hebrews declares that Jesus fulfilled that prophecy.
- Unlike Moses,
- Jesus did not merely announce God's covenant.
- He became the very means by which it was established.
- His death validated the covenant and secured the promises of eternal life.
- **Application**
- Christianity is not built upon human promises to God.
- It is built upon God's promise secured through Christ.

II. The Necessity of Christ's Death

- **Hebrews 9:16–17**

- The writer introduces the illustration of a testament (or will).
- A will has no legal force until the one who made it dies.
- Likewise, the blessings of the New Covenant required Christ's death before believers could receive their inheritance.
- Although scholars debate whether *diathēkē* should be translated "covenant" or "testament," the central point remains unchanged:

II. The Necessity of Christ's Death

- **Death was required before God's redemptive promises could become effective.**
- This explains why Christ repeatedly predicted His death.
- Without Calvary, there could be no forgiveness, no redemption, and no inheritance.

III. Every Covenant Was Ratified by Blood

- **Hebrews 9:18–22**
- The author reminds his readers of Exodus 24.
- When Moses established the Old Covenant,
- he sprinkled: the altar, the book of the Law, and the people with sacrificial blood.
- Blood represented life offered in place of another.
- The writer summarizes the entire sacrificial system with one unforgettable statement:
- "Without shedding of blood is no remission."

III. Every Covenant Was Ratified by Blood

- This principle stretches throughout Scripture.
- In Eden, an animal died to cover Adam and Eve.
- At Passover, blood protected Israel.
- On the Day of Atonement, blood was carried into the Holy of Holies.
- Every sacrifice declared one truth:
- **Sin demands death.**
- Animal blood never removed sin permanently.
- It simply pointed ahead to the Lamb of God.
- Christ fulfilled every one of those sacrifices.

IV. The Heavenly Sanctuary Required a Better Sacrifice - Hebrews 9:23–24

- The earthly tabernacle was only a copy of heaven.
- Everything Moses built pointed toward a greater reality.
- Unlike Israel's high priest, Jesus did not enter an earthly Holy of Holies.
- He entered heaven itself.
- Today, Christ ministers in the Father's presence on behalf of His people.
- His work is continual; His intercession is constant.
- His sacrifice is permanently accepted before God.

V. Christ's Sacrifice Was Offered Once for All - Hebrews 9:25–26

- One of Hebrews' greatest emphases is repetition versus completion.
- **Every year:** another sacrifice, another Day of Atonement, another high priest entering behind the veil. Nothing was ever finished.
- Christ changed everything. He offered Himself once. One sacrifice. One death. One atonement. One redemption.
- If repeated sacrifices had been necessary, Christ would have needed to die repeatedly throughout history.

V. Christ's Sacrifice Was Offered Once for All - Hebrews 9:25–26

- His death reached backward, covering believers under the Old Covenant, and reaches forward,
- covering every believer who comes to Him today.
- **Why "Once" Matters**
- Because His sacrifice is complete:
- nothing can be added,
- nothing needs repeating,
- nothing improves upon Calvary.
- Our salvation rests entirely upon His finished work.

VI. Christ Appeared Three Times

- Hebrews beautifully presents Christ's ministry in three appearances.
- **1. He Appeared on Earth**
- "...He has appeared once...to put away sin."
- This speaks of His incarnation and crucifixion. His first coming dealt with sin.
- **2. He Appears in Heaven**
- "...now to appear in the presence of God for us."
- This describes His present intercession. Today He represents believers before the Father.

VI. Christ Appeared Three Times

- **3. He Will Appear Again**
- "...He shall appear the second time...unto salvation."
- His second coming will not repeat Calvary. Sin has already been judged. His next appearance brings:
- final redemption, resurrection, glorification, and the completion of salvation.

VII. Death, Judgment, and Hope

- **Hebrews 9:27–28**
- The writer compares humanity with Christ.
- For mankind: death comes once, then judgment.
- For Christ: one sacrifice, then His return.
- Jesus bore the sins of many during His first coming.

VII. Death, Judgment, and Hope

- When He returns,
- He comes "without sin"—not meaning He once had sin, but that His second coming is no longer concerned with making atonement. That work has been fully accomplished.
- **Instead**, He comes for those who eagerly await Him.
- The believer therefore lives with hope rather than fear.
- Judgment has already fallen upon Christ.
- Salvation awaits His people.

Rest in Christ's finished work.

- You do not need to earn what Jesus has already accomplished. **Live with confidence.** Christ is your High Priest, continually representing you before the Father.
- **Reject any system that adds to Christ's sacrifice.** His offering is perfect, sufficient, and final.
- **Anticipate His return.** Believers look forward not to condemnation, but to the full realization of their salvation.
- **Proclaim the gospel boldly.** The only effective remedy for sin is the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus Christ.