

Hebrews

Lesson 6 Chapters 9-10

Leader Guide

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Lesson 6
Hebrews 9-10
The Blood of Christ and Eternal Redemption

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! *Hebrews 9:4*

Prayers

Read Hebrews 9:11-15, The Blood of Christ

Heb 9:11 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation.

Heb 9:12 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, having obtained eternal redemption.

Heb 9:13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.

Heb 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Heb 9:15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Discuss

1. What is the tabernacle Jesus entered referred to in verse 11?
2. Compare how Jesus entered the tabernacle of heaven with how a high priest would enter the tabernacle.
3. In verses 14 and 15, what benefits does anyone gain who places their faith in Jesus' blood sacrifice for them?

Read Hebrews 9:16-28

Heb 9:16 In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it,

Heb 9:17 because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.

Heb 9:18 This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood.

Heb 9:19 When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people.

Heb 9:20 He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep."

Heb 9:21 In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies.

Heb 9:22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Heb 9:23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

Heb 9:24 For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.

Heb 9:25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own.

Heb 9:26 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

Heb 9:28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

4. In verses 16 and 17, the writer points out that Jesus was not helpless by his death; it was necessary. Why was Jesus' death necessary?

5. The Old Testament laws and rituals were a shadow of how Christ would fulfill the new covenant. Compare how Moses and Christ provided for the purification of the people's sin in the old and new covenants, verses 18-24.

6. The blood of Christ shed for us is something intense and real. Often, we look to our emotions to feel close to God rather than Christ's actions. Do you see any dangers in overstating or understating the importance of emotions in our worship of Christ?

Read Hebrews 10:1-18 Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

Heb 10:1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

Heb 10:2 If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins.

Heb 10:3 But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins,

Heb 10:4 because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Heb 10:5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God.' "

Heb 10:8 First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made).

Heb 10:9 Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second.

Heb 10:10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Heb 10:11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

Heb 10:12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

Heb 10:13 Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, ¹⁴ because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Heb 10:15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

Heb 10:16 "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

Heb 10:17 Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."

Heb 10:18 And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

7. In verse 10:13, what are the limitations and ultimate failure of the "law" and the system of animal sacrifice?
8. Even though God established the law and the system of animal sacrifice, why didn't they please him (verse 5, Psalm 40:6-8)?

Ps 40:6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.

Ps 40:7 Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll. Ps

40:8 I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

9. In verses 5-10, the writer does something extraordinary; he reveals that Christ spoke through David regarding sacrifice and offering in Psalm 40. What was Christ so willing to do for his Father and us (verses 9-13)?
10. How do you explain the presence of evil and Satan's work in the world if Christ defeated him (verse 13)?
11. The word perfect in verse 14 is difficult for us to understand because we know we are not perfect nor want to be held to that standard. Yet, the author of Hebrews uses “perfect” nine times in his gospel, more than in any other letter. The Greek word is “teleios” and means perfect, mature, or complete. Refer to the following passages and consider how we are “perfect” or “complete.”

Heb 10:13 Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, ¹⁴ because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

1Co 1:30 It is because of him [God] that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

2Co 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- a. How was Jesus’ sacrifice perfect?
- b. How is our salvation perfect?
- c. How is our baptism perfect?
- d. How are we made perfect in righteousness, holiness, and redemption?

12. How would you summarize the work of the Holy Spirit in your life (verses 15-18)? The Holy Spirit reveals God's plan of salvation, unites us with him, guides us, and convicts us of sin so that we come to repentance and worship God with joy and thanksgiving. God has given us his Spirit to write his law on our hearts so that we love Him and our neighbors.

Closing Prayer and Blessing