



+ **YOU**

**Spring 2024**  
**It's All About Jesus**

**Sermon Title:** From Death to Life

**To be used with Session 4:** The Death of Jesus

**The Point:** Jesus died to pay the debt of our sin.

**Scripture:** Hebrews 9:11-22 Spring 2024

**Connection with the Study:** To complement the Bible study “From Death to Life,” this sermon examines how the death of Jesus was foretold in prophecy, fulfills prophecy, and completely pays the debt of our sin that we could never pay on our own. Through His death on the cross, the blood of Jesus satisfied the wrath of God once and for all, fulfilling and replacing the need for daily temple sacrifices that were merely symbolic of what Jesus did. The work of Jesus continues. Because He gave Himself as the perfect sacrifice for us, He now actively intercedes on our behalf in heaven, and will one day return to earth in the fullness of His glory.

**Introduction:** Debt is a nearly unavoidable part of life. Personally, we take on debt for things such as homes, cars, and education. On a bigger scale, the US national debt is spiraling out of control, and it is anyone’s guess as to how it will ever get paid off. In January of 2024, a survey of CEOs representing major American corporations cited this debt as the top geopolitical threat. More than wars or cyber-attacks, they viewed the ballooning debt as yielding the most danger and instability.<sup>1</sup> Insurmountable debt can indeed cause significant fear. Yet the greatest debt that we owe, the debt of sin against God, has been fully paid and does not need to worry us anymore. This debt, which causes so much pain, is now replaced with peace and faith.

**1. Through Jesus alone we have forgiveness (Heb. 9:11-14).**

Throughout the Old Testament, the high priest was God’s representative before the people. The high priest alone was able to enter the Holy of Holies, once a year, to sprinkle the blood of a sacrifice on the altar to plead for the people of Israel. This solemn event happened on Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, and before asking God to forgive the sins of Israel, the high priest had to first ask forgiveness for his own sins. And he likely hoped his request was accepted! Through Jesus, we now have a true High Priest, who does not enter a holy place built by hands once every year, but has continual access into the holiest place of heaven. Being sinless, Jesus did not have to atone for His own sin or sprinkle the blood of an animal, but through His own blood He made a perfect sacrifice for all time, covering the sin of all who would accept this sacred gift of life through death.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://thehill.com/business/4400830-american-ceos-view-national-debt-as-top-geopolitical-risk-in-2024-survey/>

The Temple sacrifice was merely a picture of what Jesus was going to do, and once He had accomplished our salvation through His blood, He paid the debt of our sin that the blood of animals could only symbolize.

**2. Christ initiated a new and better covenant (Heb. 9:15-18).**

Jesus didn't simply fulfill the old covenant; He ushered in a new and permanent covenant. This new covenant doesn't require multiple sacrifices, but it has been completed by the 'once-for-all' sacrifice made by Jesus on the cross. Hebrews 10:20 tells us that Jesus has opened a "new and living way" by fulfilling the debt of sin, and by extension fulfilling the actions and sacrifices of the Old Covenant. Through His atoning sacrifice, Jesus has become the "mediator of a new covenant."

In Job 9:33, Job lamented in His misery that there is "no mediator" between God and man. Job longed for someone who understands what it means to be God, what it means to be man, and can mediate between the two. Job's wish for a mediator was not a random cry. It is the cry of all humanity since the beginning. Thankfully, there is one Messiah who can mediate between us and save us from sin, drawing us back to God. Job's cry for a mediator, a savior, is fulfilled in Jesus.

**3. The death of Christ was foretold (Heb. 9:19-22).**

Exodus 24 gives us a strong foreshadowing of the gospel of Jesus. The account of Moses leading the people of Israel out of slavery and towards the promised land is of primary importance throughout Scripture, and the laws given to Moses by God point us to Jesus. In this passage, the writer explained how the sacrifices established by Moses are most importantly a sign of what is to come. The event that finally secured their release from Egypt, the Passover, was given new meaning and significance by Jesus through the Lord's Supper, or Communion, and it is the primary symbol of how the blood of sacrifice covers us from God's wrath.

Moses sprinkled even "the scroll itself and all the people" with blood, and when he said that "this is the blood of the covenant that God has ordained for you," this was a stark symbol, foreshadowing the blood of Christ that is to be shed, sealing the covenant and saving us from the debt of sin once and for all.

**Conclusion:** As we reflect on the debt Jesus paid on the cross, we have to respond with both a sigh of relief and a shout of joy! Our debt of sin is a debt we could never pay. It separates us from God both now and in eternity. Each and every one of us carries it with us until we accept the truth that Jesus freely paid the debt for us. Once we accept that Jesus paid our debt, no longer do we walk in guilt or shame. We are forgiven, free, and children of the living God who loves us more than we can know.

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