Hebrews 9:15-28 #17 – Jesus is a better Mediator

* Greetings and Welcome back – Welcome to Summer time…
  + Last week we stepped into Chapter 9 comparing the Old and the New
  + We give thanks that God has made a way for us to be in His presence through the tabernacle
  + And we rejoice even more to know that under the new covenant, with Jesus as our High Priest that our need for communion with God is found the eternal promises of God
  + But today, we are going to see how it is much more than just a promise…
  + But rather a guaranteed inheritance for which we have hope…
  + Hope which is a confident expectation, of as guaranteed outcome that changes the way that we live…
    - Is that the type of hope that you have?
  + We all can when we see Jesus as…

**Hebrews 9:13–14 , Hebrews 10:4**

* **Being a Better Mediator**
  + What makes him a better mediator?
    - He mediates a *better covenant—the new covenant.*
    - He offers *better sacrifices—himself!*
    - He offers sacrifices in *better places—*not on earth but heaven!
    - He mediates for much, much longer—*eternity!*
* Today from our passage – I would like us to be looking for
  + **3 applications knowing that Christ is the mediator of the new covenant**.
* Follow along with me in Hebrews 9:11-28.
  + I am starting at verse 11 to overlap with what we learned last week…
* **READ HEBREWS 9:11-28**
* Pray –
* Our first application is that we must

1. **Understand that the forgiveness of sin requires blood v.15-22**

* In verse 15-22 there are a lot of interesting details and we could go on for hours
  + But the main point the author is explaining is why Jesus’ death had to happen…
  + It starts with the “For this reason”
    - Which is pointing us back to verse 11 – which is why I started there today…

**Hebrews 9:11–12 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.**

* For this reason – He is the mediator of the new covenant
  + Why?
    - Because He entered into the true Holy place – heaven itself
  + To accomplish what?
    - To obtain eternal redemption for us
* One of the main promised blessings of the new covenant was *complete forgiveness of sins*.
  + You can see that back in Hebrews 8:12 where he quotes the promise of the new covenant straight from Jeremiah 31.

**Hebrews 8:12 “FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.”**

* The point is, whoever the mediator of the new covenant is,
  + somehow there has be a way for *no remembrance of sin* to come about.
  + And for that to happen, there must be complete forgiveness of sin.
* Jesus is the one that does that,
  + which is why he is the mediator of the new covenant.
* So v.15 points backwards, but it also moves the argument forward in 2 ways.
  + First, Jesus being the mediator of the new covenant has a purpose...
    - a really, really good purpose.

**Hebrews 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.**

* + Jesus is the mediator SO THAT those who have been called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance.
    - That would be the receiving of eternal life
      * Not just the promise of it
    - But the actual making of it to happen…
    - Consider that this was a change from what was previously given…
* Paul has described this in Romans

**Romans 9:4** **[the] Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises,**

* Or

**Romans 15:8 For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers,**

* The idea of inheriting promises was common across the OT.
* But with the coming of a new covenant
  + And the mediator of the new covenant
    - It is not just about making promises
    - It is now about the fulfillment and receipt of the promises and it’s blessings
  + It is like if you promise to pay off your child’s college loans when they graduate…
    - But there is a big difference between promising to do so
      * And actually paying of their loans
  + That is the purpose of Jesus being the mediator
    - so that those who have been called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance.
* But what the rest of this paragraph, and the rest of our passage, explains
  + Is why Jesus had to die in order for those purposes to be fulfilled…
* Let’s look in verse 15 again, specifically the phrase inserted in the middle of the purpose statement…

**Hebrews 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.**

* Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant, so that the promise of eternal inheritance can come to those who are called.
* But for that to happen, a death must happen.
  + And this verse says, “a death has taken place...”
* This paragraph is making that argument in 2 primary ways.
  + First, a death has to occur because it is blood that cleanses unrighteousness.

1. **Blood cleanses Unrighteousness**

* This is where we will unpack verses 18-22…
  + with v.22 being the clearest and obvious conclusion.

**Hebrews 9:18 Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood.**

**Hebrews 9:22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**

* So, why did a death have to occur?
  + Essentially the answer is, “It’s always been that way.”
    - If sin is going to be cleansed, then there must be blood to cover sin
    - When God covered over the sin of Adam and Eve in the garden,
      * He made garments of skin to clothe them
      * It took a sacrifice.
    - We are also not just talking about blood from a paper cut…
    - But rather the blood that resulted in death
  + But here we are seeing the need for more tha
* But the 2nd line of reasoning for why a death has to occur,
  + has to do with the reality

1. **Not just any blood is adequate**
   * that not just any blood...or any death is adequate.

* Which is the point of verses 16-17
  + That it must be the death of a specific person
  + This is where we will hit another translation challenge, but please don’t get lost in it so that we miss that *not just any death or any blood is adequate. It had to be a specific person’s death, namely Jesus, the mediator.*
  + The challenge comes in the choice of the word used for the Greek diatheke…in verse 15 was covenant, which all agree upon

**Hebrews 9:16–17 For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. 17 For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.**

* + But in 16 – the same word which NASB again translates covenant, seems to have added meaning and is translated as will or testament in other translations.
  + Men far smarter than me have debated covenant v. will or testament

Hebrews 9:15-18

* In my studies and along with my fellow pastors, we are using the meaning of will or testament as it seems to fit the rest of the text better…
  + Why would I say that?
    - First, a will we all understand what that is.
      * A will is a document that you put together while you’re alive that determines where your assets will go and so forth when you die.
      * And just a note, if you do not have a will and you have a children, you really need to get a will.
      * And this is reminding me I need to have mine updated
    - Second, v.16 makes the point that if there is a will involved then not just any death matters, but *the death of the one who’s will it is!*

Exodus 19:5

Hebrews 9:16

Hebrews 9:17

* + - * Under the first covenant there was the death of bulls and goats, but bulls and goats were not the one who made the covenant.
      * But when it comes to a will...it must be the death of the one made the will.
    - Then v.17 reinforces the point in v.16...
      * So the point is, that for a will to go into effect the person who’s will it is must die,
      * and then the will is executed and the inheritance is distributed accordingly.
    - I also think that the concept of a will makes good sense
      * inheritance is on the table, which was brought up in v.15.
* But the, let’s not push the analogy of a last will or testament as we know it too far.
  + For one, did God set up a will because he knows he’s going to die and he wants to leave his stuff to his heirs?
    - Not exactly.
    - God cannot die...the immoral, cannot die.
  + So then how does Jesus, the 2nd person in the trinity die?

**Hebrews 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil**

* Jesus took on our weakness, our flesh so that He could defeat death…
  + By experiencing death, going through it
  + But He did not stay dead
  + That would be different from any other will or testament…
* Another difference…
  + On this earth, the executor, the person responsible to carry out the details and intent of the will is never the same persons as the one who makes the will
  + But in this case
    - Jesus is the mediator of this new covenant
    - He is the mediator of the will
      * He is alive – yet he does not keep the promises to himself
      * He fulfills those promises and guarantees that the inheritance is shared with those who have been called.
  + That should bring great hope and assurance
    - Jesus died so that we might receive an eternal inheritance.
    - But Jesus rose again, and sits at the right hand of the Father as our mediator to guarantee that his will would be carried out. Completely!
  + But as the passage said…
    - It’s not just any shedding of blood that will do.
    - It must be the death of Jesus Christ, who is the mediator of the new covenant that brings about the complete forgiveness of sin!
* Now where the rest of our passage goes, is explaining what is so significant about Jesus’s death and sacrifice…
  + We see then…
    - that for the forgiveness of sin there must be blood.
  + We also understand…
    - that the death of the one who made the will has to come about for the will and inheritance to be executed.
  + But that still doesn’t fully answer the question about why Jesus’ death brings about this all about.
  + So the question that this next paragraph is addressing, is *why is Christ’s blood sufficient?*
    - So the point the author of Hebrews wants for us in vv.23-26 is…

II. **Rejoice in the sufficient blood of Christ v.23-26**

* There are 3 reasons brought up in these verses that highlight the significance and the sufficiency of Christ’s blood.
* Reason number 1 for the sufficiency of Christ’s sacrifice and blood
  + is that as the true and greater high priest,
  + he didn’t enter into the holy place with a blood sacrifice that wasn’t his own blood...
  + Jesus entered in with his very own blood. \
  + He was the sacrifice.
* In other Words he is

**a. The high priest who offered Himself**

* Take a look at verses 25 and 26…

**Hebrews 9:25–26 nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. 26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**

* Reason number 1 for rejoicing in Christ’s sufficient blood
  + is that he’s the high priest who sacrifices himself to put away our sin
    - FOR GOOD!
* We saw this truth last week as well.

**Hebrews 9:12–14 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption... how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

* No other high priest could offer his own blood for the forgiveness of others sins.
  + Why?

**Hebrews 7:26–27 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.**

* He did not need to address His own sin first…or ever…
  + He’s perfect. He’s holy. He’s innocent.
  + He’s undefiled and separated from sinners.
  + He has no need for a sacrifice FOR himself, because he is without sin!
* If you need a sacrifice for your own sin,
  + that person cannot be the perfect, spotless, and sacrifice for the sin of others!
  + But Jesus can, and did,
    - so that all who would believe in his sufficient blood on the cross for them,
    - they would be completely forgiven and cleansed!
  + Oh the joy and freedom of the promise of there being no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus!
* A second reason that Christ’s sacrifice is sufficient is because it only took one sacrifice!
* Jesus is…

**b. The high priest who made only one sacrifice**

* Again, in verses 25-26

**Hebrews 9:25–26 nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. 26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**

* This is such a huge point,
  + Consider how many times the author of Hebrews brings it up so many times!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Verse** | **Key Phrase** |
| **Heb. 7:27** | **"once for all when he offered up himself"** |
| **Heb. 9:12** | **"entered once for all... by his own blood"** |
| **Heb. 9:26** | **"appeared once... to put away sin"** |
| **Heb. 9:28** | **"offered once to bear the sins"** |
| **Heb. 10:10** | **"offering... once for all"** |
| **Heb. 10:12–14** | **"single sacrifice... perfected"** |
| **Heb. 10:18** | **"no longer any offering for sin"** |

* And the reason this is such a huge point,
  + is because under the Old Covenant sacrifices had to be made repeatedly….

**Hebrews 10:11 Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;**

* Can we Rejoice in the sufficient blood of Jesus!
  + This should give you great, great assurance and hope to hold fast your confession in Christ without wavering!
  + Now, some of you may have wondered this before...
    - or if not, I think it’s a question that you do need to consider.
  + If my sin demands an eternal punishment in hell—
    - which Scripture is clear about in many places—
    - how can Jesus’s single sacrifice accomplishment the full payment for God’s wrath against my sin?
      * As v 26 said…
        + if his sacrifice wasn’t sufficient then he’d have to be suffering repeatedly since the foundation of the world.
  + I don’t hear people question this often…but I understand the question…
    - Jesus sacrifices himself and God raises Him from the dead 3 days later accomplishing the complete forgiveness of sin.
      * How can that be?
      * How can Jesus pay for my sin in just 3 days, when it would have taken me an eternity
      * and I still wouldn’t have been able to make the payment?
  + The answer is, because of how valuable Christ’s blood is.
  + Let me use a poor but illustrative analogy
    - If you have a Credit Card – every card comes with a limit
      * For example, if a college student took their credit card and tried to purchase a $500,000 dollar yacht,
        + the card probably wouldn’t accept the charge...
      * But I’m guessing if you’re someone like Elon Musk he probably has a credit card limit that is far, far exceeding what that college student can cover on their card.
    - Why is that?
      * Well, Elon Musk is worth more financially than the college student.
  + That’s the same with Jesus Christ’s blood.
    - Why can his blood cover all sin and it not take an eternity for him to pay it off?
    - Because his blood and life is so, so, so incredibly valuable that he can pay for your sin in a single offering and the Father is satisfied…
    - So the Father raised Him from the dead as there be nothing left to pay!
* Oh how, I hope that helps you rejoice in the sufficient blood of Jesus!
  + I hope that helps you glory in the Lord, that would give his only Son for you!
    - And please, please don’t think, “that makes sense – because I am that amazing…”
      * Recall – the gospel shares 2 truths that we all need…
        + The gospel is the good news of God’s incredible love for sinners.
      * And the good news is needed because of the bad news…
        + Through our sin, we have made ourselves worthless, and useless.
        + We bring dishonor upon ourselves through our sin.
    - And praise the Lord – He did not leave us that way…

**2 Timothy 2:20–21 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.**

* + This passage doesn’t use the word useless, but it is certainly implied.
  + If you want to be useful, you must be cleansed.
  + Our passage in Hebrews here makes it very clear where cleansing comes from...
  + it comes through the sufficient blood of Jesus, our high priest, who only had to offer himself once for all to put away sin.
* Now a third reason Christ’s blood is sufficient
  + is not just because he offered himself,
  + it’s not just because he offered himself only once,
  + but it’s also because of where he offers himself.
  + Jesus is…

1. **The High Priest who entered heaven itself…**

* Look again at the place of the sacrifices and offerings…

**Hebrews 9:23–24 Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;**

* I want you to see something I did not see until studying this further…
  + It is easy to consider the items in the tabernacle to need cleansing
    - But this implies the heavenly things themselves as well…
    - I had not seen this as I had not considered the need for cleansing in heaven…
* So the question becomes…
  + What are these heavenly things that must be cleansed with better sacrifices?
  + We know that the better sacrifices refers to what Christ did in offering himself.
    - That’s what we just looked at in vv.25-26.
  + But in what sense does heaven need to be cleansed?
    - That made me scratch my head.
    - I thought heaven was were God’s very presence dwells?
    - I thought there could be no impurity in heaven whatsoever?
  + There are lots of suggestions to this...
    - like heaven needs to be purified because Satan has been there.
      * Presumably the book of Job comes to mind with Satan coming before God.
  + But I really think the key to what these heavenly things are that need to be purified comes in v.24...
    - A key emphasis here is that Jesus enters into heaven itself.
    - He doesn’t go into the earthly holy of holies to offer himself up,
      * but rather he goes into what Hebrews 9:11 calls the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation.
    - v.24 reiterates that same point, but then it goes on to say, “he went into heaven itself”...why? “to appear before God” and then it says, “FOR US!”
      * I think the key to the heavenly things that need purification is found in those words.
      * Why does Jesus go before the very presence of God?
        + Why does he go into heaven itself?
      * He goes before the very presence of God with his own blood for us!
      * So I believe the heavenly things that are being referred to in v.23 is us.
        + Why does heaven need any kind of cleansing?
        + It’s because we are going to be there!
    - There is incredible comfort, hope and encouragement in this!
      * It is certainly not complimentary to us.
      * But is incredibly hope giving!
        + That is, unless you think far too highly of yourself.
      * If you want to be thought of as righteous on your own apart from the blood of Jesus, then this will be incredibly discouraging to you.
    - But if like the apostle Paul you’d say,
      * “[I want to] be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith” (Phil. 3:9),
      * then this is glorious news to you!
  + Christian Brothers and Sisters…
    - can you remember things that you’ve done over the past week that you are incredibly ashamed of? Even a little ashamed?
    - I am still a sinner and if I were in heaven today, I’d defile and pollute it with my sin?”
      * There is a part of me that hopes you all have thought things like that.
      * because it is true about all of us…
  + But here’s the good news,
    - you cannot pollute heaven,
    - because Christ’s sufficient sacrifice and blood has gone into the very presence of God on your behalf,
    - and his blood cleanses you fully and completely there in heaven!
  + Seeing our need for him can bring great hgope when his words echo in our hearts…
    - “I did not come for those who are well, but for those who are sick.”
    - He said he didn’t come for those who are righteous, but rather to call sinners to repentance.
      * Christ’s cleansing blood goes before the very presence of God in heaven for you!
      * Christ has gone into the very presence of God FOR YOU! Wow
      * In your bible, or on your phone…
        + Underline the words “for us” to remind you of the personal nature of his sacrifice…
      * Then I would encourage us all to spend time in a prayer of thanksgiving for the personal nature of His blood.
* The final application for today...live knowing that Christ is your eternal mediator.

**III. Live knowing that Christ is an eternal mediator v.27-28**

**Hebrews 9:27–28 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.**

* There is a comparison being made here.
  + The way that men are appointed to die once...
  + so also was Christ.
    - He was appointed to die once by offering up his life to bear the sins of many.
* After men die, they go to judgment.
  + But after Christ’s death,
    - he will appear a second time,
    - not to deal with sin,
    - but to save those who eagerly await him.
* So the comparison and logic is,
  + that like all men they are appointed to die just once.
    - Jesus also died, just once.
  + But instead of him then being judged, like the rest of humanity,
    - he is going to return to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.
* This should do 2 things...
  + first it should provide great …

**a. Assurance for God’s people**

* God’s people are defined by “those who eagerly await him.”
  + Jesus as the mediator of the new covenant didn’t just die to bring it into effect at that time,
    - he will return to fully bring about all that it promises.
  + Jesus is alive and will guarantee for all who are eagerly waiting for him,
    - that the inheritance, in full will come to them!
* A question that we should ask is,
  + “What does it look like to eagerly await him?”
    - There are actually lots and lots of answers, but let me just point out two...
    - Take a look in 2 Timothy…

**2 Timothy 4:8–10 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. 9 Make every effort to come to me soon; 10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.**

* Notice that there is a crown of righteousness for those that have loved his appearing.
  + Which appearing?
  + Based on the context and grammar – I do not believe we are talking about only Christ’s first appearing on this earth.
    - I am seeing Christ’s second appearing here.
    - For those are loving and longing for Christ to return there is a certainty of reward coming!
* But take caution
  + in v.10 that there is a different example...
    - there is the example of Demas who is described as in love with this present world...
    - and his love with the present world has caused him to abandon Paul, and possibly to abandon Christ.
  + It’s like what Jesus said in

**Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”**

* Be careful brothers and sisters, not to grow more and more in love with the world. Be careful about the deceitfulness of riches.
* Be careful about trying to make this present world so comfortable, that you aren’t longing for heaven!
* How do we do that?
  + Pursue what God pursues...
    - love people.
    - Seek to win people.
    - Share the good news of Christ’s sufficient death that brings salvation,
    - rather than primarily seeking to share how good this present world is.
  + Ladies – invite your neighbor to the Ice Cream Social next week.
  + Everyone – Share the opportunity for VBS at all three of our campuses
  + Show your neighbors that you are so excited about Christ’s second coming that you want them to know and VBS is just one option…
* A second answer to what’s it look like to eagerly await him.

**Titus 2:13–14 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.**

* If Christ’s return is your blessed hope,
  + then I believe the end of v.14 gives the fruit of a person who believes that.
  + They are going to be zealous for good works for the Lord.
* How are you choosing to serve this summer?
  + Thank you to those who are serving with VBS…
  + How about in our community?
    - We will be transitioning to a new set of interns across the summer…
    - Can you show you help our Community Center demonstrate a zeal for good works by finding even 1-2 hours in your week to come serve…
      * Please see Pastor Alfonso and he can help you get connected
        + To be an encouragement to Monday, Eli and Annexe and to welcome our new interns this summer.
* Oh how I pray that we as a church would grow to exemplify a people that are zealous for good deeds, because we are eagerly awaiting Christ!
* Now, I said there are 2 things that these verses should do for us...
  + 1 there should be great assurance because the Lord is coming back for us!
  + But the 2nd thing, is there is a warning for God’s enemies.

**b. Warning for God’s enemies**

* And if you are a friend of the world, that makes us an enemy of God…
  + If you do not know Christ as your Lord and Savior, there is a serious warning here.
  + It is appointed for man to die—
    - and we do not know when that will be.
    - We have no guarantee of tomorrow.
  + And once a person dies, then there is the judgment.
    - If you do not have Christ’s sufficient blood covering your sin,
    - that judgment will be a terrifying judgment and an even more terrifying eternity.

**Hebrews 10:31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

* But if you acknowledge that there is no hope other than Christ,
  + and God opens your eyes to see his great love for you in Christ’s sacrifice for you,
  + then cry out to him in belief and be saved!
  + And fall headlong into the hands of your loving heavenly Father**!**

**Pray**