
Week 22 Sermon, February 25, 2024

Hebrews 9:15-22 – *The Mediator*

Discussion Questions

1. The author of Hebrews first speaks of mediation in 8:6 where he states that Christ has a more excellent ministry; the covenant He mediates is better since it is enacted on better promises. Here in 9:15, what is one better promise we discover? Jesus is again mentioned as the mediator of a new covenant. What is the role of a Mediator? What precious substance is the means of Christ's arbitration? Why do we need Jesus between God and men? What does Paul tell us in 1 Timothy 2:5-6?
2. What is the cost of sin? According to Ezekiel 18:4, what happens to the soul who sins? How was atonement made under the old covenant? Read Exodus 24:6-8. A great theme throughout the entire Bible is the shed blood of sacrifice. In Genesis 4:3-7, God had regard for Abel's sacrifice; how does v. 22 help us understand why?
3. We cannot approach a holy God until the penalty for justice has been paid. How was God's wrath satisfied? Discuss the doctrine of substitutionary atonement. What was the price of our redemption? Name some treasures we receive through the death of Christ.
4. In verses 16-17 we read of how a will is enacted. We are the beneficiaries in the new covenant, but we have no power in ourselves to activate the gifts. Who is the executor of the will? What do Romans 8:16-17 and Ephesians 1:11-14 say about this? What part of the inheritance do we get to enjoy now? What part awaits us until we are with the Lord in Heaven? How does knowing that you are a child of God with a glorious inheritance fuel your desire to walk in a manner worthy of Christ? Take time to pray, confess, and seek God's help to be a better steward of all that He has given you.
5. By means of His own blood Jesus secured an eternal redemption for His beloved (9:12). Charles Spurgeon wrote in 1865, "Oh, how precious is this blood-red shield! My soul, cower thou down under it when the darts of hell are flying: this is the chariot, the covering whereof is of purple; let the storm come, and the deluge rise, let even the fiery hail descend, beneath that crimson pavilion my soul must rest secure, for what can touch me, when I am covered with his precious blood?"¹ Knowing this, how is it that we can still be robbed of the joy of our salvation? What can we do to encourage fellow believers when their countenance has fallen? (See again Genesis 4:6-7.)
6. We had the privilege of witnessing four baptisms this week in submission to God's commandment and authority. Paul, Karen, Ivan and Megan gave a visible public seal of their invisible unity to Christ by faith. Think back to your own baptism or consider what public testimony you would like to share with a neighbor or coworker or unsaved friend.

¹ *"The Precious Blood of Christ."* Charles Haddon Spurgeon, March 26, 1865; *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, Volume 11