

DON'T FORSAKE JESUS

IN EVERY WAY HE OFFERS YOU PERFECT HOPE

➤ READ HEBREWS 9:11-15

SUMMARY: By virtue of his holy, perfect blood, Jesus entered heaven. Through faith in his blood, we will follow him there.

Look

- “Greater and more perfect tabernacle” (11) – Remember that this is a reference to heaven. We know it is perfect because it is not man-made.
- “Blood” – Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”
- “Ashes of a heifer” (13) – In Number 19 we read that the ashes of a heifer were mixed in water and used to cleanse anyone who touched a dead body and made themselves unclean
- “Eternal Spirit” (14) – If this is a reference to the Holy Spirit, we see our triune God working together for our salvation. This term could also refer to Jesus’ divine nature. Using that interpretation, the writer is saying Jesus’ sacrifice is greater because he is the eternal Son of God.
- “Offered himself unblemished” (14) – Notice the contrast being made – the willingness of Jesus compared to the animals. Also, because Jesus was perfect, he could offer a perfect sacrifice
- “So that we might serve the living God” (14) – Our conscience is clear not to give us a license to sin but so we can serve God

Discuss

1. Using this section, what argument is the author making as to why the hope Jesus offers us is greater than the hope offered to the people under the old covenant?
2. Fill in the blanks to explain how these phrases testify to the superiority of the new covenant verses the old?
 - a. “The promised eternal inheritance”
 - i. The new covenant is not _____. It is _____.
 - b. “Free from the sins committed under the first covenant”
 - i. The first covenant _____ sin and pointed ahead to the Christ.
The new covenant, however, _____ us from those sins.

➤ **READ HEBREWS 9:16-28**

SUMMARY: Every will and testament must be ratified by blood. Unless blood is shed, which alone can purify us for heaven so we can live there, there is no forgiveness.

Look

- “*Sprinkled the scroll and all people*” (19) – The sprinkling of the scroll was symbolic of the covenant being put into effect; the sprinkling of the people was symbolic of binding them to the covenant
- “*The blood of the covenant*” (20) – The blood of the covenant is the blood that had to be shed in order for God’s covenant to go into effect. This is a general principle for all time. If there is to be forgiveness, blood must be shed for God’s justice to be satisfied. “*Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again*” (25) – A sacrifice so all-inclusive did not have to be repeated
- “*End of the ages*” (26) – Similar to Hebrews 1:2, “In these last days.” It refers to the period of time at the end of the old age, the time for the inauguration of the new Messianic age. Used for the time of the Messiah.
- “*Die once*” (27) – The onetime finality of our death illustrates the onetime nature of Jesus’ death for sins.
- “*Who are waiting for him*” (28) – This is an encouragement to the Hebrews not to give up on Christ

Discuss

3. What had to happen in order for God’s promises to come true under the old covenant?
4. As we have seen throughout the book of Hebrews, the writer has had to combat the idea that Jesus’ death proved he was helpless. How does this section explain why the Messiah’s death should not have been a surprise?
5. Verse 23 speaks of heaven needing to be purified. Since heaven is pure, why would it need to be purified?

“The cleansing blood of Christ enables sinners to enter into and enjoy “the heavenly things” without defiling them. This blood ushers sinners into heaven, all the while keeping heaven free of their sin and its consequences. The believer’s entrance into the heavenly presence of God begins already here on earth the moment he’s brought to faith.” (People Bible)

6. When we die, that is it for us. We will immediately stand before God’s judgment throne. When Jesus died, that was it for him also. He does not have to offer any more sacrifices. He will come back, but not to sacrifice. What comfort does his second coming hold out for us?
7. It’s repetitious, but it bears repeating. What are the three things the author points to in these verses to show how Jesus’ sacrifice differed from those of the old covenant:
 - a. Verse 24 –
 - b. Verse 26 –
 - c. Verse 26 –

➤ **READ HEBREWS 10:1-4**

SUMMARY: The blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin

Discuss

8. What does the writer call the entire Old Testament system of ceremonies and regulations?

Look

- “Annual reminder of sins” (3) – Rather than erasing the sinner’s guilt, the annual sacrifices emphasized it
- “Take away” (4) – Means to remove something so completely that it is no longer in the picture

➤ **READ HEBREWS 10:5-10**

SUMMARY: The Old Testament itself testifies to the need for another sacrifice

Look

- “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire...with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased” (5) – God wanted and commanded them, but they were not an end in and of themselves. His desire was not a mechanical process but obedience in the heart.
- “A body you prepared for me” (5) – This is what would replace the shadow of Old Testament sacrifices and offerings. This phrase stresses Christ’s willing sacrifice

Discuss

9. God’s deepest will for Israel and the entire world is that they treasure the sacrifice God would provide for them in Christ. How does David show that he understood this truth concerning sacrifices in Psalm 51:16-19?

Psalm 51:16-19 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. ¹⁸In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

➤ **READ HEBREWS 10:11-18**

SUMMARY: Forgiveness makes any more sacrifices unnecessary

Look

- “Day after day” (11) – Once again emphasizing the imperfection of the Old Testament law
- “The Holy Spirit...testifies (13) – Another witness to the finality of Christ’s perfect sacrifice
- “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more” (17) – Oh sweet gospel!
- “No longer any sacrifice for sin” (18) – Levitical priesthood obsolete; Jesus doesn’t need to repeat; and no “sacrifice” needed on our part

Discuss

10. Early Jewish Christians may have been confronted with this challenge: “If the Messiah truly has come, then why does the world still go on as it has, with sin and Satan still exercising their influence?” How would you answer that question based on verse 13?
11. What is the point of the two passages quoted?

Endure

12. The heavy emphasis on the blood of Christ as a secure covenant of forgiveness helps us appreciate the blessings we have in Holy Communion. How so?
13. Think of a time when you felt you committed a sin that would be hard to forgive – unforgivable. What words from this section of Hebrews assure you that you have been forgiven?

*“If we have no conviction of sin, this doctrinal portion of Hebrews will have meant little to us. He whose shoulders feel no weight seeks no relief, nor do healthy-feeling men look for a doctor. But if sin is something real to us, if the skeletons of past sins rattle in the closet of our conscience, if each night on our pillow the day passes in rather sordid review in spite of our best efforts, if we have ripped off the tinfoil from our inner being and recoiled at what we found there, then the walk through Hebrews 1:1-10:18 will have been a blessed experience for us. Then we’ll agree, **What a supreme treasure we have in Christ!**” (People’s Bible)*

The Old Testament laws are only a shadow of the reality, which is Christ! They were necessary for a time. But the body Jesus offered has done what the Old Testament sacrifices could never do – gain permanent forgiveness for the world.

Responsive Closing Prayer

L: Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for sending your Son, Jesus,

G: as the perfect sacrifice for sin.

L: We look forward to his glorious return,

G: when he will take each believer to eternal life with you in heaven.

L: We place ourselves at your disposal so that we might serve you and not ourselves.

G: We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.