

Hebrews - Jesus the Final Word: The Perfect Sacrifice

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Hebrews 9:1-28

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Reflection & Discussion

Forgiveness always costs through some sort of suffering

The tabernacle and temple sacrificial system were designed to illustrate this spiritual reality.

*Has the idea of blood sacrifice and God's sacrifice of Jesus been something hard for you to wrestle with?

*How have you seen the connection between forgiveness and suffering in your own life?

Religion has never had the power to accomplish what is needed

Read and discuss Hebrews 9:7-9; 11-12 (NIV)

⁷ But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. ⁸ The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. ⁹ This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper... ¹¹ But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. 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, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

*How can you see a shadow of illustration of Jesus' sacrifice in the temple system?

*What do these passages show as the difference between the old system and Jesus' sacrifice?

You owe God, but God has already paid what you owe to be close to you

Read and discuss Hebrews 9:24-28 (NIV)

²⁴ For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. 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. ²⁶ Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

*Talk about the phrase 'once for all'. What hope does that bring?

*How does the blood of Jesus 'clear the conscience' (v9)? What's hard about living in that clear conscience – close to God without fear?

We can take at least 3 things from this talk of sacrifices

- The wrongness of life on this earth is VERY serious, and we are complicit in it
- God on the cross solves every bit of our very big problem
- Our God is not above or immune to pain

*Does grasping the actual blood sacrifice of Jesus help you to recognize your problem of sin?

*How does this 100% accommodation for us, show us love? And how does that context help us to make adjustments in our lives?

*What does it mean to follow a God that allows and welcomes pain and suffering upon himself?

The blood of Jesus says you are more loved than you ever could have imagined

We only gain the capacity to love sacrificially if we deeply know the God who bleeds real blood.

*How has the sacrifice of Jesus for you given you greater capacity to love sacrificially? In what ways has it changed things for you?

*What is the Spirit saying to you about Jesus' blood closing the gulf between us?

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