

Only the Blood of Christ Cleanses our Conscience

Hebrews 9:11-15

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I. Historical Background

This Charter of Hebrews draws a comparison and contrast between the Levitical rituals and the priestly work of Jesus Christ. The rituals of the old covenant were temporary, inadequate and ineffective. The work of Christ or the New Covenant was sufficient, able to remove sins permanently and to establish relationship with God.

The Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-15

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.

13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.

14 How much more, then will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our conscience from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

II. The Lesson: Only the Blood of Christ Cleanses our Conscience

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,

We are told about the ritual works of the old covenant. But when Christ came, we are introduced to the superior ministry of Christ, or the New Covenant. Because Christ died for our sins and went through the heavenly place, we have complete and total forgiveness and direct access to God. We have been redeemed once and for all.

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.

Jesus Christ was the perfect, sinless sacrifice, presented in the heavenly holy place, fully effective, never needing to be done again. This sacrifice is very different from the Levitical rituals, which were repeated continually but never bringing the people any closer to God. The ritual of sacrificing bulls and goats and the sprinkling of cow's ashes were powerless. These acts gave the outward appearance of being clean, but none of the rituals could ever cleanse man's soul / conscience.

13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.

The sacrifice under the law was merely a Band-Aid on our sin. The sacrifice of Christ was spiritual surgery. Jesus Christ was a perfect and willing sacrifice. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we have been cleansed on the inside and we can now worship God, in Spirit and in Truth. We can approach God with total confidence, because we

have been washed and purified by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

14 How much more, then will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our conscience from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

We can be sure that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ has cleanse us from the inside for eternity. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ forgave our sins, cleanses our hearts and teaches us how not to sin.

15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

In order to offer a new covenant, Jesus had to satisfy the righteous requirements of the old covenant. Jesus became a ransom (or payment) for the sins committed under the old covenant. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ brought us complete forgiveness, He is “The Mediator of a new covenant”. He gives us a relationship with God on a completely new level — the New Covenant.

III. Conclusion

Because Christ sacrifice will last for eternity, the forgiveness it brought is eternal, and our relationship with God is eternal. Our sins are no longer in the way, they have been covered by the blood of The Lamb, Jesus Christ for eternity never to be held against us again (2 Corinthians 5:16-19). Jesus is able. Jesus did it All. It Is Finished.