

Jesus' Sacrifice is Superior Pt.1: Hebrews – Week 12

HOOK

What does the word redeem mean?

Hosea Ch. 1-3 – Story of Gomer and the promise of the New Covenant linked to a coming Davidic Messiah. God's promise: God will redeem His people in the same way Hosea redeemed Gomer.

INTRO

Hebrews is written to an audience who came out of Judaism with its profound rituals, meaningful holidays, and stunning temple. Because they are suffering persecution, they are tempted to go back. But the author is determined to show that they would be going back to a dry well. All the things they loved were merely symbols/road signs/foreshadowings of Jesus and His perfect work on behalf of His people. Through **Ch. 1-10**, he discusses Jesus' superiority over all they were tempted to go back to. Jesus is superior over every form of God's communication: The prophets, angels, and even Moses. He is the Word of God. Further, He is superior to the covenant where they looked for redemption: The covenant promises, priesthood, tabernacle, and sacrifices. **The emphasis of tonight: Jesus' sacrifice is superior to the blood sacrifices of the old covenant.**

Heb. 9:11-12 is the connection verse to last week. It is wrapping up the discussion of Jesus being the superior High Priest in a superior Tabernacle. No other symbol of the old covenant represented God's presence with His people more poignantly than the **tabernacle**. It stood as a reminder that God's work for His people to be with Him wasn't complete. Sin still separated us. The author will now shift his attention to the beauty and supremacy of His sacrifice.

Hebrews 9:11-12 - *But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.*

- **Illustration of Stick Figure: Corrupt heart, destitute, enslaved, filthy.**
- Blood would be brought into God's presence (in the Holy of Holies) once a year to atone for the sin of the people by the high priest sprinkling the blood of the sin sacrifice on the "mercy" seat of the Ark of the Covenant.
 - **Jesus' parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee.** When he was calling on God to be merciful to him, he was praying that God would count him under the blood sprinkled on the mercy seat of the covenant, that God would be satisfied by that offering on his behalf.

- **BUT** Jesus entered into the superior Holy of Holies... HEAVEN, God's HOLY presence, on our behalf bringing a superior sacrifice.
 - **"An animal's blood was carried by the high priest** into the Holy of Holies, but Jesus Christ presented Himself in the presence of God as the final and complete sacrifice for sins." (– **Wiersbe**)
- The priest's work was an "I owe you" until the next year when the ritual would have to be done again. But Jesus' sacrifice was far superior giving **"eternal redemption."**

The author will unpack 4 profound effects of Jesus' sacrifice. Unlike the former covenant under Moses, **Jesus' sacrifice 1. transforms His people, 2. entitles them to an inheritance, 3. redeems them, and 4. purifies them.**

BOOK

1. JESUS BLOOD TRANSFORMS US

Hebrews 9:13-14 - *For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

- The author of Hebrews isn't comparing a bad thing with a good thing. He's comparing a good thing with a great thing. If God used the symbolic purification rituals for any effect at all, how much more will He honor the holy blood of His Son?
- The contrast: God will do more than just purify someone's "**flesh**" (external), He'll purify our "**consciences**" / hearts (the internal where no one can reach).

Illustration: The Sheriff's department asks if they can put up a thief at your house. You ask, "Has he been rehabilitated?" No. "Will y'all be there?" No, but don't worry. We're going to send in a team to lock down everything you own, so he is physically unable to steal from you.

- The situation is still icky. The external has been dealt with. Having him sleep in your house may now be passable, but there's no peace with him there.
- **Ex. What if someone followed the first covenant to the letter?** Would it be good enough? No. The Pharisees painstakingly followed the first covenant

laws, but Jesus, who saw their hearts, called them white-washed tombs. It didn't deal with the heart. But the new covenant would transform the heart.

- **Heb. 8:10** - *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*
- **Ezekiel 36:26-27** - *I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*
- **2 Cor. 5:17** - *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

“sprinkling...with the ashes of a heifer” – (Num.19) This referred to the Levitical cleansing process of someone who has touched a corpse. The problem is that this ritual may cleanse the person who touched something dead, but it couldn't cleanse a spiritually dead heart.

- **Ephesians 2:1-3** – *you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*
 - Our very **nature** is spiritually **dead**. God sees unbelievers as rotting, walking corpses. And all the cleansing rituals and animal sacrifices in the world won't bring them back to life.
- **Jesus has a weird effect on corruption.** He should have been made “unclean” by the woman with the issue of blood, but she was made clean. He should have been infected when he touched those with leprosy, but they were healed. Only life, Himself, can touch the dead and rob the grave. Only Holiness, Himself, can transform the spiritually dead in sin.

Illustration of the Stick Figure: Jesus' blood transforms our hearts.

Application: If we could be good on our own, we would not need atonement. We could enter His presence and be saved by our own merit.

2. JESUS BLOOD ENTITLES US

Hebrews 9:15-17 - *Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are **called** may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. 16 For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. 17 For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.*

- **The Jews struggled with the idea of a dying Messiah.** But the author of Hebrews is saying that our salvation and hope hung on the fact the Messiah had to die.
- The author takes advantage of the word for **covenant** which can also mean someone's last "**will**" and testament. Their **will** goes into effect upon their DEATH. He's arguing it was necessary for Jesus to die so that the "**eternal**" terms of the new covenant (the **will**) might be put into effect.
 - Sidenote: one more reason Jesus had to be truly human. So He could die.

Who did they go into effect for? What are those terms?

Upon Jesus' death the eternal promises of the new covenant are applied to the "**called**" – Jesus died for His own (adoption in **Rom. 8**; redemption of Gomer, Hosea). The reality that you're a Christian means that He chose you as His child, His heir.

- Our sovereign God is not REactive. Salvation isn't choosing God, so He'll choose you back. It's being called by God, so we choose Him back. Before we loved Him, He first loved us. "**Called**" = Christians

What are the terms?

1. "Eternal inheritance"

- A parent may wish to pass on an inheritance to their heirs. Their wishes to give them the inheritance goes into effect upon their death.
 - We are the children of the "**will-Maker**."
- What does the new covenant detail a Christian inherits because of Jesus' death? A guaranteed future.
- **Romans 8:15-17** - *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery (refer to Gomer) to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God*

*and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (cf. **Matt.25:34, Col.3:24, Gal.4:7**)*

- What does Jesus inherit? **Heb.1:2** – *...His Son whom He appointed heir of all things.*

Illustration of the Stick Figure: Jesus' blood entitles us to an inheritance.

3. JESUS BLOOD REDEEMS US

2. "Redeems from transgressions"

- **In the same way that Gomer's physical slavery required money for redemption, slavery to sin requires blood. Lev. 17:11** – *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.*
 - Life is in the blood, so blood represents life. Spilled blood represents death. Death is the penalty for sin.
- If a person's crimes are deemed by a judge/court worthy of execution, they'll receive a death sentence. That sentence for crimes is satisfied upon the death of the guilty person.
- **Redemption demands blood, AND mercy provided a substitute.** Jesus went to the real holy of holies (heaven) – God's very presence – to redeem us, so He brought a blood sacrifice to substitute for our death: His own.
 - **John MacArthur** – "Forgiveness is a costly, costly thing."
- Forgiveness isn't God overlooking sin because of love. That would be injustice. Forgiveness is God taking the punishment of our sin because of His great love.

When the priest entered the Holy of Holies, everyone waited anxiously. If the high priest reappeared from behind the curtain, then his sacrifices had been accepted by God, and he was counted worthy. Because he represented the nation, it meant that the nation had been redeemed by the sacrifice they were accepted by God, worthy.

Jesus' resurrection, His reappearance, was our sign that His sacrifice was accepted by God on our behalf and we are accepted and counted worthy by God.

Application: All people will die. Not if, but when. Then, comes judgement. In what state will we die? – in Christ or apart from Christ?

- Elijah Bourg – “In this life is grace, but after this life there is justice and eternity.”
- Will you pay the eternal punishment for your sin? Or has Jesus paid it at the cross?

Illustration of the Stick Figure: Jesus’ blood redeems us.

4. JESUS BLOOD PURIFIES US

Hebrews 9:18-23 - *Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. 19 For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” 21 And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. 22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. 23 Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.*

- Under Moses’ covenant, the people, the tabernacle, and sacred items of worship were purified in God’s eyes by the blood of animals. But the purification by blood in the old covenant didn’t change the nature of those things. BUT, they were only copies, symbols, shadows of what actually purified sins. They had no real cleansing power. There needed to be a more superior sacrifice than just animals.
- **Isaiah 1:18** - *“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (Mal. 3:1-3)*
- **Luke 22:20** - *And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.*
 - Jesus establishes the new covenant in His blood that purifies us.
- **Ephesians 2:13** - *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*
 - The final result and the goal of redemption. We can be with God and He with us.

Illustration of the Stick Figure: Jesus’ blood purifies us.

TOOK

RECAP

- The old covenant was established by the blood of animals.
- The new covenant was established by the blood of the Son of God.
- He was a superior sacrifice given by a superior high priest in a superior Holy of Holies.
- **Jesus' sacrifice 1. transforms His people, 2. entitles them to an inheritance, 3. redeems them, and 4. purifies them.**

Challenge 1:

Challenge 2:

~ Soli DEO Gloria

eGroup Questions /// Title

Pray:

Key Verse: Colossians 3:16 - *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, [singing] with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Questions:

1.

Ask for prayer requests: Pray

Fill out student contact sheet if there are any new people.

