



JESUS: Ours, Always

the letter to the Hebrews

8. OUR BETTER SANCTUARY

Hebrews 9

Meditation 2.

We've seen that God's longing and our destiny is dwell with him in the New Heaven & the New Earth. All space will be sacred space, heaven and earth will be one. Our High Priest Jesus is the forerunner, the first-fruits of that reality. He is also the WAY to that reality.

A better sacrifice

Here we come to one of the most confronting truths of Christianity, all this talk of blood is pretty confronting!

9:12 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, so obtaining eternal redemption.

9: 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.

We aren't just busted, we are sinful. According to Jesus, out of our hearts flow "sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly" (Mark 7:21). And the wages of sin is death, the cost of sin is life. Sin is serious, it requires Life-for-life and the tabernacle and temple must've reeked of blood

9:19 When Moses had proclaimed every command of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. 20 He said, 'This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.'

But who could've imagined that God himself would become human and offer his own life for our lives

9:26 But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Paul said the same thing to the elders at Ephesus... Acts 20:28 *Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*

There's no room for human pride if the cost of our restoration is the blood of Christ, but nor is there place for crushing shame or feelings of worthlessness if God so loved you that he gave himself for you. How big is your problem? Only the death of Christ could fix it. How much are you loved? So much that God bought you with his blood!

A better cleansing

9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

9:28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many

The blood of Jesus reaches deeper and further. Just as Jesus has gone into the Holy of Holies, the heart of the presence of God, his cleansing flows to the holy of holies, the heart of each believer. The old temple covered sin, but Jesus' cleanses us from sin:

- the **penalty of our sin** has been taken away
- the **power of sin** is being taken away
- the **presence of sin** will ultimately be taken away
- a far better cleansing!

A better tabernacle

9:11 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.

9:24 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.

We've seen that the Tabernacle & Temple were multi-sensory representations of the holiness of God and the barrier between us and God created by our sin, our dodgy thoughts, words and actions. God's space – heaven, is full of light and holiness that no busted human being could survive. The Tabernacle & Temple built by human hands were just copies of the real thing. There a priest, representing his people, could appear before symbols of God's presence, promise and power. But Jesus Christ, is the ultimate High Priest entering the ultimate Temple. Have you ever wondered why Jesus needed to leave after the resurrection? Here's one of the reasons why... he left to go ahead of us, clear the way for us and claim our place in the presence of God. He looks God in the face for us, anticipating the day when we too will look God in the face lost in wonder, awe and praise rather than fear.

Meditation

- *How do these scriptures anchor your soul in our certain hope found in Jesus?*