

HOW MUCH MORE?

Heb. 9:13, 14

Intro: These verses establish a relationship between OT sacrifices and the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is clear in this passage that the OT sacrifices typified, foreshadowed, the coming sacrifice of Christ.

The Lord's Supper followed the sacrifice of Christ, and also pictured it. So we have that which pictures the Cross on each side of the Cross. We no longer have those OT sacrifices, but we do have the Lord's Supper which portrays by emblems the awful death of our Saviour.

Clearly the OT sacrifices were not sufficient. That is seen in the fact that the Lord Jesus came, and that, when He came and died, there was no longer any need for the sacrifices which were offered under the Law.

However, the Lord's Supper continues, as a remembrance of the Lord and of what He did. And the Spirit of God has been pleased to give us a host of passages in the NT to teach us what we need to remember about the death of Christ.

There are at least seven things for us to remember about the death of our Lord which are given to us in verse 14. But just before we look at them, notice that one characteristic about this verse that makes it so important is that all three Members of the Godhead are mentioned in it.

The verse is a question which needs to be answered, and in answering it we see what we need to see for our service tonight. What does it tell us about the sacrifice of Christ?

I. IT WAS A UNIQUE SACRIFICE.

It was not another animal sacrifice. Nor was it the sacrifice of an ordinary human being. It was the Lord Jesus Christ Who was the sacrifice.

This is emphasized in many passages. Note "his only begotten Son" in John 3:16. Cf. also Rom. 5:5, 6; 8:31, 32.

II. IT WAS A NECESSARY SACRIFICE.

This has to be the case if the Lord Jesus had to die. This certainly means that all of the sacrifices which were offered under the Law did not get the job done. Cf. Heb. 10:1-4.

And this would mean that, if the sacrifices which were appointed by God did not suffice, then no other system of sacrifice or religion can take away the sins of men.

III. IT WAS A REAL SACRIFICE.

In spite of all that is said in the Word, there always have been, and, I suppose, always will be, attempts to prove that Jesus Christ did not really die. Or even that it was impossible for Him to die because He was the Son of God.

But in observing the Lord's Supper we are showing forth His death! Our text in Heb. 9 speaks of "the blood of Christ." "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). If Jesus Christ did not actually die with the sins of His people upon Him, then we have no salvation, and must consider ourselves thoroughly deceived.

But He did die! His enemies were satisfied that He was dead. And so were His friends! He said repeatedly that He was going to Jerusalem and that He would be killed. 1 Corinthians tells of the many who saw Him after He was raised from the dead. The evidence is overwhelming not only that He died, but that He arose from the dead!

IV. IT WAS A VOLUNTARY DEATH.

Our text tells us that He, "through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God."

Note also verse 26.

"Through the eternal Spirit" may indicate the divine assistance which was given to Him in His humanity by the Holy Spirit. (Remember what happened in Gethsemane.) See also Heb. 2:10 where we may have the meaning that the grace of God also was imparted to Him at the time of His death.

But the classic passage on the voluntary nature of our Lord's sacrifice is John 10:17, 18.

The Lord may have been sent by the Father, but it is also true that He came willingly.

V. IT WAS A PERFECT SACRIFICE.

He "offered himself without spot to God."

Do you remember the OT type, first specified in the Passover Lamb? Cf. Ex. 12:5, "Your lamb shall be without blemish."

Peter showed the significance of this in 1 Pet. 1:18, 19, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed . . ."

Our Lord said some thing to the Jews which no other man could have said: "Which of you convinceth me of sin?"

(John 8:46a). "Convinceth" means convicteth. And He said this to His enemies whom He had been charging with being of their "father the devil."

VI. IT WAS AN ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE.

Acceptable to whom?

The more we know about it, the more acceptable it becomes to us--but that is not what is most important about it. The important part is that it was acceptable to God!

And acceptable means that it never needs to be repeated.

Cf. Heb. 10:1, 12, 13; Rom. 6:9, 10,

Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

VII. IT WAS AN EFFECTIVE SACRIFICE -- in three respects:

A. Our conscience is purged. We have peace with God. We have the witness of the Spirit that we are the children of God.

B. We have had our dead works cleared away.

You see, one of the greatest of sins among men is the attempt that so many make to substitute their own worthless works for the perfect sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. We now can serve the living God.

Before Christ saves us, nothing we do can please God. Afterwards, even a cup of cold water will not lose its reward.

Concl: We have a lot to remember when we come to the Lord's table, do we not? Even David reminded us in Psalm 103 which we had this morning, "And forget not all his benefits," the first of which he mentioned was, "who forgiveth all thine iniquities."

May these truths help us to remember the Lord tonight as we observe the Lord's Supper!