Jesus Our Great High Priest
An Exposition of the Book of Hebrews

One Final Complete Sacrifice
Lesson 12
Hebrews 9:16-28

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
March 19, 2017
Purpose of Hebrews

- The priesthood of Jesus Christ
- Practical application
Jesus Christ, Our Great High Priest

- Requirements for high priest
  - Deity and humanity (1:1-14; 2:14, 16-17)
  - Sinless (4:15; 7:26; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

- Preparation for high priest
  - Made perfect through suffering (2:10; 5:8)
  - Key: the just (Just) shall live by faith (2:12-13; 10:37-38)

- Appointed by God (5:1, 4, 10)

- Offer gifts and sacrifices for sins
  - Levitical priest – temporary reprieve (7:27)
  - Melchizidek priest – perfection (7:25)
A New, Better, Everlasting Covenant

- Old Covenant
  - Priesthood – Order of Levi
  - Obligation upon the people to obey
  - Temporal promises and curses

- New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-37; Ezekiel 36:22-30)
  - Priesthood – Order of Melchizedek
  - Obligation upon God to transform them
  - Eternal promises to Abraham rendered certain
    - New heart/mind
    - Knowledge of God
    - Forgiveness of sins
    - An eternal relationship with God in Christ
One Sacrifice (9:1-10:18)

- Worship – “serve the living God” (9:1, 14)
- The blood of the Great High Priest (9:12) v. animal sacrifices
- Presented in heaven in the presence of God (8:1-2; 9:11-12)
- An effective sacrifice
  - Forgiveness of sins (8:12; 9:22)
  - Purification from defilement by sin (Ps 24:3-4; Jer 17:9; Matt 15:18-19)
  - Eternal perfection (10:14)
Practical Application

- Exhortations and warnings inserted into the teaching section (x5)
- A final section of personal application (10:19-13:25)
- Eternal consequences (10:26-32)
- The just shall live by faith (10:38)
One Final Complete Sacrifice

- The necessity of death (9:16-17)
- Death and the Old Covenant (9:18-22)
- Death and the New Covenant (9:23-28)
The Necessity of Death (9:16-17)

- A last will, or a covenant?
- Hebrew: *BERIT* – one or two sided contract
- Greek: *diatheke* – one sided, and typically a will
- New Testament uses *diatheke* for Old Testament covenants
- English translation of Heb 9:16-17
  - Covenant – NASB
  - Testament – NASB95, KJV (AV), NKJV, Geneva – testament
  - Will – ESV, CSB, LEB
The Necessity of Death (9:16-17)

- Contemporary context – Covenants in Ugarit
- Biblical context – 3 Covenants
  - Abrahamic Covenant – the promises
  - Mosaic or Old Covenant – human obligation
  - New Covenant – Divine provision
The Necessity of Death (9:16-17)

- Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 15:8-21)
  - Promise made to Abraham by God (Genesis 12:1-3)
  - Abraham requested a sign of the promise (Genesis 15:8)
  - Covenant made – smoking oven and flaming torch
  - Covenant requires death of God
The Necessity of Death (9:16-17)

- Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 24:1-8)
  - Promise made to God by Israel (Exodus 19:5)
  - Covenant made by the people with God (24:3, 7-8)
  - Covenant ritual had animal death
  - Covenant requires the death of the people
The New (Everlasting) Covenant
• Made before the world began by God
• Required the death of God (Jesus Christ)
• The blood of the Everlasting Covenant (13:20)

Covenant revealed initially as a promise in Genesis 3:15
“A covenant is sure following death” (9:17, literal)
Sin requires man’s death but God pledges His Own death
Death and the Old Covenant (9:18-22)

- Exodus 24:1-8 – The Old Covenant established
- Sacrifices
  - Blood sprinkled on the altar and the people
  - Hebrews adds the book, the tabernacle and all vessels of ministry
- “Behold, this is the blood of the covenant . . .”
  - Animal blood cleanses where sprinkled (9:23)
  - Animal blood does not take away sin (10:4)
- An exercise in futility
  - Temporarily averted the wrath of God
  - Had to be continued, or they would be evicted from the land
  - No final forgiveness of sins or purification
  - No escape from death
- A weak, useless and faulty service – but required
Death and the New Covenant (9:23-28)

- A better sacrifice is needed and provided
- High Priest mediated for us before God
- High Priest ministered in the heavenly tabernacle
- Only had to appear once – a sufficient sacrifice
- He put away sin by His death
The sacrifice of Christ cleansed “the heavenly things” (9:23)

Day of Atonement (Lev 16:14-16)
- Blood sprinkled on the mercy seat
- Atonement made for the holy place

Why cleansing in heaven?
- Habakkuk 1:13 – God too pure to even look upon evil
- Job 1:6 – Satan had access to presence of God
- Ephesians 6:12 – “. . . spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places.”
- Romans 8:38-39 – “. . . nor principalities . . nor powers
- Colossians 2:15 – disarmed rulers and authorities
- Colossians 1:19-20 – things in heaven and earth
Christ Will Appear for Salvation (9:27-28)

- An appointment with death and judgment
- Christ removed the power of death (2:14-15)
- Christ removed the threat of judgment
- An appointment with salvation at His coming
One Final Complete Sacrifice
Hebrews 9:15

- The Mediator of a new and better Covenant
- His death redeems from sin
- His death guarantees eternal life