

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

CG Questions 10/8/2023

Hebrews 9:1-28

Ted Rastatter: Bad News, Good News, and Better News

Hebrews 9 discusses the differences between the ritual sacrifice systems of the old covenant ministered by Moses and the new covenant established by Christ. In both covenants, the main point is that “under the law, almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” (Heb. 9:22)

Scripture tells us the great lengths to which God goes to chase after and save his people, from clothing Adam and Eve in sheep’s skin, to carrying Israel out of Egypt, to the giving of the tabernacle and the Promised Land, all the way to Christ taking on human flesh to be with us, and everything in between. Time and time again God has provided for sin to be covered and a relationship with him to be made - eventually, with the very blood of Jesus, God in the flesh.

God’s efforts, the lengths to which he has gone to be with his people, should produce in us such awe and humility that our rebellious hearts turn fully to him in celebration, adoring worship, and loving devotion. Herein for us there is *bad news*, *good news*, and yet *better news*.

The bad news: There is no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood. If sin is not cleansed by the right sacrifice, there is no forgiveness and redemption. You are either in Adam or in Christ.

1. What does it mean that we are either in Adam or in Christ?

The good news: God wants to be with his people, so he made ways. He gave his people priests and the tabernacle.

2. What other ways did God cover his people with sacrifice? What ways did he give to connect with him? Why were these ultimately not enough?

The better news: Jesus is the final sacrifice and the true tabernacle. His ministry, his sacrifice, and his gift of the Holy Spirit are the greatest heights we have seen *so far* of God’s great efforts to make a people for himself.

3. What does it mean that Jesus was the true tabernacle?
4. If Jesus is the better tabernacle, why is it better that he left and gave us the Spirit instead?
5. What is the right response to the great efforts of God to be with his people? How does my life change if I change my efforts from mere morality to true worship? If God has done all this to reach me, what can I do to better reach others?