

Lesson Five

Hebrews 9

The word “covenant” is from the Latin word “con venier” which means to come together. The Old Testament word for covenant meant a binding between two parties. This “coming together” involved agreeing to a promise with stipulations, privileges, and responsibilities. Two important ones in Genesis and Exodus are the Abrahamic covenant and the Mosaic covenant.

In Hebrews 8, the author makes it clear that a new covenant is at hand. The Mosaic covenant God made in the wilderness with the ancient Hebrews was now being replaced with a new covenant where Jesus Christ was the mediator. This was monumental to the ears of a Christian Jew at the time of Jesus. Their entire society functioned under the Law of Moses and the sacrificial system set up in the old covenant.

In chapter 9, there is a look back to the Tabernacle and specifically the Holy of Holies and comparing it to the throne room of God.

1. The key verse in Hebrews 9 is verse 22. What does it say and how does it answer the age-old question of why Jesus had to die?
2. Compare the Day of Atonement discussed in Hebrews 9:6-10 (also see Leviticus 16:6-9, 11,15-16) to Hebrews 9:11-14. What does the blood of Jesus offer that the blood of goats and calves did not?
3. Read Hebrews 9:15. What does this say about the work of the cross? On the cross, not long before His death, Jesus cried out, “It is finished”. What do you think He meant?
4. Read Hebrews 9:16-22. These verses argue the need for a person to die before his last will and testament is put into effect. Why do you think blood is so important to God? See Exodus 12:23. Leviticus 17:11.
5. Read Hebrews 9:23-28. What do these verses tell you about the value of the blood of Jesus Christ? Verse 26 says “But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.” What type of sin is being done away with?
6. The clear conscience that is promised through the blood and sacrifice of Jesus that was not available under the old covenant. Pray in your small group about any sin that your conscience continues to condemn you. Read Isaiah 44:22. What makes offenses and sin linger after we come to faith in Jesus Christ? How can that keep us from “serving the living God” (Hebrews 9:14b)? How does John 8:1-11 and John 8:32 apply here?

Prayer Merciful Father, you want nothing more than for your people to turn to you and know they are forgiven and redeemed. The Enemy, the devil, strives to keep God’s people in bondage to guilt and shame. The morning mist and the clouds are easily blown away by a mild wind. Bring the mighty wind of the Holy Spirit to blow and clear our consciences of the sin that can entangle us. We desire to serve the living God. Help us to grasp and embrace the freedom offered to each of us through the blood of Jesus. In His matchless name we pray. Amen.