

5 Day Devotional
August 23, 2026 AM Sermon
“Keeping the main thing, the main thing Pt. 4”

Day 1: The Debt You Cannot Pay

Reading: Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Isaiah 64:6

Devotional: Every person who has ever lived carries a spiritual debt they cannot settle on their own. Scripture is clear that all have sinned and fallen short of God's perfect standard. Our best efforts, our good intentions, our religious activity -- none of it is sufficient currency to purchase what only God can give. The prophet Isaiah described human righteousness as something utterly worthless before a holy God. This is not meant to discourage you. It is meant to strip away every false foundation you have been standing on so that you are left standing on the only foundation that holds -- the grace of Jesus Christ. Before you can receive a gift, you must first acknowledge that you need it. Sit with that today. Acknowledge the debt. Then look toward the One who paid it.

Application: Write down three things you have relied on besides Christ to make yourself feel spiritually acceptable. Surrender each one to God in prayer today, acknowledging that Christ alone is sufficient.

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Day 2: No Remission Without the Shedding of Blood

Reading: Hebrews 9:16-22; Leviticus 17:11; 1 Peter 1:18-19

Devotional: The ancient sacrificial system was not primitive religion. It was God's deliberate and precise object lesson pointing forward to the cross. Every animal that was slain on the altar, every drop of blood that was shed, every act of priestly service in the tabernacle was a shadow of something far greater coming. Hebrews 9 makes plain that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. God was not being harsh or arbitrary. He was being honest about the weight of sin and the cost of grace. What the blood of animals could only temporarily cover, the blood of Jesus Christ permanently removed. The cross was not a tragedy that God recovered from. It was the plan He purposed before the foundation of the world, executed in love, for sinners who deserved none of it.

Application: Spend time today meditating on what it cost God to forgive you. Let that reality move you toward genuine gratitude rather than casual familiarity with grace.

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Day 3: Christ Appears in the Presence of God -- For Us

Reading: Hebrews 9:24; Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34

Devotional: There is a truth tucked inside Hebrews 9:24 that deserves far more attention than it typically receives. Jesus Christ has entered into heaven itself -- not a copy, not a symbol, not a representation -- but the very throne room of God the Father. And the reason He is there, the Scripture says, is for us. He is not there simply to receive worship, though He is worthy of all of it. He is there actively making intercession on behalf of every person who belongs to Him. That means right now, in this moment, whatever you are carrying -- your failures, your fears, your unanswered prayers, your grief -- Jesus is presenting you before the Father. You are not forgotten. You are not on your own. You have an advocate in the highest place of all.

Application: Identify one specific prayer request you have been hesitant to bring to God, whether out of shame, doubt, or a sense that it is too small or too broken. Bring it today. Christ is already there on your behalf.

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Day 4: Sin Put Away -- Never to Be Raised Again

Reading: Hebrews 9:25-26; Psalm 103:11-12; Micah 7:19

Devotional: One of the most liberating truths in all of Scripture is that when God forgives sin, He puts it away completely. The language of Hebrews 9 carries the idea of something discarded, removed, never to be retrieved. Psalm 103 describes it as being as far as the east is from the west. Micah says God casts our sins into the depths of the sea. God is not keeping a record to use against you in a moment of weakness. He is not waiting for you to drift so He can remind you of what you used to be. The enemy will remind you. Your own memory will remind you. But God has put it away. The challenge for many believers is not whether God has forgiven them -- it is whether they have accepted that forgiveness and stopped returning to what has already been buried.

Application: If there is a specific sin or failure from your past that you continue to rehearse in your mind, write it on a piece of paper, pray over it, and physically discard it as a tangible act of accepting what Christ has already accomplished.

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Day 5: It Is Appointed -- Are You Ready?

Reading: Hebrews 9:27-28; 2 Corinthians 6:2; John 14:6

Devotional: Hebrews 9 closes with a sobering and certain reality. Every person will die, and after death comes judgment. There are no second chances beyond the grave, no additional opportunities, no alternate paths. But the same passage that contains this warning also contains this hope -- Christ will appear a second time, not to deal with sin again, but to bring full and final salvation to those who are waiting for Him. The question this passage forces every reader to answer is deeply personal. Not whether you have attended church, given generously, or lived a moral life -- but whether you have a genuine, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. That relationship is available to anyone, right now, regardless of history or background. Today is the day of salvation. Do not let it pass as though tomorrow is guaranteed.

Application: Have an honest conversation with God today about the state of your relationship with Him. If you have never truly surrendered your life to Christ, do so now. If you have grown complacent, recommit. If you are walking closely with Him, identify one person in your life who does not know Christ and commit to praying for them daily this week.