

Hebrews 9:1-15

“Eternal Redemption Obtained”

As is common throughout the pages of scripture when we come to a Ch break we have a tendency to equate that Ch break w/a subject break. But we need to realize that the original writers of scripture as the Holy Spirit was inspiring them didn't stop & say, “I think this would be a good place to insert a Ch reference point.” Things like Ch's & Vs were inserted much later so that we could search through the scriptures in a much easier fashion. But just because the Ch breaks doesn't always meant that the subject does.

& Such is the case regarding Ch's 8 & Ch 9 of the book of Hebrews. You recall that the writer had been comparing & contrasting the High Priesthood of Aaron (the 1st High Priest under the Levitical Law) w/the High Priesthood of Christ who served under a greater order, the order of Melchizedek. Now we're not going to rehearse again everything about the order of Melchizedek that was greater than the order of Aaron, I would simply refer you back to our studies in Heb 7. But suffice it to say Christ is a superior High Priest on every level & in every way. **But in the mix of comparing & contrasting the High Priesthood there's been a segue (or a transition) made into the differences regarding the old covenant by which God related to man through the priesthood of Aaron (the Levitical Law) Vs the new covenant by which God relates to man through the person (priesthood) & work of Christ (believing & receiving by grace through faith).**

& We've been recognizing the fact that there were faults, there were flaws w/the old covenant, because if that 1st covenant would've been faultless, then no place would've been sought for a 2nd, right? Now, the fault wasn't in the law, the law was holy & righteous & good, the fault was in man, who is unholy, unrighteous & corrupt. The 1st covenant was predicated upon man, the very 1st words of the old covenant? Ex 19:5, “*Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.*” **So right out of the shoot the responsibility of keeping the covenant was placed upon man, & they were quick to respond, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.”** Of course the problem was that they *didn't*, & so God said, (Vs 8 of Ch 8 quoting from Jeremiah 31), “**Behold the days are coming when I will make a new covenant...**” & He said, “This covenant won't be like the old covenant whereby it's based upon man's ability to keep *his* word, *his* ways, but rather *I will* put my laws in their minds & write them on their hearts, I will be their God, & they shall be My people.” & Over & over & over again God said about this new covenant, “I will, I will, I will...” but never once did the words, “...if you will” come out of His mouth. This covenant is a *better* covenant, established on *better* promises.

The old covenant was written upon tablets of cold stone, the new covenant would be engraved upon the warm tablet of the human heart. The old covenant directed man outwardly; the new covenant would deal w/man inwardly (the heart & mind). The old was concerned w/the rituals, w/regimen, the new w/intimacy, w/relationship w/God. The old covenant served as a continual *reminder* of sin, however by the new covenant God would *remember* our sin no more. The old covenant was unprofitable & weak; the new covenant is eternally beneficial & powerful. The old covenant *covered* man's sin by animal sacrifice, the new covenant completely *cleanses* man's sin through the sacrifice, the shed blood of J.C.

Now, I should say that regarding the OC, & the NC, that though the OC was weak don't think it didn't have an important place in God's plan; it absolutely did.

It wasn't as if God established this OC & then a # of centuries went by & He said, "Wow, it looks like this covenant isn't really working out, I'm going to have to try something new." No, it didn't work that way. There was a purpose behind the OC, & that purpose was to both demonstrate & declare to us our need for a Savior. "Here it is," God was saying, "Here are My righteous standards & stipulations, if you can fulfill them perfectly you can abide w/Me forever, but break even one part & you're guilty of sin & set to be separated from Me forever." & The idea there is, "I can't do it, there's no way I can do it even outwardly, much less have proper thoughts & intents inwardly, I need help, I need a someone to save me from the penalty that's due me." & In that mankind is strategically set to receive a Savior, because the question of personal righteousness is settled, we don't have it, can't even argue it, it's been proved out for millenniums. We're primed & poised/positioned to receive the new covenant, not based upon us & our ability, but based upon the Lord, & His ability. & When the NC was established, the OC was then obsolete, that's what Vs 13 of Ch 8 declared. & That's what happened when Jesus there at the last supper took the bread broke it & said, "This is My body" & we read, "*Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.'*" Matt 26:27-28

So this is the flow that we're falling back into as we approach Ch 9, covenant comparison, earthly service Vs heavenly service, the best a sinful man can produce Vs that which the sinless Man J.C. has produced.

Vs1-5

Perhaps you recall from Ch 8 Vs 5 how that the writer spoke of the service (or really that word could be rendered "worship") revolving around the earthly tabernacle took place in what was in reality a "copy" of the heavenly. In other words when Moses had the earthly tabernacle constructed it was fashioned after the temple in heaven. & Here the author says, "We're not going to go into detail regarding the articles found in the tabernacle but what I'm seeking to stress is that though the tabernacle was ordained & planned by God it was for *earthly* service." Now he's going to get around to the fact that Christ serves in the *heavenly* Holy of Holies which will only continue to underscore his already overwhelming case regarding the fact that in Christ we have a *Great High Priest*, who has received a *more excellent* ministry, being the Mediator of a *better* covenant which was established on *better* promises.

Now he didn't want to take the time to speak in detail about these things, we *will* for just a few minutes. We read in Vs 2 that a *tabernacle was prepared*. & If you would picture in your mind a rectangular type tent its 15' wide, its 45' long & its 15' high. It's divided into 2 rooms, the 1st room was 15'x 30', the 2nd room is a 15'x 15' square, & what divided the 2 rooms was a thick veil, it was a tapestry really & cherubim were woven into it, there were blues & purples & scarlet used in its weaving. & The 1st chamber (15x30) was called the Holy place, & the 2nd chamber beyond the veil was called the Most Holy Place or the Holy of Holies. Now as for the structure of the tabernacle it was boards of acacia wood 9" wide by 15' high & they were in a tongue & groove pattern overlaid w/gold set in sockets of silver & they had rings on them through which wood poles overlaid w/gold were ran through for added structural support. Now, over the tabernacle (as it's roof) was a covering of ram skins dyed red, over that was a covering of badger skins, so it looked on the outside like any other tent (perhaps a bit larger) but on the inside it was overwhelmingly beautiful. Then around the tabernacle was sort of a privacy fence again w/hangings of fine linen, bronze sockets, silver hooks & bands binding it together & it was about 75' wide by about 150' long & this was known as the outer courts.

When you walked into the outer courts you would see the bronze altar where the burnt offerings would take place, then there would be the bronze laver where the washing & cleansing would take place after the sacrifice. Then as the priest would enter into the holy place there on his left would be this menorah, the golden lampstand fashioned out of 1 solid piece of gold. & It was to be burning continually, it created light in the tabernacles (there were no windows) & as you know it had a center shaft w/3 branches off of each side making for a total of 7 wicks burning continually. On his right would be the table of show bread, about 3' high by 1 ½' square. & 12 loaves (more like flat bread each one representing one of the 12 tribes of Israel) would be continually on it, replaced fresh each Sabbath. Directly in front of the veil was the altar of incense, same size as the table of showbread (obviously fashioned a bit different) & each morning & evening the priest would burn incense upon it representing the prayers of the people being offered up to God.

On the other side of that veil was the ark of the covenant containing the tablets of the 10 commandments, a golden pot of manna, & Aaron's rod that budded. On top of the ark was the lid known as the Mercy Seat w/the 2 cherubim outstretched over it, looking down upon it where the blood of the sin offering would be sprinkled on behalf of the nation on that 1 day of the yr, that great day known as Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

So there was all this beautiful artistic architecture & tapestries, articles of furniture, & it was all used in the earthly service, the earthly worship. But it all meant something, it all looked forward to the person & work of J.C. We'll see in Vs 9 the word "symbolic" literally it's the word "parable" & we know that a parable is a practical picture tossed alongside a spiritual truth in order to bring understanding to a particular principle. So in reality the tabernacle was a giant parable, a picture of the person & work of J.C. it was teaching the people the principles that His ministry fulfilled practically. Things like sin demands payment, a sacrifice, the shedding of blood, things like there's cleansing available through sacrifice, the bronze altar pointing to the cross where the ultimate sin offering would be made. The bronze laver where the cleansing would happen pointing to the cleansing power of His Word, as you entered the tabernacle & saw the lampstand of course we know that Jesus said that He was the light of the world & that whoever followed Him would not walk in darkness. The table of showbread speaking of God's desired fellowship w/us (Jesus being the bread of life) & the fact that it was replaced weekly showing that He doesn't desire that relationship to become stale but to remain fresh. Of course the altar of incense pointing to the intercessory work on our behalf.

Now, last week we spoke of the ark of the covenant & its contents showing how that in Christ the law was fulfilled, again the manna pointing to the bread of life, the rod that budded foreshadowing the resurrection, out of death sprang life. It all points to Jesus, but when God looked down into that ark what did *He* see? The law, a reminder of Israel's failure to keep it, the pot of manna, a testimony of their ungratefulness, their murmuring & complaining about God's provision, & the rod; a memoir of Korah's rebellion. Failure, complaining, & rebellion, but check it out, what was placed on top of the ark? The Mercy seat; that place where the blood was applied & forgiveness was administered, & looking down *onto* as if desiring to have an understanding *into* that transaction, the cherubim. Remember what Peter said, "*Of this salvation (the blood applied & forgiveness administered) the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.*"

To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things which angels desire to look into.” & There on the Mercy Seat, the cherubim, desiring to look into this transaction of forgiveness when the blood is applied over rebellion, ingratitude, & failure.

That’s our story; failure, rebellion, ingratitude, that’s what God sees in us, yet when we’re *in Christ*, when His mercy is upon us, by His blood being applied *to us*, God doesn’t see those things anymore, you might say His view is obstructed, He administers forgiveness, imputes Christ’s righteousness, & that’s where He meets us, & has fellowship w/us. Through our Mercy Seat J.C. Every detail of the tabernacle was to show *to them*, & share w/them the ministry, the work, & the sacrifice of J.C. Even down to those sockets of silver that the boards overlaid w/gold were placed into, as you well know silver in the scriptures is the metal of what? Redemption, Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of what? Silver, it was all a picture of the person & work of Christ.

But what happens when you take the picture, & elevate it above the person? We call that *idolatry*, yet that’s exactly what happened w/the temple in Israel, these things that were meant to show them the Messiah, became their focus *instead of* the Messiah. So much to the extent that the Jews taught that if one was to swear by the temple that was considered blasphemy. & It’s like the writer is seeking to shake some sense into them, “Hey, that temple, it’s service, the rituals of worship had to do w/the *old* covenant, it’s obsolete, we’re now under a *new* covenant, a more excellent ministry, a better covenant established on better promises.” You see all those rituals had to do w/the way one would worship God, he’s saying that we no longer approach Him, or worship Him, through ritual, through regimen, through legal do’s & don’ts or animal sacrifice.
Vs6

Question; why did the priest *always* go into the 1st part of the tabernacle? Because they never finished the job, they could go in today, & tomorrow they’d have to repeat the service, & the next day, & the next day. & The very nature of their repetitious service should’ve served as sufficient evidence of the inadequacy & the inability of the sacrifices they were offering to deal w/the sin issue, the sin problem. Because should payment be made in full, no more sacrifices would’ve been necessary. Look at it like this. If I owe thousands of dollars worth of credit debt, I may satisfy the monthly minimum as long as I’m continuing to make that payment. But I’ll never pay it off because I don’t have the cash, I’m merely making the minimum required installment. But should someone w/sufficient resources come along & slap down the full amount owed, guess what...my payments will stop, it’s paid in full I owe them no more. Now, they don’t care if I pay it, or a substitute pays on my behalf as long as they get their payment. & In like manner God was willing to receive the payment from a Substitute, however the illustration breaks down because they allow it for selfish reasons (they want their money). God allows it for selfless reasons, because He wants you & me free from the sin debt not being willing that any should perish, but that we by the goodness of God might be drawn to repentance. & So Christ made the payment, & He made it perfectly, so it only needed to be made once.

But these acts of service, again the word there is more accurately rendered “worship” & the reason that I point that out is because I want you to realize that worship & service go together like hand in glove. We worship God because of His “Worth” it’s “worthship” He’s worthy to receive our worship. & Real worship (not just a song service) always leads to service. There in the midst of the temptation of Christ in the wilderness, Satan tempting Him, you recall Jesus said to him...

“*Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’*”^{Matt 4:10} Often time’s people will ask me why we don’t really urge the people to be involved around here beyond a simple announcement in the bulletin. I don’t really feel compelled to beg people to serve the Lord. Because if people will learn to truly worship God, they’ll naturally desire to *serve* God. So if people aren’t serving, I don’t question their salvation...but how can one help but question the level of intimacy & time of true worship spent unto the Lord, because service is a natural overflow of worship. & That comes through Christ, not my coaxing or goading or begging people to give, or be involved or whatever. The OC didn’t lead people into God’s presence, only the High Priest got that privilege & even at that only once a year.

Vs7-8

So the High Priest alone went into the Most Holy Place, 1 day a yr, the great day of atonement & not w/out blood...why? Because God had said, “*For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.*”^{Lev 17:11} I can’t explain it, don’t pretend to exactly understand it, but that’s what God’s word says about it. So he didn’t enter the Holy of Holies w/out the blood of the sacrifice, & the reason it was for sins committed in ignorance was because it’s assumed that you would deal w/the known sins through the ritual sacrifices throughout the yr. But I’m going to tell you that there are all kinds of sins we commit everyday that we don’t even know about, they’re called “sins of ignorance.” But sin is sin, & “ignorance of the law is no excuse.” & There are sins of commission, doing things we shouldn’t, & there are sins of omission, not doing things we should. Who here spends enough time in worship of God everyday? Who here makes a conscious effort to reflect Christ to the world around them 24/7, who here has given God enough thanks, or honored His name adequately? We commit sins of ignorance all the time, we’re way worse sinners than we even know. So the High Priest would enter 1 day a yr...& Even at that it was really for fellowship & intimacy, he tread in that place very lightly.

Why? Because he was about to become face to face w/a holy God & if he was found impure, w/sin in his life not dealt w/properly he’d be struck dead! So believe me when I tell you that he got in there, got his business done as reverently, yet as quickly as he possibly could. But as long as that veil was there it was sending a very clear signal to mankind that open access to God was not available. It was radically restricted to 1 man, 1 day a yr & it was a short order of business. Now I’m jumping a bit ahead of the text here but since there wasn’t a sufficient sacrifice for sin, man couldn’t come into the presence of God, to really commune w/God. But what happened when Jesus died on the cross? Matt’s gospel tells us that the veil in the temple was torn, not from the bottom to the top as though man might have done it, but from the top to the bottom. God Himself indicating that a sufficient sacrifice had been made, & that *anyone* could come into His presence at *anytime* through Christ. You see even that veil pointed to Christ, His flesh, His body that was torn, broken for you & me that we might have access to God *through* Him. He’s the way, He’s the truth, & He’s the life, no one comes *to* the Father except *through* Him, He is our way into the Holy of Holies.

Vs9-10

The idea here being that even though it had an outward appearance of spirituality (foods, drinks, various washings, & fleshly ordinances) it was of no value against the indulgence of the flesh. Or to understand that another way, these things may’ve *conformed* a man outwardly, but they did nothing to *transform* them inwardly. He says it was “symbolic” “parabolic” it was painting a picture of the work of Christ.

He says, “Even the priest himself who’s performing these things isn’t cleansed in regard to his conscience through doing these things...” The idea being how much less the one he’s doing it for? & The thought behind the conscience is that inward work. **Christ deals w/a person’s inner man, the heart, the conscience, that’s not to say our conscience can’t be defiled, or seared, somehow callused through sin. & If you’ve been hardened by sin, perhaps you watch things now that you’d have never even considered a couple yrs ago but now they don’t even raise an eyebrow, confess it, repent of it, let Christ renew & restore, tenderize your conscience through the work of the Spirit once again.**

Vs11-12

Jesus doesn’t minister in the earthly temple, but in the one after which it was modeled, in the original heavenly tabernacle, not made w/man’s hands. & He didn’t administer the blood of bulls or goats, or calves, but w/His own precious blood He entered the Holy of Holies of Heaven, once for all (having made payment in full) having obtained *eternal* (that is never to be paid again) redemption. **Those priests sacrificed dozens, hundreds of animals a day, only to repeat it everyday, the High Priest dealt w/the sins of ignorance every yr, yr after yr, the payment only covering & only temporarily. But Christ only offered Himself once, (for all) & His blood did more that *cover sin temporally, it cleansed sin eternally.***

Vs13-14

The point is obvious, he’s demonstrating the superior sacrifice of Christ, an animal can’t represent a man, yet if God in His mercy would allow a sin covering under the OC through the sacrifice of bulls & goats. How much more under the NC is the blood of Christ (who was in every way w/out spot or blemish) going to cleanse you of all your sin, cleanse you from dead works to serve the Living God? & Again pointing out the eternal nature of Christ means His sacrifice is eternal, it’s a forever done deal.

& When he speaks of Christ as being w/out spot, it’s another way of saying He had no sin nature. W/out spot meaning no inward flaws or deficiencies, “w/out blemish” meaning no outward flaws. No broken bones, no flaws or faults. Now that doesn’t mean He was this glowing figure of beauty, He was very average in appearance just like you & me. Remember the tabernacle, beautiful on the inside, but very average looking on the outside, so to w/Christ. He had no form or comeliness that we should desire Him, He wasn’t an object of lust. But He was perfect, physically flawless, inwardly sinless. & His sacrifice is sufficient to cleanse our conscience (inwardly) from dead works, to serve the Living God.

I’m certain that his reference to dead works is the works of the law, but in reality before we come to Christ that’s all we have to offer (dead works). Because we’re dead in sin & trespasses, & I’ve never seen a dead man offer a living work...But in Christ we’re made alive, cleansed of dead works, free to serve the Living God.

Vs15

The basic meaning being that before Christ, God saved on credit. When people came to God in faith, offered those sacrifices according to the Law, God saw that & acknowledged it. Their sin was still there, but it was covered, like sweeping dirt under a throw rug, it’s there, but it’s covered. **But when Christ came His sacrifice made for the redemption, the deliverance of sin & transgression of those under the OC who had come to God & believed upon God by faith. God saved them by faith looking forward, He saves us by faith looking back, but the sin question (either way) is settled in Christ.**

& It's settled forever, did you catch that as we made our way through? Vs 12 "...w/His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained *eternal* redemption." Vs 14, "how much more shall the blood of Christ who through the *eternal* Spirit offered Himself w/out spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the Living God?" & Vs 15, "...that those who are called may receive the promise of the *eternal* inheritance." What's he trying to say? That J.C. has settled the sin situation for all who trust in Him, forever, the life that He gives...is everlasting.

If you've not come to Christ your sin situation isn't settled, it's very unsettled, & that should be unsettling to you. You're not here by chance, you're here by Divine appointment because God wants you to know Him, & to make Him known. & He's reaching out to you in the person of J.C. today, you can come to God through Christ, your sin can be forever cleansed, all you have to do is surrender. There's nothing you need to do, just trust in what Christ has done, open your heart & ask Jesus to make your heart, His home.

Prayer Points:

Lord God we're so thankful for the comfort of Your Word. & We realize that faith comes by hearing, & hearing by the Word of God, & so we pray that Your word would work *in* us, increasing our trust, our confidence in You, forgive us when we fail You, we fail to trust You, give us a heart of worship, Lord that we might serve You more.