

# Life is in the Blood

HVFC

July 27, 2025

Jesus is Better Series

Hebrews 9:16-28

What week...

I know we have all said that at some point, but lately every day feels like a full week worth of experiences.

As many of you know, Makiah is moving to Phoenix to start college, and my wife really needed to know where she was going to be and see the area, she was sending her daughter to. Me, I wanted some good food...!

Knowing that, I took Autumn and Makiah to Phoenix to visit the college and get a tour. We purchased some cheap Allegiant Air tickets, flying out of Bozeman. And the trip was three days. Day one we fly down, day two we visit, day three we fly back.

Another purpose was to get some of her stuff moved down before the big move. So we packed up a couple of suitcases, and as I was loading them into the car on Wednesday morning, I set my phone down to lift the loaded bags and set it heavily down in the car, right on my phone. And I nailed it. Not dead center, but in accordance with how I shoot my guns, dead center and a little high. Smashed the camera and speaker right at the tip top of the phone. And we fly in 4 hours from Bozeman. So I turned it off and put it in my bag. Small problem, it had all my information on hotel, rental car, confirmation numbers, boarding pass, and all of that. But we made it, had a good time, man was it hot... the car kept saying 110, 111, 112 outside temp. It must have been malfunctioning because going to dinner in the evening, it was reading 99,98. I never saw it below 95. However when you stepped out of the car, the dry sauna heat wave confirmed it was not malfunctioning.

Needless to say, it was a hard busy week, and also a great time.

Now that you are all caught up, let's turn our attention to Hebrews chapter 9. If you have been reading chapters 8 & 9, they are different than the opening 7 chapters. The author is really focusing in on the details of the Old Covenant worship and showing how Jesus fulfilled all the practices used by Moses. He is teaching that everything Moses established was based on what Jesus has done. Moses set up the copy, Jesus was the original vision.

And that continues this morning. Over the past several weeks my sermons have focused on accessing God.

I feel the focus is changing as the writer continues to give deeper meaning into what would have been a common sight for all of them.

Turn with me to Hebrews 9 and we will start reading in verse 16.

Hebrews 9:16-18, 28

16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

18 Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood.

28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

NKJV

Let's pray.

As I begin this morning my mind is turned to Jesus sitting at the table during the last supper, having just finished the chosen season, where He shares communion with the disciples. Yes, I am aware of the many opinions about the series, you are entitled to them, and I am entitled to mine.

The reason also is our passage starts with a fulfilment of Jesus words when he took the cup that night.

He said "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you." (Luke 22:20)

Jesus came to fulfill the Old Covenant, the temporary covenant. And by fulfilling it, he proclaimed on the cross "It is finished". What was finished was the fulfilment of the Old Covenant and the promise to provide forgiveness for sin.

Maybe you have wrestled with this thought, I know I have talked to many who have, but they ask the question, why did he have to die? If only Judas had not betrayed him? Jesus could have done so much more...

Questions or thoughts along these lines.

Yet without his death, nothing would have changed for us.

Jesus said this is a new covenant in my blood. A covenant could only be legitimized with a death. We don't make covenants like they used to, so the meaning often gets lost for us. The New Living translation paints it in the way we would understand today.

Hebrews 9:16-17

16 Now when someone leaves a will, it is necessary to prove that the person who made it is dead.

17 The will goes into effect only after the person's death. While the person who made it is still alive, the will cannot be put into effect.

NLT

What Jesus was beginning required a death and an offering of blood.

How many of you get squeamish with the sight of blood?

Blood doesn't bother me, but I will say, large pools of blood bother me a little. I have only experienced while hunting. I have a feeling that a pool of human blood would really mess with me.

Have you ever wondered why blood bothers us so much?

Spurgeon writing about this speculates blood bothers us so much because we recognize in it the destruction of life. Most quote the scripture without knowing they do when they say that life is in the blood.

I learned something this week I feel like I have known but never put words to.

God claims blood as his special possession. It has a purpose: life.

In Genesis 9 and Leviticus 7 the Israelites are commanded not to eat the blood.

And in Leviticus 17 we are given more.

Leviticus 17:11, 14

14 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.'

14 for it is the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life.

NKJV

Blood is life, for the flesh, and for our Spirit.

Let me explain what I mean about blood is life for our spirit.

In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve sinned knowing the command from Genesis 2:17- the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and not eating it, knowing that in the day you eat of it you will surely die.

Now we all know that when they ate, acted in disobedience, they did not die physically, they died spiritually. And would eventually die physically. God, using blood, the life of the flesh, made a substitute for man to be able to live until a true offering of human blood could be made for the atonement of sin.

A commentator explained it like this.

The idea seems to be that the life of man is forfeited to Divine justice, and so blood, representing life, must be offered instead of his life for atonement.

The next passage affirms how important this fact is, saying that even the temporary covenant requires blood to fulfill its function of rolling sin forward until Jesus.

Let's continue to read in verse 18 of Hebrews 9.

Hebrews 9:18-20

18 That is why even the first covenant was put into effect with the blood of an animal.

19 For after Moses had read each of God's commandments to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, along with water, and sprinkled both the book of God's law and all the people, using hyssop branches and scarlet wool.

20 Then he said, "This blood confirms the covenant God has made with you."

NLT

Moses applied life to the covenant, the book of the law, and the people by sprinkling blood over them.

Life is in the blood.

The only problem is the blood was of calves and goats. It was not sufficient to remove sin. God's divine justice required that the one responsible for sin pay with their own blood. Eye for an Eye type of justice. So cow and goat blood didn't work completely.

Because verse 22 says that nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin.

One would think that God enjoyed sacrifice, as much as he required it in the law. Yet many OT scriptures say the opposite.

We all remember Saul and Samuel, Saul fought the battle and was commanded to kill everything, people, animals, everything. But Saul returned with the best people for slaves, and animals for sacrifice (really eating) and Samuel rebukes him and says it is better to obey than to sacrifice.

Micah writes about what God doesn't want from us.

Mic 6:6-7

6 With what shall I come before the Lord, And bow myself before the High God?  
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

NKJV

He is the God of life. God does not enjoy death. Death is the result of sin and this is why God hates sin.

God allowed the blood, the life giving liquid of humanity to be used to forgive sin.

But he needed better blood. Divine blood.

Hebrews 9:23-24

23 That is why the Tabernacle and everything in it, which were copies of things in heaven, had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals.

24 For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf.

NLT

Jesus, born of a woman, divine in spirit, lived a perfect sinless life, unblemished and unmarred by sins taint; was obedient to God, and went to the cross, an undeserved death, that was willingly given and laid down his life in my place and poured out his blood to satisfy God's divine justice for my sin.

Jesus gave us a new covenant according to his divine, sufficient, life-giving blood. If you continue reading it says that he did this once and for all. He will never return to shed more blood for sin.

There is a popular line of theological thought that Jesus came and shed his blood only for those who would believe. He didn't waste his blood, every drop shed was for the sins of one who would believe. How I see it, it says sin was so big and so bad, Jesus couldn't cover all sins. But scripture doesn't do accumulative style accounting.

When I sin, it doesn't matter if I cheat, lie, steal, fornicate, murder, or worship idols, I am guilty of all of them. To sin in one area, is to sin in all areas. James 2:10 teach us this, if I have broken a law, I am guilty of breaking all the law.

Now I see it sin is not accumulative.

I see Jesus's work as the same. He doesn't come and do piece meal work. Jesus didn't just come and remove 40% of the world's sin, his salvation isn't based on individual sin.

Hebrews 9:26b

But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice.

NLT

His death has paid sins debt for all time, all people, past, present and future. He has dealt with sin.

His blood has given us life, unlike the blood of cows and goats. Jesus's blood brings forgiveness of sin and removes its stain from us.

Isaiah 43:25

"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.

NKJV

The life-giving power of the blood of Jesus has dealt with sin.

Stand with me this morning as I close.

Hebrews 9 closes out with a great passage, one that changed my view of his Second coming.

Hebrews 9:28



also Christ died once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

NLT

I have thought it many times, man I can't wait until Jesus comes back and deals with all these sinful people. It is usually regarding someone who has gravely offended my sense of morals by killing, raping, torturing, hurting other people. But Jesus isn't coming back to deal with sin.

Jesus is returning to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him. He is coming back for us, his Bride, the church.

Sin has been removed to all those who call on the name of the Lord and place their faith in Him.

I would be remised if I didn't ask, but is there anyone here who has not asked Jesus to be their Lord and savior and forgive their sins? Jesus came and laid his life down so that you might live eternally with him.

For the rest of us, this is a call to action for us.

Jesus is coming back for those who have experienced his salvation and forgiveness. We all know family, friends, acquaintances that would go to hell if Jesus came back today. Are we being a light for those who are lost on the sea of life?

This morning let's pray for whoever the Holy Spirit puts on your mind, and pray for them this week.

Let's Pray.