



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

*Week of January 1, 2022*

**Sermon:** "Christ, the Heart of Worship"

**Text:** Hebrews 9:1-14

## SUMMARY

In Hebrews 9:1-10, the writer shows us that even though the worship practices of the OT came from God with a prescribed place (tabernacle) and means (ritual purity through sacrifice / law), the resulting worship would always end up deficient because the “gifts and sacrifices offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper.” Worship that issues from the law is self-terminating and results in dead works, because the law can temporarily make for clean hands, but it could never purify the heart.

Because God always provides for what he requires in worship, Jesus Christ as high priest has entered into “the greater and more perfect tent... once for all into the holy places... by means of his own blood.” The finished work of Christ secured for us an eternal redemption and a purified conscience in our union with Christ. Our worship can be as Jesus taught the woman at the well, “in spirit and truth.”

## FOR GROUPS

What is the meaning / purpose of worship?

Where can we identify worship taking place in our culture?

What cultural forms of worship are you prone toward?

The law is still standing, or still has standing, in our worship when we make our outward actions, our self-righteous works, the means by which we worship God and the grounds by which God accepts us or is pleased with us. How might this be present in your life?

What “gift” have you tried offering God in worship hoping that he will repay you, quid pro quo (Romans 11:35)?

Describe “the good things that have come” in your worship life through Christ’s finished work on the cross.

How are you experiencing and enjoying the purifying of your conscience through the blood of Christ?

In the new year, what good works and acts of worship will you offer to God in worship, and how will you do so by means of the finished work of Christ?