

# GREATER THAN

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

HEBREWS

9:1-14

## THE OLD AND NEW

**1**Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.

**2**For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place.

**3**Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies,

**4**having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant;

**5**and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

**6**Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship,

**7**but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.

**8**The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing,

**9**which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience,

**10**since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

**11**But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;

**12**and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

**13**For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh,

**14**how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?



# DIGGING IN

Read Hebrews 9:1-14

## DISCUSS

- What In what ways did the tabernacle aid worship?
- How do we worship God today?
- Without looking, what was in the outer tabernacle?
- Without looking, what is behind the veil?
- Can you remember the significance of each of these?
- What did the priests have to do before entering the outer tabernacle?
- What did the priests do in the holy place? Where were sacrifices offered?
- When could they go in to the holy place? Who could go in? What did he do there?
- What sins was he making atonement for? (the ones committed in ignorance since willful sins should have been dealt with already)
- Do we commit sins in ignorance? Any examples? What should we do about this?
- What does verse 8 mean?
- Why can the sacrifices offered not fully restore the guilty party's conscience?
- What does the "time of reformation" in verse 10 refer to?
- What two thoughts does the "but" serve to highlight the contrast between? (see verse 11)
- What are the good things that are to come?
- What is this tabernacle that is not made with hands?
- What place did He enter?
- What did He do? What was His mission? What did He accomplish?
- Explain the logical flow of thought in verses 13-14 about the goat's blood and the blood of Christ.
- What is conscience? What does a conscience do? Is conscience always right or can it be shaped by our environment? If it can be shaped, how can we shape our conscience so that it is "tuned" correctly?
- Should parents shape their children's consciences? Why or why not? If so, how?
- What is the purpose of having a clean conscience? Do you ever ignore your conscience? What do you think will happen if you keep ignoring it?