



Message Series Guide

Nothing Greater

Part 8 – Old verses New

Hebrews 9:1-14, 27-28

We have all experienced guilt and shame on some level. Maybe we did something that wasn't exactly honest, and later regretted it. Maybe we said some words to someone out of anger or frustration and wished we could take those words back. Perhaps we've not been the best parent, spouse or friend, and so we carry the burden of guilt with us. Sometimes we can resolve our guilt by apologizing or making amends with those we've wronged. However, in some cases the damage is so permanent or the hurt so deep that we end up carrying the guilt for a very long time. When guilt is not resolved, it grows into shame. And shame drives down deep into the kind of person we believe we are. In Hebrews 9:1-14, the author explains that the blood of Jesus actually did something with our guilt and shame that the Old Covenant could never accomplish. The blood of Jesus replaced our guilt and shame with purity, loving service and abundant life.

READ:

Hebrews 9:1-14, 27-28 | Exodus 25:9; 26:1-37 | Ephesians 2:17-22 | I Corinthians 6:18-20

- What does it mean that God is “holy”? How did that impact the worship of God in the Old Testament?
- Why would a particular building or tent have been necessary to establish as a “earthly place of holiness” set apart from the people? What does the veil (curtain), the pieces of furniture and the layout of the tabernacle communicate about the holiness of God?
- In what part of the tabernacle did the “presence of God” reside? Who was allowed to enter into the Holy of Holies? What was inside the Holy of Holies? What did the High Priest do in the Holy of Holies?
- Why would God require the shedding of blood before coming into His presence? What is this designed to communicate? How did the tabernacle and its contents foreshadow the coming Messiah?

DISCUSS:

- How did Jesus' sacrifice fulfill more perfectly and totally the purpose of the Old Covenant tabernacle?
- How does Jesus' work on the cross make entering into God's holiness possible for us? How does this passage confront the popular belief that there are multiple ways to God?
- When it came to our guilt and shame, what were the weaknesses of the sacrificial system?
- How does faith in Jesus as the perfect sacrifice actually have better effects than the old system?
- What does it mean that the blood of Christ purifies our conscience from dead works to serve the living God? How does the blood of Christ replace our guilt and shame?

PRAY:

In what ways do you carry guilt and shame with you today? Pray for a deeper belief in the power of the gospel and Christ's blood that replaced your guilt and shame with purity, loving service and abundant life.

RESPOND:

How might a deeper appreciation for the power of the gospel affect your daily walk with God right now? How can you cultivate a deeper grasp of God's holiness and the power of the gospel?