

“JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO...” SERIES

A MORE PERFECT TABERNACLE NOT MADE WITH HANDS

HEBREWS 9:11-14

11But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ESV

Introduction

A woman once wrote that at a garage sale she had spotted a handsome antique copper kettle for only \$2.50. It was badly tarnished, so she asked the woman running the sale if the discoloration would come out.

She cheerfully offered to try some copper cleaner on it and disappeared with it into the house. Reappearing with the gleaming kettle, she handed it to the buyer for inspection. It was indeed a more attractive item, plus it also had a new tag attached. It read: "Like new-\$10."

It is interesting that when the copper kettle was laying along with all the other stuff, it's owner was eager to sell it at rock-bottom prices. But a little elbow-grease changed its worth. Cleaning up the old pot made it more valuable? Looking at the price difference, a simple cleaning increased the price of the pot by 4 times.

Almost everything IS more valuable once it has been washed and cleaned up - and so it is with us.

The Bible tells us we are stained with sin. The guilt and shame of our past behavior takes away our value Romans 3:23 tells us “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”.

Of an important note is this:

Some things must not change. The Christian faith cannot be written afresh to match the moods of every culture and age, nor must it ever forget its roots in the Old

Testament. So the words of Hebrews 9:22 remain unalterable truth—there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. All the temple sacrifices proclaimed this loud, clear, and consistently. The cross of Calvary announced the perfect fulfilment of these, and the one common factor among all who enter heaven is that they have been cleansed through the blood of Christ¹

But for the Hebrews, everything was changing and for many, it was a terrible struggle to stay in the religion of all that they knew and what their families had practiced for generation after generation.

The sacrificial system had its foundation on Mount Sinai when God gave the requirements to Moses. But sacrifice in honor of God was found when Cain and Able gave their sacrifices to the Lord.

The sacrificial offerings in the Law were ritual. There were five types of sacrifice: burnt. Meal, peace, sin and trespass offerings. Each one had its requirements and restrictions.

1. The Burnt Offering was wholly consumed on the altar. This was done to atone for the people's sins against the Lord. This was a temporary offering...it would be offered again.
2. The Meal Offering was cereals, vegetables in addition to animals. A portion of the offering was burnt and the rest was eaten by the priests. This was a temporary offering...it would be offered again.
3. The Peace Offering was shared with God, the priests and at times other worshipers. This was a praise offering. This was a temporary offering...it would be offered again.
4. The Sin Offering was for unintentional faults against the Lord. This was a temporary offering...it would be offered again.
5. The Trespass Offering was like the sin offering except that it was an offering of money. This was a temporary offering...it would be offered again.

11But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)

12he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

This offering by Jesus was an “eternal” offering. It never had to be offered again.

13For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14how much more will the blood of

¹ Hacking, P. H. (2006). *Opening up Hebrews* (p. 54). Leominster: Day One Publications.

Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Conclusion

In researching this sermon on the Internet, I ran across one site sponsored by an atheist who mocked the very idea that blood could clean anything.

As harsh as the atheist's arguments may have been, he raised a reasonable question: how could blood remove grime from our souls, when blood itself is a stain producing agent and can ruin many of the things it comes in contact with?

As I thought about this question, my mind drifted to thinking about the many soaps and cleansers I have in my home. There are mild soaps for washing our hands and our dishes. We can use them for just about anything. But there are stains that are more difficult, which require stronger detergents and abrasives.

The stronger the cleanser, the more damage it will do to materials it wasn't meant to clean.

The Bible tells us the most powerful cleansing agent in the world is blood.

In fact, God created blood to be a cleansing agent. In your body blood takes oxygen and other supplies TO cells AND REMOVES waste and impurities from those cells. Blood literally cleans out the filth from your body. That is one of its major responsibilities. There is NO OTHER cleansing agent known to man that can purify our bodily system as well as the blood that courses thru our veins.

So also there is no other cleansing agent known to man that can rid your soul of its filth and shame than the Blood of Jesus.

But I am here today to proclaim the greatest truth in the history of man. No matter what you have done. No matter where you have been. Jesus has paid the price to "clean up your life."

Bob Crowder