

## “JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO...” SERIES

### THE DEATH OF THE TESTATOR

#### HEBREWS 9:15-22

*<sup>15</sup> Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. <sup>16</sup> For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. <sup>17</sup> For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. <sup>18</sup> Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. <sup>19</sup> For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, <sup>20</sup> saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” <sup>21</sup> And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. <sup>22</sup> Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. ESV*

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#### Introduction

We left off last week with the declaration:

Hebrews 9:13-14 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

#### The Last Will and Testament

We are all familiar with a will. A will or testament is a legal declaration of how a person’s (or testator’s) properties are to be settled upon their death.

In order for a will to be legal, it must be written by the person in question and attested to by witnesses, without an interest in his or her estate.

The contents of the will lists the name of the testator, an executor or mediator, who is to carry out the wishes of person named in the will, the heirs and instructions of how the will is be carried out.

Linda and I have a will. We wrote it in our own hands and it is in a lockbox. Interestingly, the will is of no value until the death of one of us. The Last Will and Testament never goes into effect until the death of the testator.

In today's passage, we have some legalese concerning God's Last Will and Testament. Since God is eternal, this Last Will and Testament concerns what happens when you breathe your last breath.

### Jesus is the Testator of the Will

In this case, Jesus is the testator and his heirs are TBD, to be determined. His Last Will and Testament qualifies who will receive the inheritance of eternal life.

The will can include those who will qualify for being heirs and those excluded from the will.

The Apostle Paul wrote as much to the brethren at Corinth.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia:

Galatians 4:1-7 Now I say, *That* the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Here we have the inclusion and exclusion of heirs for God's Last Will and Testament.

The emphatic question of the day, no the question of eternity is, "on which side do you fall in Jesus' will?" Are you included or excluded?

The rules of righteous living were written in stone with God's own finger. Anyone who kept the commands could be included in the inheritance.

Then, the Holy Spirit spoke through Moses to write down rules that would allow anyone who unintentionally broke the commands to be forgiven.

God affirmed the covenant in front of witnesses. It is binding and many times conditional.

Just a few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of officiating at the weddings of my son and later my grandson. It is always interesting to me that the husband and wife have given verbal vows of love and commitment and yet, they do not sign the marriage license; the witnesses sign it. Typically, the best man signs as a representative of the groom, and the maid of honor signs as a representative of the bride.

For God's Last Will and Testament, chosen priests signed as the representative of God, sprinkling the tabernacle, the furnishings, and the people with the blood.

However the first covenant was proven ineffective for purifying people from sin, so a new covenant was given.

Jesus, God become a man, declared that righteousness was based on faith and not on dead religious practices.

The New Covenant was not signed with the blood of sacrificial animals, but through the shed blood of the Lamb of God. Jesus Christ signed it with his own blood.

### The Death of the Testator

Emmanuel has shed His blood for the New Covenant. The will is now ready to be read.

Only the Father knows when the Will is to be read...

Unless the Rapture happens first, death comes to all of us. Later in this chapter, the writer says:

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Therefore, all will die...then the reading of God's Last Will and Testament will be read for you. You will either be included or excluded for the will.

### Conclusion:

God's last will and testament was written thousands of years ago in a collection of books called the Bible.

God's desire is that everyone becomes His child and heir. He sent His Son Jesus Christ as the required sacrifice and to be the testator. Eternal life awaits His heirs.

Each of you are at a crossroads today. You will leave this service in one of two categories. 1) you are an heir of God and eligible to receive the inheritance supplied by the Gospel. 2) you reject God's offer of eternal life and are therefore excluded from the Last Will and Testament of God.

*Bob Crowder*