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THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Hebrews 9:11-22

Introduction: Are Christians obsessed with blood?

I. The Need for Christ's Blood: Why Did Jesus Have to Die at All? (v.15-22)

- A. A Person Has to Die for a "Will" to Go into Effect (v.15-17)
 - o The term for "will" is the same term for "covenant"—the author is drawing an analogy between the two
 - Just as the inheritance of an earthly will come only when a person dies, so the benefits of the new covenant come only when Jesus dies.
 - "So that those who are called may receive the promised inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them" (v.15)
 - o As believers we are viewed as the "heirs" of Christ and the recipients of a great inheritance!
- B. Without Shedding of Blood There is No Forgiveness (18-22)
 - o Two Foundational Principles of the Bible (v.22)
 - Our Sin is a bigger deal than we think: the punishment for it is death (Gen 2:17)
 - God is more holy than we think: Every single sin ever committed, all of them, will be punished by God—either a person pays for their sins or Christ pays for their sins. But God must punish sin!

**The gospel is only glorious good news when these are both true. Lowering them only diminishes the finished work of Christ!
 - o Thus, the Entire OT Sacrificial System Focused on the Need for Blood (v.18-21)
 - The blood of OT sacrifices was sprinkled everywhere as a reminder of the cost of sin
 - And we still focus on blood in the New Covenant
 - At the Last Supper Jesus said, "This is my blood of the covenant" (Matt 26:28)
 - Exact same wording of Moses, "This is the blood of the covenant" (Heb 9:20)
- C. Key point: The Cross is a Picture of the High Price of Sin!



II. The Superiority of Christ's Blood: What Makes it Better? (v.11-14)

- A. Christ's Blood Was "Sprinkled" in the *Real* Holy of Holies (v.11-12a)
 - o The earthly tent/tabernacle was simply a picture of God's ultimate dwelling in heaven
 - o Jesus presents his sacrifice in the very presence of God himself
- B. Christ's Blood Was from a Perfect Person (v.12b-14)
 - o Note the contrast: "Not by means of the blood of goats and calves, but by the means of his *own* blood" (v.12b)
 - o "Christ. . . offered *himself* without blemish" (v.14)
 - o Christ offered his blood "through the eternal Spirit" (v.14), pointing toward his divine status—He is both man and God!
- C. Key Point: Whose Blood are You Trusting In? Only Christ's Will Do

III. The Purpose of Christ's Blood? What Does it Do for Us? (v.12, 14, 22)

- A. Past: Final "Forgiveness of Sins" (v.22)
 - o Jesus' sacrifice was "one for all" (v.14) showing it was successful!
- B. Present: "Purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God" (v.14)
 - o The OT sacrifices "sanctified" people outwardly—"purification of the flesh" (v.13)
 - o Christ's sacrifice changes us inwardly toward new obedience (v.14)
 - o How exactly does Christ's sacrifice lead to new obedience?

****We are not saved by good works, but we are saved for good works!**

- C. Future: "Eternal redemption" (v.12b)



Discussion Groups

1. What aspects of your “inheritance” in Christ are you most looking forward to? Be specific. How are some of those blessings present in your life already?

2. In what ways might you have underplayed the seriousness of your sin? Or underplayed the seriousness of God’s holiness? How does this passage help address that today?

3. How does the work of Christ help you change the way you obey God? How does it empower your good works differently than the OT law?

