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OUR ONLY HOPE

Hebrews 9:23-28

Introduction: What Happens After You Die?

I. Our Hope: Jesus Appeared in Presence of God for Us (v.23-24)

- A. In the OT, Blood was Applied to Earthly Places
 - o Priests sprinkled blood on the “copies of the heavenly things” (v.23) referring to the items in the tabernacle, particularly the ark of the covenant.
 - o Why sprinkle on the ark? Because it presents to blood before the “presence” of God
 - o But this was mere an earthly tent “made with hands” (v.24)
- B. But Jesus Applied His Blood to the Heavenly Places
 - o “Christ has entered. . . heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God” (v.24)
 - Christ did what no human being had ever done, entering God’s full presence
 - We see a picture of God’s heavenly throne room in Revelation 4
 - o What is Christ doing there? He is representing us!
 - He is there “on our behalf” (v.24). He is on your side!
 - He is presenting himself as the lamb slain and as your righteous substitute
 - **Remember: What is true of Christ is true of you!
- C. Key point: God Will Never Reject Us if Christ Represents Us

II. Our Hope: Jesus Offered Himself for Us, Once for All (v.25-28a)

- A. The OT High Priest Offered Sacrifices *Repeatedly*
 - o High priest offered sacrifices over and over again since he came “with blood not his own” (v.25)
- B. But Jesus Offered Himself Once for All



- o Author emphasizes the one-time nature of Christ's work: "nor was it to offer himself repeatedly" (v.27); "appeared once for all" (v.27); "having been offered once" (v.28)
- o Why did Jesus only have to do it once?
 - Because of "the sacrifice of himself" (v.26)
 - As the perfect Son of God, Jesus' sacrifice was enough "to bear the sins of many" (v.28)
- C. Why Does the Finished, One-Time Work of Christ Matter? Because we too will die and face judgment
 - o Author draws an analogy between the one-time death of Christ and our one-time death
 - o The work of Christ is good news because of two fundamental facts of life:
 - You will die: "its appointed for man to die once" (v.27)
 - You will face judgment: "after that comes judgment" (v.27)
- D. Key Point: Only Christ Can Save You from the Judgment to Come

III. Our Hope: Jesus Will Return for Us (v.28b)

- A. Jesus Came the First Time to Pay for Our Sins
 - o Author describes his first coming, "he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin"
 - o Christ's sacrifice was the center of all history, "end of the ages"
- B. Jesus Will Come a Second Time to Bring Us Home
 - o Christians are people who are "eagerly waiting" (v.28) for Christ's return
 - o What keeps us from eagerly waiting? How can we get that back?



Discussion Groups

1. What are some things that stood out to you as we read Revelation chapter four? How does that help you appreciate what Christ has done?

2. Is it uncomfortable for you to talk about death and judgment? Why do you think it's important that we talk about death and judgment even though people don't want to?

3. How would looking forward to the second coming affect your life in the present?

