

Hebrews 9:11 – 10:39

Day 1

A Deeper Cleansing. Read Hebrews 9:11-28

1. Write down the description given to Christ and to His tabernacle in 9:11.
- Christ:
 - Tabernacle: (Crossref. 9:24)

2. How was Christ's entrance into the "tabernacle" different? 9:12
- "by His own blood" versus 9:12a
 - "once for all" versus 9:6,25b (See John 19:30).
 - "eternal redemption" versus 9:9b,10

Digging Deeper

From what did Christ redeem us?
Psalm 103:4

Psalm 130:8

Galatians 3:23

Titus 2:14

1 Peter 1:18

FYI: "***Blood of goats and bulls.*** As on the Day of Atonement. ***Ashes of a heifer:*** As prescribed in Numbers 19 for those who became ceremonially unclean as a result of contact with a corpse." - The NIV Study Bible (1868)

3. What kind of purification did the law give? 9:13

- How deep a cleansing does the blood of Christ bring? 9:14 (See 1 John 1:7) Contrast 9:9.
- What adjective describes the condition of Christ's offering? (Cross ref. 4:15; Compare Lev. 22:20; 1 Peter 1:19)

Digging Deeper

For other "how much more" phrases see:
Rom. 5:10,15,17;
2 Corinthians 3:9.

4. When Christ became our mediator (9:15),

- What did it cost Him? (*ransom*: See Mark 10:45)
- What "sins" did He cover? (See Romans 3:25; 8:3)
- What do we "receive"?

Digging Deeper

See Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 for what was told about a sin bearer who was coming.

FYI: "The animal sacrifice on the Day of Atonement (which prefigured Christ's ultimate sacrifice) was retroactive, atoning for the sins of ignorance committed over the past year (v. 7). But Christ's death was surpassingly retroactive, reaching all the way back to the Garden of Eden." - R Kent Hughes (235)

5. For a *covenant/will* to go into effect, what needs to happen? 9:16,17

FYI: Covenant/will/testament Strong's NT:1242 *diatheke*; a disposition, a contract (especially a devisory will)

"The word 'covenant', which he uses twice in verses 15, is also used twice in verses 16,17, where it is translated 'will'. But the reason for the two different translations is that the word is used *religiously* in verses 15 (hence 'covenant') and *legally* in verses 16,17 (meaning 'will')." - R Kent Hughes (235)

6. How was the Old Covenant enacted? 9:18-21 (See Exodus 24:5-8) What role did Moses have?

FYI: "The Old Covenant sailed on a sea of blood for two vast reasons. First to emphasize the seriousness of sin. The Bible takes sin seriously, more than any other religion. Sin alienates one from God. Sin is rooted in the hearts of humanity. Sin cannot be vindicated by any self-help program. Sin leads to death – and it will not be denied. The second reason is the costliness of forgiveness. Death is the payment. It will either be Christ's life or ours!" - R. Kent Hughes (237)

7. Why is blood needed for atonement? 9:22 (See Leviticus 17:11,14; Genesis 9:5,6)

- What did Jesus say? Matthew 26:28

8. From these verses, what would you say about the magnitude/seriousness of sin? What do they indicate about the cost of forgiveness and God's love for us?

Food for Thought: "Sin is a terrible offense. It's not simply an indiscretion. It can't be watered down with smooth, fluid words like weakness...shortcoming...mistake. Sin is a heinous act of transgression against a holy God... Forgiveness is a costly thing. A holy God can't wink at sin. He can't turn His head the other way. No. If sin is a terrible offense, it follows necessarily that forgiveness has to be costly in order to pay for the damages. The proof of the awfulness of sin is that God required the shedding of blood for its atonement." - Charles Swindoll (145)

Salvation

9. What did earthy copies versus heavenly things require? 9:23

10. What better place and purpose did Christ serve? 9:24

- How was His sacrifice better? 9:25,26

11. What warning is given in 9:27?

- What hope is given to believers in 9:28?

12. How did the purpose of Christ's first and second comings differ? (Compare Matthew 20:28 and 16:27)

FYI: "On the [Day of Atonement] the congregation watched the high priest enter the sanctuary with a basin of sacrificial blood and then waited breathlessly outside until he emerged, at which time they breathed a corporate sigh of relief. His emergence told them that his offering on their behalf had been accepted by God...Our Lord Jesus entered the heavenly sanctuary 'to appear for us in God's presence' (vs. 24) and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him' (vs. 28). Hallelujah!" - R. Kent Hughes (240)

"There is more to death than the grave. Beyond the grave there is a God. Waiting for us. Eagerly. Like a father awaiting the reunion of all his children. The real question is, Are we eagerly awaiting Him?...The glorious news of Hebrews 9 is that judgment is escapable because today's sin is forgivable. That's the kind of news that makes you want to come home, wherever you've been – and for however long you've been gone." - Charles Swindoll (146)

13. Write out the phrases that describe what Jesus did "once/once for all."

- 7:27
- 9:12
- 9:26
- 10:10
- 1 Peter 3:18

Applying the Word: *What past issues still cause you to have a guilty conscience? How does that stifle your growth as a believer? From this passage, what do you need to understand and do? (See 2 Peter 1:9)*

Day 2

The Perfect Sacrifice/Complete Forgiveness. Read Hebrews 10:1-14

14. How is the law described in 10:1a? (Compare Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 8:5)

- Because of this, what can't the law do? 10:1b,4

15. If the law could have freed the worshipper from the guilt of sin, what would have happened and why? 10:2 (See Galatians 3:21)

FYI: "One's conscience under the Old Covenant always had a pervasive sense of dis-ease. One's inner moral discernment always registered a floating guilt, and in some, this was a raging, unquenchable guilt." - Kent Hughes (22)

16. In fact, what purpose does the law serve regarding sin? 10:3,4 (See Romans 3:19,20; 7:7)

17. What did Christ say about sacrifices and offerings? 10:5,6 (Cf. Psalm 40:6-8)

- Why were insufficient sacrifices and offerings (10:8) offered? Leviticus 17:11

FYI: "The fact was, though God had instituted blood animal sacrifices (Exodus 24), He had never been pleased with them and did not see them as ends. He had established them as object lessons to instruct His people about the sinfulness of their hearts, His hatred of sin, the fact that sin leads to death, the need of an atonement, and His delight in those whose hearts were clean and obedient and faithful. But there was nothing appealing to Him in the sight of a dying animal. God had no pleasure in the moans and death-throes of lambs or bulls. What He did find pleasure in was those who offered a sacrifice with a contrite, obedient heart."
- R. Kent Hughes (23)

18. What is said about sacrifices in:

- Psalm 51:16,17
- 1 Samuel 15:22
- Isaiah 1:11-17
- Hosea 6:6
- Micah 6:6-8

19. What did God want instead? 10:5c (Cf. 2:14) How is this explained in Romans 8:3? *How does this relate to the promise in Genesis 3:15?*

- How did Christ respond? 10:7 (see John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; Matthew 26:42)

FYI: "Old covenant sacrifices and offerings could not ultimately bring the forgiveness of sins. Even worse, for many who made the offerings, the sacrifices represented nothing more than mere religious ritual. Those people no longer offered up sacrifices in faith and obedience. They were just going through the motions...God delights in obedience, not in burnt offerings and sin offerings. (12 Sam. 15:22-23) This does not mean the old covenant offerings contradicted the will of God in any way. It simply means God is not interested in religious ritual if it is not driven by faith and obedience. Words without faith are meaningless in God's eyes."
- R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (148)

20. What did Christ's willingness (to be the perfect sacrifice) accomplish?

- 10:9b
- 10:10

FYI: "Christians... [can] fall into a mindset that views the old covenant as bad and the new covenant as good. We are tempted to consider the old covenant negatively because we know it could not save us. The author of Hebrews, however, does not see the contrast in this way...He contrasts the two covenants to show how the old one cries out for and finds fulfillment in the new. The old covenant prepares the way and ultimately reveals our need for the new."
- R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (145)

Sanctified/made holy Strong's NT:37 *hagiazō*; to make holy, i.e. (ceremonially) purify or consecrate
"Spoken of persons, to consecrate as being set apart of God and sent by Him for the performance of His will." (See John 17:18,19)
- Zodhaite

"Christ's sacrifice was sufficient and this needed no repeating...It was so monumental and efficacious that it could only be once-for-all. His blood is totally sufficient...Jesus writes in bold crimson letters across our lives, 'Forgiven!'... (Romans 8:33,34)"
- R. Kent Hughes (239)

21. How are the duties of the priests and Christ's work contrasted in 10:11-12?

22. What did Christ's work accomplish?

- 10:13 (See Daniel 2:44)
- 10:14 (See 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

FYI: Perfected Strong's NT:5048 *teleioō*; to complete, accomplish, or (figuratively) consummate (in character)

"To complete, make perfect by reaching the intended goal...In the epistle to the Hebrews, *teleioō* is used in a moral sense meaning to make perfect, to fully cleanse from sin, in contrast to ceremonial cleansing. " - Zodhaite

"In 10:14, the author again repeats the effect of Jesus' one offering: 'He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified' (literal translation). This verse brings together two vital truths. First, the *position* of believers before God is that they are perfect. God has forgiven all of their sins through Christ's sacrifice, and He has imputed Christ's perfect righteousness to them. These great facts are the basis of our standing before God. Second, the *practice* of believers is that they are being sanctified. They are growing in holiness in thought, word, and deed. The *position* is granted instantly at the moment of saving faith. The *practice* is worked out over a lifetime of growth in obedience."
- Steven Cole

23. Write down the phrases in Hebrews that describe what Christ does for us.

- 7:25 "saved completely/to the uttermost" "always lives to make intercession for us?"
- 9:12b
- 9:14
- 9:15
- 9:28
- 10:10
- 10:14

Applying the Word: *It's been said. "Whatever you do to get love you ultimately resent, but whatever you do as a response to love you never regret." How well do you rest in the fact that you are forgiven and loved/accepted? How does that positively affect what you do? How easy is it to slip back into thinking that you have to earn His love and atone for your sins? How does that negatively affect what you do?*

Day 3

Cleansed and Encouraged. Read Hebrews 10:15-25

24. What had the "Holy Spirit" (see 3:7; 9:8) said about the internal changes the new covenant could bring? 10:16 *How would you relate this to Jesus' teachings in John 3:1-15.*

FYI "The new covenant was new, but it was not a new revelation. Jesus' sacrifice was the fulfillment of an old revelation, the one promised by the prophet Jeremiah through the witness of the Holy Spirit. Notice that the promise was not Jeremiah's; it was God's."
- R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (150)

25. What do the following say about how we live? What power does this give that external rules never can?

- John 7:37-39
- Galatians 2:20; 5:16
- Ephesians 3:16,20

26. What other "perfection" (v. 14) did Christ accomplish for us? 10:17

FYI: "Having the Law in our hearts as opposed to an external standard of stone is the primary difference between the New Covenant and the Old. The power of God's Spirit residing within us is sufficient for us to live life fully, to live life fruitfully, and to live life freely, unfettered from the shackles of sin and from slavery to legalism. And who in their right mind would go back to any system of slavery once the key had been turned to release them from those shackles? (Gal 5:1)"
- Charles Swindoll (152)

27. What does forgiveness in Christ do to the sacrificial system? 10:18 Why? 7:27; 10:14

28]. What does this do to our access to God? 10:19-20 (See Matthew 27:51) (*From Hebrews 10:19 on, the writer turns from explanation to application.*)

- What picture does Romans 8:26-27; 31-34 give of the intercession going on for us?

FYI: "God invites us all – not simply the high priest – to enter the sacred place. To strengthen our steps with confidence, He gives us two facts we can stand on. One, Jesus' blood has opened the way (vv. 19-20). Two, Jesus' presence has filled the house (v. 21). As a result of the former, we're clean in His presence. As a result of the latter, we're close to His presence."
- Charles Swindoll (156)

"Many Christians struggle with the certainty of their salvation. But the New Testament exhorts Christians to know they are saved. God grants assurance, not on the basis of man's faith, but on the basis of Christ's faithfulness. The apostle John writes in 1 John 5:13, 'I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.' And Romans 1:9-13 promises that the one who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Thus the believer is to have full confidence, not in self or in personal faithfulness, but in the object of the faith, Jesus Christ."
- R. Albert Mohler, Jr (155)

29]. How should we respond? 10:21,22a (*Mark "let us" commands in 10:22-25.*)

- What condition are we in because of Christ? 10:22b (Compare 9:14)

FYI: Sincere/true Strong's NT:228 *alethinos*, truthful. "conformed to truth, real, genuine" – Zodhaites

30]. What is the second "let us" exhortation given? 10:23 (Cf. 2:1; 3:6; 4:14)
On whose strength does this depend? (Cf. 6:19)

Digging Deeper
Note the use of "faith, hope and love" in 10:22-24. See Colossians 1:3-6 and 1 Thessalonians 1:3.

FYI: "The Christian's hope has substance...It is grounded in the life, death, resurrection, ascension, enthronement, and intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is anchored at the right hand of God. It is so substantial and real that it is called 'an anchor.'" [Heb. 6:19]
- R Kent Hughes (33)

31]. Write out the three "let us" exhortations in 10:24,25? What does indicate about the importance of community?

FYI: "The early Jewish church had had a fall-off in attendance due to persecution, ostracism., apostasy, and arrogance."
- R. Kent Hughes (34)

Applying the Word: *What would you give as some of the best ways to "encourage/spur on/stir up one another on in love and good deeds"? How edifying do you find gathering together with other believers to be?*

Day 4

Repentance and Endurance. Read Hebrews 10:26-39

32. What warnings are given in 10:26,27? Cf. 6:4-6

FYI: keep on sinning. There is probably an allusion here to such Old Testament passages as Numbers 15:30-31; Deuteronomy 17:2-7; etc. The presumptuous sins (Psalm 19:13), especially of deliberate apostasy into idolatry and paganism, were punishable by death. In similar fashion, the deliberate rejection of Christ and His sacrifice for one's sins, after one fully understands its significance and may even have made profession of faith therein, is without remedy. This is the only means God has provided, and there is nothing more than can be said or done to save such a person. That person already knows and understands it all, and has rejected it...Such a person, regardless of outward appearances, had never truly committed his faith and life to Christ in the first place (I John 2:19). This verse does not, in context, apply to other sins of a true Christian (note Hebrews 10:39). The remedy for these is repentance and confession, for the blood of Christ has already paid for them (I John 1:7-9)." - Defender's Study Bible

"This refers to those who hear and know the gospel and still deliberately and definitely reject it, even though they understand its truthfulness...Instead of aligning with God's people, they have chosen to identify with his adversaries."
- R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (161)

33. What illustration is given to show the seriousness of rejecting Christ? 10:28

Digging Deeper

In John 14, and 16:7-11, Jesus taught about His identity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. What does that say about rejecting Him? (See especially 14:6,21)

34. List the phrases that describe this rejection. 10:29

- "trampled the Son of God underfoot"

FYI: "The sort of apostate pictured here had at one time professed faith in Christ...But his faith... was not internal and was not genuine...Such persons deliberately close their eyes to the light, just as the Pharisees had done when they attributed the Spirit's works of mercy and power to Beelzebub – and thus their condemnation is the same. (Matt. 12:31)"
- R. Kent Hughes (44)

35. What does all mankind need to bear in mind? 10:30,31 Although this truth can feel terrifying, how is it also comfort a believer? Of what can we be assured? See 4:15,16

36. Why do you think the writer brought up their past victories? 10:32 (See Acts 8:1-4)

37. What things had they endured and what attitudes had they shown in the past?

- 10:33a
- 10:33b
- 10:34a (See Matthew 5:11,125r)
- 10:34b

FYI: “The description of their earlier sufferings fits well into the picture of the hardships that came to Jewish Christians under Claudius in A.D. 49. Suetonius...records that ‘there were riots in the Jewish quarter at the instigation of Chrestus. As a result, Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome’...‘Chrestus,’ historians believe,, is a reference to Christ, and the riots and expulsion occurred when Jewish Christians were banished from the synagogue by the Jewish establishment..”
- R. Kent Hughes (18)

“The term ‘*spectacle/publicly exposed*’ comes from the Greek word that means ‘theater.’ The Christians were being place on stage, so to speak, and made a theatrical spectacle through ‘reproaches.’ The Greek term brings to mind ‘defamation’ – being made the object of disgrace through verbal abuse.
The term ‘*tribulations/affliction/persecution*’ in verse 33 refers to overt affliction. ‘Mistreatment’ would be a good translation.”
- Charles Swindoll (3)

38. What exhortations/commands did he give?

- 10:35a
- 10:36a

39. What perspective and hope would give them courage?

- 10:34c
- 10:35b
- 10:36b

40. What perspective was key? 10:37,38 (See Romans 1:17) *Why do you think they may have been having trouble standing for their faith at this point more than earlier?*

FYI: “The word endurance in verse 36 is from the Greek verb *hupomeno*. It means ‘abiding under, staying with it, not giving up or giving in.’ Endurance is what gives us a second wind and a will to go on. And that come through faith. The alternative to faith? To ‘shrink back.’ The word is *hupostello*. It is the opposite of *hupomeno*. It means ‘to retreat, to find a way out.’”
- Charles Swindoll (4)

41. How did Paul express his perspective on life in:

- Philippians 1:21
- Galatians 2:20

42. With what encouragement did the writer end these difficult instructions? 10:39 How do you think that made his readers feel?

Applying the Word: *What past victories has God pulled off during difficult times in your life? Why is remembering these important?*

How is faith like exercising a muscle? (See Philippians 4:11)

And by that will, we have been made
holy through the sacrifice of the body of
Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:10

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we
profess, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23

And let us consider how we may spur one
another on toward love and good deeds,

Hebrews 10:24