

Cleanse Your Conscience 2021-02-14

Hebrews 9:1-14

But 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) 12 he 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.

13 For 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, 14 how 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.

Tabernacle = Big, beautiful portable tent representing presence/provision of God among His people.

- limited, earthly picture of heavenly, spiritual truths. (See Truths about Jesus in Tabernacle Design at end of notes)

- Tabernacle pointed forward to God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Sacrifices symbolic: not forgive/remove sins, more stay of execution than pardon.

- Jesus' blood is one/only true sacrifice satisfied God's wrath toward our sin and bought actual forgiveness.

- Not repeated because completely effective. Hebrews 9:11-12

Blood of Jesus Christ obtains for us eternal redemption, clean conscience and intimacy with God.

- Jesus' sacrifice was once for all so obtained ETERNAL redemption.

- Redemption: price paid to gain freedom for slave. Leviticus 25:47-54

When God through Jesus' sacrifice forgives sin, He satisfies his requirement of holiness and wipes sin record away....consciences cleansed. Hebrews 9:13-14, Romans 2:14-15, Titus 1:15

- Conscience: inborn sense of right/wrong, by which judge human conduct.

- conscience cleansed/clear or defiled/guilty.

- cartoon psychologist: "I can explain your feelings of guilt. You're guilty!"

Solution not to deny, suppress or transfer guilt to someone else.

- Nor use external solution for internal problem. Mark 7:15, 21-23

- Rules/rituals never cleansed guilty conscience: not solve sin problem.

- Jesus' sacrifice dealt decisively with root of sin and removes inward defilement making us clean on inside.

Guilt resolved only through confession and receiving God's forgiveness based on His grace, not working up feelings of remorse.

- Repent and discover God's great compassion/grace and experience freedom from guilty conscience.

- Lost: repent and receive salvation, Christian confess sin, stop trying to earn God's favor and receive His wonderful grace!

Clean conscience facilitates intimacy with God and service for God. Hebrews 9:14, 7:25

- defiled guilty consciences not desire to be in God's presence. Genesis 3:7-10
 - Don't feel good enough to come to him....it's true.
- Jesus' death and resurrection purify/cleanse guilt-ridden consciences forever removing barrier to fellowship with God.....not draw back from Holy God.
 - When sin forgiven, worship truly and freely and in Spirit. John 4:23, Hebrews 9:14b
- Cleansed conscience can fuel and motivate worship, prayer and service.
 - Purpose of all cleansing was to allow people to serve God.
 - Grace produces gratitude, the true basis for worship and service.

Jesus fulfilled perfectly and completely all that Old Covenant illustrated....priest, tab, sacrifices

- Jesus replaced temporary earthly symbol with greater permanent heavenly reality.
 - Blood of Jesus once for all, obtained eternal redemption, clean conscience and intimacy with God.

Truths about Jesus revealed in the Tabernacle's design: (Hebrews 9)

Vs 2 Lampstand: Jesus illumines the things of God through the Holy Spirit (oil) to those who draw near.

Vs 4 Altar of incense: Jesus interceding for His people in God's presence.

Vs 4 Ark of the covenant: the very presence of God.

Vs 4 Manna = Jesus is the sustenance and daily bread of His people.

Vs 4 Aaron's rod = Jesus is Father's chosen priest above all others because He alone is life-giving.

Vs 4 10 commandment tablets: God's holy standards.

Vs 5 Cherubim: God's glory!