

## **Christ Comes Back to Judge, Not to Die a Second Time!**

Hebrews 9:16-28 (vv.27-28)

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### **I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND BIBLICAL CONTEXT**

Chapter 9 continues the subject of the superiority of Christ's ministry to the Levitical priesthood and its Mosaic covenant. In chapter 8 Christ's tabernacle was declared to be true tabernacle in heaven and its covenant to be the New Covenant that would replace the Mosaic. Here in chapter 9, we see the shortcomings in the Old Covenant; that is, its tabernacle involved a physical ritual which could not make people righteous. The old tabernacle would stand only until the true tabernacle would come. Individual Jews could not come into God's presence. Once a year the high priest carried the blood of sacrifices into the Most Holy Place of the Temple. The high priest had limited access to God for he could only approach God once a year. The annual offering of sacrifices only served as a reminder of their sins. Thanks, be God for Jesus that changed all of this for them and for us. Jesus' death not only cleansed the external but also the internal conscience of man. His death brought eternal redemption and forgiveness. His death was permanently effective and no required repetition. It was always God's plan to replace the Old Covenant with a new and better covenant. This was prophesied throughout the Old Testament. The Old Covenant has shortcomings that could only be fixed by a perfect sacrifice named Jesus. Jesus created a new covenant when He died on the cross and rose three days later. Thank God for His grace.

## **II. THE LESSON: Christ Comes Back to Judge, Not to Die a Second Time!**

### **1. vv. 16-22.**

Because of His shed blood and His death, Christ has accomplished what the Old Covenant could not. Therefore, He has been as the Mediator of the New Covenant. His sacrifice has achieved what the many sacrifices of the Old Testament could not, for He effectuated the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament. The Old Testament sacrifices could not take away sin; they merely made an atonement, covering for sin. Christ's sacrifice amended all those past sins that had received atonement. The Old Testament sacrifices could be compared to writing a check. The paper upon which is it written is practically worthless. Yet, it is used and accepted in place of money, since it is backed by what has been deposited in the bank. Christ's death was deposited from the foundation of the world as that which backed the Old Testament sacrifices. With Christ's death upon the cross, the deposit was released, and all the past checks were honored and paid. Jesus paid it and all to Him we owe.

The Hebrew writer provide an illustration of a will. The Old Testament may or may not require a sacrifice. A will, however, required the death of its maker. The death of the maker sets it in force. The nature of Christ's death satisfies the requirement of both a will and a covenant. The first covenant was not dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wood, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which

God has commanded you.” He then sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Jesus’ death brought the new covenant into effect, so that believers can secure the promises that laid within it.

## 2. **vv. 23-26.**

The Hebrew writer now shows the importance that the blood and death of animals were secondary practices that point to heaven’s realities that while their served their purpose and were no longer need due to the all sufficient sacrifice of Jesus. The sanctuary, tent or tabernacle, and the things in it, were just copies of heavenly things. The cleansing required blood but there was the sacrifice that was much better than the blood of animals. The purification of sin could be accomplished by only one means, a better sacrifice. That better sacrifice was only by God once and all offering, His Son, Jesus Christ for the permanent forgiveness of sin. Jesus came that from heaven to earth to pay man’s sin debt in full. He entered the heavenly sanctuary and presented Himself as the better offering and sacrifice on our behalf. His work was not in a man sanctuary, which was a copy of the genuine sanctuary. Animal sacrifices were done over and over as the reminder of sin while Jesus sacrificing of Himself was only needed to be done once and for all for the forgiveness of sin.

## 3. **vv 27-28.**

“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.”(ESV)

There are exceptions to the man to die once, Enoch (Genesis 5:24) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:11), who never died once. But no exceptions are cited for God's judgment. Every person has one opportunity to prepare for God's judgment. The full significance of verse 27 cannot be seen apart from verse 28. We will die once and then face judgment, so Jesus only had to die once to bear our sins. There are no second chances beyond the grave.

Everyone will be judged for the things done in these earthly bodies of ours. Everyone includes the educated and uneducated, the rich as well as the poor, black and white. Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24)

The Three "appearings" of Christ are noted Verse 24 states He now appears in heaven and on our behalf. Verse 26 speaks of His former appearance on earth to bear sin.

His next appearing is that future coming when our salvation is brought to its complete realization.

Jesus came once, died once, rose once, and will come again once for those eagerly and faithfully awaits Him. Therefore, Christ will return a second time to judge but not to die.

If we internalize this lesson, we will reach a conclusion that there is no middle road. We must choose between the earthly or heavenly, the temporary or the eternal, the incomplete or complete. Jesus is the only way to our eternal inheritance in the eternal promises of God.