

The Superiority of the Sacrificial Death of Christ

Text: Hebrews 9:15-22

Date: 9-29-24

I. The grand conclusion about Christ's death (Heb. 9:15)

He is the *mediator of the new testament* (covenant).

What is a *mediator*? This word (Greek: *mesites*) means *a go between, a negotiator between two parties, arbitrator*. This is like a middleman who gets two sides together to put together an agreement.

Jesus Christ acts as the middleman or divine go-between God and man. These two parties from differing backgrounds have a desire to come together to have a relationship. "A mediator must set aside his own interests for those of the parties involved in the mediation. He must be trustworthy and acceptable to the parties involved in the covenant. He must be able to secure a covenant for the parties involved through proper mediation" (Levy 216). Christ did this through His death!

But, what about the OT believers? Would Christ's mediation apply to them as well?

The writer of Hebrews now expressively declares that through His death, the sins of the first covenant – that is the old one – are redeemed. The promise of redemption and its eternal inheritance has been applied to all the believers under the first covenant.

II. The great characteristics of Christ's death (Heb. 9:16-22)

Jesus Christ had to die for our sins. Why? The author gives several reasons why.

- **The necessity of death to validate a testament (9:16-17)**

For a will to be fulfilled and its directives carried out, the person making the will must have died.

- **The necessity of blood for forgiveness (9:18-22)**

****According to Heb. 9:19, Moses also sprinkled the blood on the book and the people. Instead of signing on the dotted line with a signature, this will or covenant was signed with blood. Literally!**

Jesus Christ is the only Person who can mediate the covenant between God and man. I Tim. 2:5 says: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." We must have the shed blood and death of Jesus Christ to save us.

On account of the national sin, there could be NO remission of sin without the shedding of blood.

We cannot attain the presence of God, fellowship with Him, or a relationship without the atoning work of our Savior.

How much does forgiveness cost? Our forgiveness cost Jesus Christ His life and His blood. It is now on that basis He is in Heaven as our High Priest. He has saved us. He has sanctified us. He has secured us. He has pardoned us. He is praying for us. He desires we be surrendered to Him. He desires our submission. The cost was steep for Christ, but the cost is steeper if we don't choose Him as Lord and obey Him.