

# Hebrews 9:15-28

## Week Fourteen

Study written by Holli Worthington



### Day 1



*Heavenly Father, please guide me in understanding through your Holy Spirit as I read your word. Let me see and understand Jesus my Savior more clearly and let that cause my heart to be more wholly devoted to you.*

- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ In the space below, write out a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

### Day 2-Hebrews 9:15-17

1. Define the word *mediate*.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Verse 15 begins with *therefore* Jesus is the mediator. Look back to verses 11-14 and write the ways is Jesus a mediator.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. According to verse 15, who receives the promised eternal inheritance?

Critical Connection: Read the following verses and answer the question:

- Hebrews 9:15 tells us that those who sinned under the old covenant (and are called) are redeemed by Jesus. Remember that the sacrifices of the old covenant could not completely cleanse sin, but God still saved the Old Testament saints even though Jesus had not died yet. How were those under the old covenant saved according to the following verses?

*1 Peter 1:10 “Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully...”*

*Romans 4:9b “We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness.”*

*Romans 3:21-22<sup>21</sup> But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.<sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. (NLT)*

*Romans 3:25-26 [Jesus] whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

For Discussion: What did the sacrifices that believers made under the old covenant demonstrate?

4. What has to happen for someone to receive their inheritance from a will according to verses 16 and 17?

-What benefit have we received from Jesus' death that we would not have inherited had he not died?

Digging Deeper: What are some things it means to be God's heir according to the following Scriptures?

*Galatians 4:1-7* "Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had. <sup>2</sup> They have to obey their guardians until they reach whatever age their father set. <sup>3</sup> And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world. <sup>4</sup> But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. <sup>5</sup> God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. <sup>6</sup> And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." <sup>7</sup> Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir."(NLT)

*James 2:5* <sup>5</sup> Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him?(NLT)

*Romans 8:15-17* <sup>15</sup> So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup> For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering."(NLT)



As God's children we are his heirs (Rom.8:16-17), but in order for us to receive our inheritance, Jesus had to die. Yet unlike earthly inheritances, our beloved one, who left us such a rich inheritance, lives again!

- ❖ As adopted children of God and therefore fellow heirs with Jesus, we inherit all that is God's to give us! Read the following verses and highlight what is the best part of our inheritance. Spend some valuable time thinking on this and then thanking God!

*Psalm 73:25-26 "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."*

*Psalm 119:57-58 "The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep your words. I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise."*

*Psalm 142:5 "I cry to you O LORD; I say, 'You are my portion in the land of the living.'"*

### Day 3-Hebrews 9:18-22

Scholar's Note: In verses 15-18 the writer transitions from *covenant* to *will* and back to *covenant*. It is the same word in the Greek. "The writer's point is that the new covenant may be viewed as a last will and testament, particularly in that its benefits are disbursed only in the event of the death of the one who made it"<sup>1</sup>

5. How was the first covenant inaugurated according to verse 18?

6. According to verses 19 and 21 what was the blood sprinkled on?

For Discussion: What do you think all this blood was meant to impress upon the people?

7. What did the blood do according to verse 20? (See NLT)

8. What does the blood do according to verse 22a?

-According to 22b, without the shedding of blood there is

no \_\_\_\_\_.

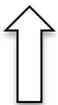
-What is the opposite of that truth?

Critical Connection: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

-How did the sprinkling of blood with the old covenant point to Jesus and the new covenant?

-Why was this confirmation of the new covenant so much better?

*Mark 14:23-24* <sup>23</sup> And he [Jesus] took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. <sup>24</sup> And he said to them, "This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many." (NLT)



*Jesus, you redeemed me with your own precious blood! All my worth is found right here in your sacrifice. Please help me to live in the light of this truth.*

## Day 4-Hebrews 9:23-26

9. Verse 23 talks about the *copies of the heavenly things* and the *heavenly things themselves*. What are the spiritual realities that the tabernacle and its' items symbolized? (Look back to last week's lesson for a reminder)

-Why did these heavenly realities require a better sacrifice than just the blood of animals?



*Father, forgive me for sometimes taking for granted these marvelous privileges that Jesus' sacrifice bought for me. Help me to constantly remember how precious it is to be able to know you, come to you in prayer and fellowship with you.*

Scholar's Note: "This reference to purifying the heavenly things does not mean the heavenly places needed cleansing because they were somehow defiled by human sin. Rather, it speaks to the effectiveness and superiority of Christ's sacrifice."<sup>2</sup>

10. According to verse 24, what is the holy place a copy of?

11. What word in verse 24, points to Jesus' present activity?

-What is Jesus doing for us?



Verse 24 teaches us again that Jesus is in the presence of God appearing on our behalf. John tells us what appearing on our behalf entails:

*"My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous." 1 John 2:1 (NLT)*

"Advocate" is translated as someone who is called to another's side especially to give aid. It is someone who pleads another's case. How humbling it is to have Jesus—who gave his life to pay for our sin—also speak to the Father in our defense when we do sin!

- ❖ What is the case that Jesus pleads as our advocate? What is our defense?
  
- ❖ Jesus suffered and died to do away with our sin. How then should we treat sin in our own lives?
  
- ❖ How does it impact you that though it was your sin that put Jesus on the cross, he comes to your side and pleads for you when you continue to sin?
  
- ❖ Spend some time thanking God for providing Jesus as our sacrifice and advocate and that our salvation rests entirely upon him.

12. How is Jesus' sacrifice shown to be so superior to the earthly high priests in verses 25-26?

-Why did the earthly high priest have to enter the Most Holy Place year after year?

-Why did Jesus only have to offer himself as a sacrifice one time according to 26b?

Scholar's Note: "...Christ "appeared once for all at the end of the ages" That expression marks this as the decisive point of history, when God's redemptive plan comes into full focus as the climax of all history."<sup>3</sup>

## Day 5-Hebrews 9:27-28

13. What happens to every person after they die according to verse 27?

For Discussion: What relevance does the truth expressed in verse 27 have for notions about second chances after death, reincarnation or atheism? Can you think of any other misconceived ideas about life after death that are addressed by this truth?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse and answer the question:

-Why is it appointed for man to die?

*Genesis 2:16-17* <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Picture and Ponder: "There is a relationship between the personal history of every individual and God's redemptive history that centers on the death of Christ."<sup>4</sup>

14. Jesus' first coming was the turning point of redemptive history and his second coming is the culmination of history. What will be complete at that time according to verse 28?



Can you imagine eternal life without sin? The singular event of Jesus' sacrifice was so superior and effective that it did away with sin forever! Jesus' sacrificial death obtained our complete forgiveness and his ongoing life secures our full salvation. This work that Jesus accomplished is truly our sure and steadfast anchor reaching up into heaven and securing us there!

“When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
through every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ the solid rock I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.”<sup>5</sup>

- ❖ If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, but then struggled with doubts about your salvation, how does the truth of Jesus' definitive and complete sacrifice help dispel any of those doubts?
  
- ❖ At this moment in history, sin is conquered, but is not completely removed yet. It has no true hold on us except what we allow it to have. How does thinking about Jesus' perfect and complete sacrifice help in your fight against sin? How does it help motivate you to reach out to the lost?
  
- ❖ Followers of Jesus have no need to fear judgment because our sins have been dealt with – this is why we wait eagerly for Jesus' return! Is this true of you? Have your sins been covered by the blood of Jesus? Are you ready and waiting eagerly for Jesus to come back?



*Jesus thank you for your sacrifice that was so perfect and complete that it took care of my sin for all time. Thank you that even though my love for you is not constant and complete and my faith wavers and I struggle with sin, you hold me secure because of your work, not mine. What a wonderful Savior!*

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

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<sup>1</sup> Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 3990-3992). Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Mohler, R. Albert. Exalting Jesus in Hebrews (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (pp. 140-141). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

<sup>3</sup> Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 4128-4129). Kindle Edition.

<sup>4</sup> Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 4135). Kindle Edition.

<sup>5</sup> Edward Mote, "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less," 1834, as quoted in Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 4196). Kindle Edition.

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