
Sermon Notes

May 21, 2017

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The Blood of Christ Hebrews 9:15-28

An Inheritance

- ❖ Something must happen before you receive an inheritance!
 - generally speaking, all inheritances have one thing in common
 - the notable exception in Luke 15
- ❖ The promised eternal inheritance God has for us (9:15)
 - the purpose and power of Jesus' death
 - "Why did Jesus have to die?"

Sin is a Killer

- ❖ Sin leads to death (Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4, 20; James 1:14-15)
- ❖ Forgiveness of sin DEMANDS death
 - in these verses, blood is a symbol for death

- Hebrews 9:22, *without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins*
- Luke 22:20, *This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you*
- ❖ Israel's priests were commanded to repeatedly sacrifice calves and goats and to use their blood to symbolize God's promise to provide salvation from sin's curse (9:19)
- ❖ It is easy to overlook what a messy, painful, horrific, noisy, and bloody thing sacrifice is
 - the animal/human bond (*cf.* 2 Samuel 12:3)
 - imagine the horror of being required to kill an animal that you have nurtured, loved, and cared for
 - imagine being the priest who does this killing day after day!
- ❖ Sin has DEVASTATING consequences
 - v. 18, the Old Covenant was inaugurated with blood
 - v. 26, the New Covenant is inaugurated with blood
- ❖ It is not Jesus' physical blood that saves us, but His dying on our behalf that saves us
 - nothing but death can atone for sin
 - the only way we can enter into God's presence and draw near to Him is on the basis of the New Covenant

- forgiveness is a **COSTLY** thing
- God accepts us as we are????
- ❖ None of us can ever be justified before God until we place ourselves into the death of Jesus and say, “God, I am a sinner. I place myself into the death of your Son. Be satisfied with me for His sake.”
- ❖ In v. 26, Jesus’ sacrifice is described as *once for all*
- ❖ What Jesus calls us to do when we observe the Lord’s Supper is **to REMEMBER** (not repeat!) His sacrificial death

Death is Inescapable

- ❖ Each of us is destined to die by divine appointment (9:27)
 - Psalm 139:16
 - God knows the end from the beginning
 - all of our days are numbered
- ❖ After death comes judgment
 - either we must atone for our own sin or have a substitute who will pay for our sin
 - Jesus was also appointed to die once
 - In His death, Jesus takes our judgment on Himself

- God *made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* (2 Cor. 5:21)
- ❖ Verse 28 speaks of the way Jesus will appear a second time to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.
 - Jesus previously appeared on earth once *to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself* (v. 26)
 - after that, Jesus appeared back in heaven, *in the presence of God on our behalf* (v. 24)
 - in the future, Jesus will appear a second time on earth, *not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him* (v. 28)
- ❖ Are you eagerly waiting for Jesus to appear again?

Personal Application

1. If someone asks you the question, “Why did Jesus have to die?” or “Couldn’t God have chosen another way to forgive sin?” how will you answer them based on these verses from Hebrews 9?
2. Sin has devastating consequences. How aware are you of those consequences when you make a deliberate choice to commit sin?
3. What is your attitude toward the inevitability of your death? In what way are you prepared to face the judgment that will follow your death? If you are in doubt about how to answer this, please talk to a trusted Christian friend or church leader about what you need to do to be prepared for this moment!