

Discussion Notes for Hebrews 9 (Part 2) :16-28 to Hebrews 10 (Part 1) :1-18 • The Perfect Sacrifice

Note: For our last few studies here in Hebrews, the author of this letter has been comparing the Old Covenant with the New Covenant to show his readers the superiority of the new over the old. In the second half of chapter 9 some key statements are made that will help us understand covenants better.

You might want to listen to this study more than once and take notes as you do.

- **Something to ponder:** Read **verses 16-22**. The first point made in **verses 16-17** is that when someone makes out a will, the person's death **MUST** be established before that will is in force. Then, in **verse 18** he makes the point that even the Covenant God made through Moses was made with blood. Why? because life is in the blood and the shedding of blood proves a death has taken place.
- Why was the shedding of blood necessary for forgiveness? (See Leviticus 17:11)
- The new covenant is like a will that promises our "eternal inheritance" (9:15). What was necessary to bring this covenant or will into force (see 9:16–17)?
- **Something to ponder:** The blood of animals was sufficient to cleanse because it was cleansing "copies" of heavenly realities. (See **verse 23**)
- What things did Christ purify with His blood? (See **verse 24**)
- How is the atonement, purification, or redemption wrought by Christ similar but superior to that under the old covenant system (see **9:22–28**)?
- **Verses 25-26** reveal one major difference between the work of the High Priest under the Mosaic Covenant and the work that Jesus accomplished on the cross. What was that difference?
- **Verses 27-28** drive home the idea of ONCE. Jesus died ONCE for all, and we too are given to die ONCE. What does this passage do to the belief by some that we are reincarnated?
- Read **Hebrews 10:1-3**. The author brings out one major drawback (weakness) to the Mosaic Law. What is that weakness?
- What REASON for the weakness of the Law is given in **verse 4**?
- If the blood of animals could not take away sins, why did God have the Jews make those sacrifices?
- **Something to ponder:** In **verses 5-7** the author emphasizes our Lord's willingness to sacrifice Himself to save us from our sin. The quotation he makes from the Old Testament is from the Greek Translation of the Hebrew Scriptures which is why there are slight wording variations from your Bible.

- **Read verses 8-9.** The author speaks about the Old Covenant? What do the words, “**He does away with the first in order to establish the second**” mean for us today?
- **Verse 10** is a key. What is the benefit mentioned here from the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf?
- What does it mean to be “**sanctified**”?
- In **verses 15-18** the author returns to a quotation from the book of Jeremiah 31. What benefits of the new covenant are listed here?
- **Verse 18** specifically reveals that “**there is no longer any offering for sin**” which means nothing more is required for our forgiveness to be guaranteed. How does understanding and embracing this idea help us to fully rest in the finished work of Jesus on the cross?

For Further Study: On the ceremony described in Hebrews 9:19–21, see Exodus 24:6–8.