

**Conclusion: Doing Away with Sin is a Bloody Business
(9:25-28)**

Hebrews 10; Isaiah 53

“When we come to the tribunal of Christ, we shall find that there was nothing wanting in his death.” John Calvin

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community
Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and community.*

- In what ways do you struggle with the necessity of Jesus' sacrifice?
- Why is it important for God's new covenant people to be reminded of the fact that worship is a bloody business?
- Why is it important to grasp the fact that there were inherent limitations to old covenant worship?
- How does the imagery of a new covenant “priesthood” inform how you are to live as one of God's people?
- Why was death needed in the making of covenants in the Bible?
- What does Jesus communicate at the Last Supper when he says that the wine is “my blood of the covenant” (Matt. 26:28)?
- Looking at Ezekiel 36; John 13-17; Ephesians 1:13-14 how is the Holy Spirit a blessing of the new covenant?
- Why was it necessary for the objects used for worship to be purified by blood under the old covenant? What does that communicate about your need to be purified in order to worship?
- Which area of worship do you need to be challenged in the most? Corporate? Family? Personal? All of life?

In Every Way Jesus is Superior (Part 9)
Peter Stonecipher - June 9, 2019

Text: Hebrews 9:1-28

Introduction

Worship is a bloody business

Leviticus 1-7

The original audience was questioning the *sufficiency* of Jesus' sacrifice. Modern readers question the *necessity* of Jesus' sacrifice.

I. Entering the Most Holy Place is a Bloody Business (9:1-14)

A. The inherent limitations of old covenant worship

Spatial → Temporal → Effectual

“We see that the very form of the ancient tabernacle reminded the Jews that they were to look for something else.” John Calvin

B. Jesus has entered the Most Holy Place through his own blood

Jesus overcomes the inherent spatial, temporal, and effectual limitations of old covenant worship for his people through his own blood

C. We must serve the living God

Hebrews 9:14

The “serve” language in v. 14 is priestly language

1 Peter 2:9-12

II. Mediating a Covenant is a Bloody Business (9:15-20)

A. “Covenant” or “will”?

Confusingly, a covenant and a last will and testament are two different concepts, but it is the same Greek word used throughout the passage

It does not seem to make much sense for the author of Hebrews to switch concepts in vv. 16-17 while using the same Greek word

B. Animal sacrifice and Old Testament covenants

Genesis 15; Exodus 24

“The necessity of death is rooted in covenant procedure. In the Old Testament, ratification of a covenant based on sacrifice frequently entailed a self-maledictory [self-cursing] procedure.” William Lane

C. Jesus has mediated the new covenant through his own blood

Matthew 26:28

D. We receive the promised eternal inheritance

Ephesians 1:13-14

III. Purifying Objects Used for Worship is a Bloody Business (9:21-24)

A. Purification of vessels for worship

Exodus 24:6-8

Exodus 29:21

B. Jesus has purified vessels for worship through his own blood

“In the case of the new-covenant offering of Christ, the heavenly tabernacle had to be cleansed because of the sins of the people who would be brought into the covenant. The heavenly tabernacle is cleansed in conjunction with the cleansing of God’s people.”
George Guthrie

C. We must worship God

The primary new covenant vessels for worship which need to be purified are God’s people

1 Peter 2:4-5

The purified objects used for worship under the old covenant were cleansed so that they would be used in the *regular* worship of God by his people

Corporate worship → Family worship → Personal worship →
All of life as worship