

The Book of Hebrews
Chapter 9 verses 16 – 28 - Pastor Charles A. Hall – August 25th , 2022

Chapter 9 continues on the theme of a merciful Christ and High Priest that was highlighted in chapter 7. Jesus Christ as our High Priest has a superior ministry (a higher calling, greater power, and everlasting), and better covenant (the relationship between God as High Priest, Israel, and all of humanity), a better sanctuary (a consecrated place the holy of holies) and a better sacrifice (the death of Jesus and His blood). Chapter 9 – further draw a comparison and contrast between the Levitical rituals and the priestly work of Christ. The rituals of the old covenant were old and temporary, the new covenant is permanent, and able to remove sin permanently.

16. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

- The word testament in this verse means a will, and thus a will has no value unless the holder of maker of the will, which in this verse is referred to as the testator dies, so when the testator dies the will or testament is therefore in force.
- In most cases in the New Testament the Greek word “testament” usually refers to covenant which means agreement.

17. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

- The testament is based on the wishes or desires of the testator and has no value until the testator death. The testament has no power at all as long as the testator is alive.
 - Galatians 3:14-15

18. Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

- As a follow on to the prior 2 verses, the first testament or covenant was not dedicated or offered without a blood offering or a death sacrifice.

19. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

- Moses in recognition that a blood or death sacrifice must accompany the offering of the first covenant, offered up the blood sacrifice from a dead calve and goat and purified the content of the tabernacle.

20. Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

- When Moses had sprinkled the blood of the calve and goat on the contents of the tabernacle and the people, he told them that this blood represented the blood of the testament, which was the first covenant God made with Israel, and God commanded Israel to keep the covenant or agreement.

21. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

- Since the blood represented purity Moses sprinkle the tabernacle and all the vessels used in the fulfilling of the priestly ministry.

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22. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

- This verse states that the law required that almost everything be purged with the blood, because there could be no remission and forgiveness of sin with the shedding of blood.

23. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

- This verse states that it was necessary that those things that represented the things which are in heaven, should be purified with a blood sacrifice, however the things in heaven have a much better sacrifice than the blood of a calve or goat.

24. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

- Christ did not enter into the most Holy place that was made by humans hands, which was only representative of the heavenly things, but He into heaven itself and is now in the presence of God Almighty.

25. Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

- Since Christ entered into the most Holy of Holiest place as the pure most High Priest, there is no need for Him to enter again each year as the earthly priest do.

26. For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

- If Christ had made yearly sacrifices to enter into the Holy of Holiest, he would have suffered many times since the world began, but now, He has entered once for all generation, and for all sin, by His atoning sacrifice of Himself for ever.

27. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

- This verse states that God has appointed a time in which all mankind will die, and after death, all mankind will face God's judgement.

28. So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

- Since Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind, He will come again, to give salvation and eternal life to those who have believed in Him, and His works.
 - Romans 6:10