



Hebrews 9:11-24

Jesus' Necessary Sacrifice Sun, Jun 1st 2008

Perhaps it is a sign of the times....

- Amazing to see how many are talking interfaith relationship
- Read several news articles from this week alone
- Many saying – Christianity is not superior...just one of the ways....

Want you to understand – that is not what Bible says...It is not what Jesus says

- Jesus asked one of those “comparative religion” questions – Jn 4:20-24
- Points out that salvation is from the Jews....truth, hope
 - Judaism, OT, Law – were foreshadows of what Christ is...
- But the reality, the work of God was more...now in Christ, better

Theme of Hebrews is to hold before us the Greatness of Christ

- It shows that not only is Jesus superior...but exclusive – what we have in Jesus, what is offered in Jesus – not found anywhere else
- Understand – struggle that original hearers had – harder than today
 - Today people talk about Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, etc
 - Then... issue was Judaism....problem was, it was right- but not full
- God in Christ, calling them out of that – into reality, fullness
- So again, the point of Hebrews – emphasize fullness, greatness of Christ

Consider the major themes of the section of Hebrews we are in

- Chap 7 – Jesus is a Superior High Priest
- Chap 8 – Jesus brings a Superior Covenant
- Chap 9a – Jesus Superior Tabernacle
- Now...His Superior Sacrifice
 - Going to break this into at least two weeks
 - This week – that His sacrifice was necessary

I. Without Jesus Coming – No Heaven

1. Notice v.11 – but Christ came...more perfect tabernacle - heaven

2. Not with the blood of animals

- a. OT sacrifices – prescribed by God – blood sacrifices
- b. OT sacrifices produced a purifying of the flesh
 - i) Considers the sacrifice of the Red Heifer as example
- c. Point was it was only external – only covered the sin, didn't remove it
- d. **Illus – not perfect – but imagine your sin as a financial debt**
 - i) **OT sacrifices kept the interest paid – kept from foreclosure – but did nothing to deal with the principle – couldn't**

3. Blood of Christ cleanses!

- a. **Through the Eternal Spirit** – what is this? 3 possibilities
 - i) Wiling Spirit – true
 - ii) Jesus Spirit – laying down life – true
 - iii) Holy Spirit – true – perfect interaction (whole Trinity – says to God)
 - iv) Not clear which is referring to – all true and present
- b. **Without Spot** – perfect
- c. **Cleanse your conscience** – deep, real, full
 - i) Money illustration – paid the debt, the principle too
- d. **From dead works** – works that produced death, death brings
- e. **To serve the Living God** – wow, where we are – acceptable
- f. Note – because of Jesus – have Eternal redemption, Eternal Inheritance

4. Point – without this...no redemption, for anyone – not provided elsewhere

- a. Brings up important theological point in **v.15**
- b. What about those under 1st Covenant? Adam? Moses? David? Isaiah?
- c. Important – so think this through – without Jesus, no one get to heaven
- d. **During OT times – no one made it to heaven**
 - i) When people died – went to abode of dead –Hades or Abraham's bosom
 - ii) **Luk 16:19-31** – obviously a division – based on faith...but not heaven
 - iii) When Jesus died –led these to heaven – Eph 4:8, 1 Pet 3:18-20
- e. Now...to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord
 - i) Phil 1:21-23, 2 Cor 5:6-8
- f. Simple point – nobody made it to heaven without Christ- no redemption

II. Without Jesus Death – No Covenant

1. Covenant – like a contract, basis of a relationship

- a. Spent a whole week on this a couple Sunday's ago
- b. Told you – interesting word – used of someone's "last will and testament"

2. God appeals to the illustration of it being a "will"

- a. Simple point – if there is no death – will doesn't go into effect
- b. Let us say I was worth 25 billion (not) – left it to you in my will. Not yours until I die...my death brings the blessing to you
- c. Basis of your obtaining...is the death of the testator

3. Simple point – without Jesus Death – you have no hope, no basis of hope

- a. Wonderful New Covenant – entirely dependent on Jesus death

III. Without Jesus Blood – No Forgiveness

1. Even the first covenant was dedicated with blood

- a. Tells us how it happened. v.19-21
- b. Tells us it was necessary – v.23

2. Blood is needed

- a. Almost all things are purified
 - i) Almost every offering in OT is a blood offering – true. Few other, but most were blood sacrifices
- b. Key words – "without the shedding of blood there is no remission"
- c. Notice words "it was necessary"

3. Live in a day where many struggle with

- a. Call OT and Christianity a "slaughterhouse religion"
- b. Problem is that in part because of influence of Christianity – lost sight of seriousness of sin
- c. Imagine being in OT –constant sacrifice – what it would emphasize to you
- d. Saw it in India....

Conclusion

Jesus prayed in Garden – if there is any other way...

- Passion there, example there – but truth as well
- There was and is no other way

Think of old movies like “It’s a wonderful life”

- Themed around – “What if you never existed” – impact of life
- If Jesus didn’t come...if Jesus didn’t die
 - No forgiveness
 - No covenant
 - No heaven

No Jew – no man, woman, child – make it to heaven outside of blood of Christ

- One of the great needs – is that you see your need for Christ

Let me tell a story to show how Christ saves souls. Mr. Whitfield had a brother who had been like him, an earnest Christian, but he had backslidden; he went far from the ways of godliness; and one afternoon, after he had been recovered from his backsliding, he was sitting in a room in a chapel house. He had heard his brother preaching the day before, and his poor conscience had been cut to the very quick. Said Whitfield's brother, when he was at tea, "I am a lost man," and he groaned and cried, and could neither eat nor drink. Said Lady Huntingdon, who sat opposite, "What did you say, Mr. Whitfield?" "Madam," said he, "I said, I am a lost man." "I'm glad of it," said she; "I'm glad of it." "Your ladyship, how can you say so? It is cruel to say you are glad that I am a lost man." "I repeat it, sir," said she; "I am heartily glad of it." He looked at her, more and more astonished at her barbarity. "I am glad of it," said she, "because it is written, 'The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.' " With the tears rolling down his cheeks, he said, "What a precious Scripture; and how is it that it comes with such force to me? Oh! madam," said he, "madam, I bless God for that; then he will save me; I trust my soul in his hands; he has forgiven me."