



The Good News of the Gospel is that if you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior you don't need to bear the weight of your sin any longer. If you already believe in Jesus, be assured that in the eyes of God you are forgiven. That doesn't mean that you don't have to face the consequences for your sinful actions here on earth. But in the scope of eternity, which will last an infinitely longer than life on earth, you will be free and clear of any guilt because Jesus' sacrifice paid the price for your sin. Even while you are living in this sinful and fallen world, you can receive assurance. God, the King of All Creation, and ultimately the final judge accepts the payment made by Jesus as payment in full.

Jesus Purified the Consciences of Believers

- Beginning with the last verse that we just read, we see that Jesus' sacrifice for our sins will **"purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."**

- There were many things the first readers of this letter did to try to prove their worthiness, and the writer of Hebrews called these attempts to prove their worthiness **“dead works”**.
 - They offered sacrifices in the Temple.
 - They attended worship services.
 - They prayed regularly.
 - And they did many other things.
- We, today, often try to prove our worthiness to others and also to ourselves.
 - We want to feel respected so we may do whatever we think it will take to make that happen.
 - We want to make a good impression on others so we often pretend to be something we are not so they will respect and honor us.
 - We often think the Bible is only concerned with our relationship to God, but not to other people. Remember that Jesus often said that the problem with the Jewish leaders was that they were more interested in making a good impression on other people than in pleasing God ([Matthew 6:5](#), [2, 16](#); [7:5](#); [23:13](#), [15](#), [23](#) [25](#), [27](#), [29](#), and others).
- There can be no greater sacrifice than the one given by Jesus, because it was made **“by means of his own blood”**.
 - Because Jesus was God in human flesh, He was able to offer up Himself as a sacrifice. By doing this He was **“securing an eternal redemption”** for those who believe in Him as Savior.
 - Jesus’ sacrifice was so huge that God recognized it as sufficient payment for the sins of those who believe in Him.
 - Because Jesus’ sacrifice satisfied God we also should recognize that Jesus the necessary payment for our sin, and that His sacrifice is also sufficient to **“purify our conscience from dead works”**.
 - If we claim that Jesus’ sacrifice was not sufficient to **“purify our conscience”** then we would be claiming that our standards are higher than the standards set by God.

Jesus Could Accomplish This Only by His Death

¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶ For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷ For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸ Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹ For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” ²¹ And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Hebrews 9:15–22 (ESV)

- The writer of Hebrews compares Jesus’ action as being similar to **“a will”**. When someone dies, their will goes into effect.
- In fact, **“a will takes effect only at death”**. In other words, until the person dies the **“will”** is not in effect. It’s just a piece of paper.

- The writer of Hebrews makes another comparison, "**under the law almost everything is purified by blood.**" Like a will that requires that the person who wrote the will must die before it can be enacted, and according to God's Law, only the shedding of blood could allow sins to be forgiven.
- In fact, "**without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins**".

Jesus' Sacrifice Accomplished Salvation Once for All

²³ Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. Hebrews 9:23–28 (ESV)

- "**It was necessary**" that the heavenly Temple be purified. Just as the earthly Temple in Jerusalem had to be purified, so also the Heavenly Temple needed to be purified. The sacrifices that were used to purify the earthly Temple were inadequate. A "**better sacrifice**" was needed. Every sacrifice the priests offered in the Temple foretold of the sacrifice Jesus would give. Unlike their endless repetitions, Jesus "**appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself**".
- In the earthly Temple the high priest entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement. Jesus, the great high priest, "**entered ... into heaven itself.**"
- The writer of Hebrews referred to the time of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross as "**the end of the ages**". Why? Those words were written about an event that took place more than 2,000 years ago. Time has continued since that time. Question: In what sense was Jesus' death on the cross an ending? Answer: It was the final step in a long series of events that revealed God's plan for salvation. Everything required to prepare for Jesus' death and resurrection was complete at that time.
- There is also another sense that Jesus' work marks "**the end of ages**". When Jesus returns, and completes His work in this world, this creation will finally come to an end. It will be the final end of this world.

Do you know what an idol is? In the Old Testament people made statues of wood, stone, and metal. They used these idols as representations of the gods they worshipped. They believed that the idols served them like a telephone. They believed that the idols helped them to gain access to the false gods they worshipped.

Today we don't talk about worshipping gods like Zeus, or Apollo, or Jupiter. But we do something that is very similar. We use things made of plastic, and other materials, such as cell phones and TV/s. These devices get in the way of our relationship with the true God of the Bible. Many of us sit for hours in front of those devices when we should be worshipping with fellow believers, reading the Bible, or praying.

There are many other idols in addition to media gadgets. We may spend more time following sports than we spend drawing close to Jesus. We may put more effort into impressing a group of people than we do in serving our Savior. All of these activities and things can become idols that either take the place of God or interfere with our service to God. An idol is anything that we put before God.

Everything in life should be shaped by our relationship to Jesus. We should live differently. We should love differently. We should work differently. We should give differently. He gave everything He had for us. We can't pay Him back, but we can say thank you with our every word and action.

Redemption Through the Blood of Christ (Hebrews 9:11–28)

V I A I P O R T H H O L Y
B E D T Y R E V E P N L F
L D E L K N I R P S C R I
O A D N T H E E A R E S R
O M N E U F E C S E D B U
D R A R F T R A K T P T P
H C M O E I O A V N H P L
Y A M M F T F I T E T K A
F L O I L M E A N S N S C
L V C D F I R S T D G S E
B E I C O V E N A N T N S
T S I R H C H M I A E D U
A L P D E A T H O H I G H
P H B B R I T G W C U P T

But **when Christ appeared** as a **high priest** of the good **things** that have **come**, **then** through the greater and **more** perfect **tent** (not **made** with **hands**, that is, not of this creation) he **entered once** for all into the **holy places**, not by **means** of the **blood** of **goats** and **calves** but by **means** of his own **blood**, **thus** securing an **eternal** redemption. For if the **blood** of **goats** and **bulls**, and the **sprinkling** of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much **more** will the **blood** of **Christ**, who through the **eternal** Spirit **offered** himself without blemish to God, **purify** our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. **Therefore** he is the mediator of a new **covenant**, so that those who are called may receive the promised **eternal** inheritance, since a **death** has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the **first covenant**. For where a will is involved, the **death** of the one who **made** it must be established. For a will takes effect only at **death**, since it is not in force as long as the one who **made** it is alive. **Therefore** not even the **first covenant** was inaugurated without **blood**. For **when every commandment** of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the **blood** of **calves** and **goats**, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and **sprinkled** both the book itself and all the people, saying, “This is the **blood** of the **covenant** that God **commanded** for you.” And in the same way he **sprinkled** with the **blood** both the **tent** and all the vessels used in

worship. Indeed, under the law almost everything is **purified** with **blood**, and without the shedding of **blood** there is no forgiveness of sins. **Thus** it was necessary for the copies of the **heavenly things** to be **purified** with these rites, but the **heavenly things** themselves with better **sacrifices** than these. For **Christ** has **entered**, not into **holy places made with hands**, which are copies of the true **things**, but into **heaven** itself, now to **appear** in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to **offer** himself repeatedly, as the **high priest enters** the **holy places every** year with **blood** not his own, for **then** he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has **appeared once** for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the **sacrifice** of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die **once**, and after that **comes** judgment, so **Christ**, having been **offered once** to bear the sins of many, will **appear** a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. ([ESV](#))

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Something to think about:

The passage we studied tells us that “**by means of his own blood ... purify your conscience.**” Jesus was God in human flesh. In Leviticus 17:11 we are told that the Jewish people were forbidden to eat meat with blood in it because blood represented life itself. And, life belonged to God, because He was the giver of life.

Jesus’ blood represented His life. He was the giver of life because He was God. His blood was the blood of the giver of life. Could this be the reason that only Christ’s blood could forgive sin once and for all?

Has your conscience been purified by His blood? Have you fully accepted the reality of His forgiveness of your sin?