
Words of Truth

Hebrews 9:22-25

By: Brian A. Yeager

It is wonderful that we live under the perfect law of liberty. We have an amazing hope ahead of us (Titus 1:1-2). Our having the hope of eternal life came with a steep price. Our study in this article is from the following text: *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. 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. 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: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others”* (Hebrews 9:22-25).

When we look back at the Law of Moses, blood needed to be shed for sins to be purged. The word translated purged [καθαρίζω] means: “to cleanse (literally or figuratively): — (make) clean(-se), purge, purify. To make clean, cleanse; from physical stains and dirt, utensils, food, a leper, to cleanse by curing, to remove by cleansing, in a moral sense, to free from defilement of sin and from faults, to purify from wickedness, to free from guilt of sin, to purify, to consecrate by cleansing or purifying, to consecrate, dedicate; to pronounce clean in a levitical sense” (Strong’s # 2511). You can study through the Law of Moses and see clearly that blood from sacrifices offered to God was widely used to cleanse in many ways (Leviticus 4:1-35, Leviticus 12:1-8, Leviticus 14:1-57, etc.). One of the reasons God forbade the eating of blood, was this: *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul”* (Leviticus 17:11).

Sometimes a text can be confusing. Did Jesus have to die to purify Heaven? No! The temple of our Lord in Heaven was holy without Christ needing to die (Psalms 11:4). We have to look at the text we are studying in the overall context. In this chapter and the chapter ahead of us, the superiority of the sacrifice of Christ over that of animals is made clear (Hebrews 9:1-14 and Hebrews 10:1-18). The text we are studying now states that the better sacrifice of Christ was necessary. The sacrifices of old could not cleanse anyone so that a person or persons could enter into Heaven. Jesus came and died in the flesh to make reconciliation for the sins of the people (Hebrews 2:9-17). Now, the family of God is not just an earthly family (the church). The family of God extends into Heaven (Ephesians 3:15). The family includes an innumerable company of angels (Hebrews 12:22-28). Jesus made all of this one!

To understand the reconciliation we have in Christ, consider the following text: *“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled. In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister” (Colossians 1:12-23).*

In addition to what we have covered already, Jesus was the greater sacrifice for what He has and is doing even after He died in the flesh. No sacrifice of old ever went directly before the Father in Heaven for the sins of the people. In our study of the book of Hebrews we have looked at Jesus being our interceder in the presence of God (Hebrews 7:22-28). He is called our mediator (I Timothy 2:5). Therefore, it is not just what Jesus did in dying for sins that makes His sacrifice superior. His superiority also includes His continued work in appearing before our Father in Heaven to continue the process of reconciliation between things in Heaven and on earth.

This point is being made by the Holy Spirit through the penmen of this letter because Jewish Christians were accustomed to the priests coming annually before God for the sins of the people. That was what was instructed under the Law of Moses (Exodus 30:10 and Leviticus 23:26-32). You will recall that under the Law of Moses, no one was made perfect (Hebrews 7:18-19). The point then comes back to the fact that Jesus was different than the sacrifices of old, because it was His own blood He offered for the sins of the people.

We need to, as much as those saints of old needed to, consider the price paid by Jesus for our sins. When Jesus instituted His supper, He spoke of His blood being shed for many for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28). We remember this weekly when we assemble together to partake of the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7 and I Corinthians 11:23-33). Don’t just remember the price paid for your sins weekly. We who were once enemies are brought nigh to God because of the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13). We were washed by His blood (I John 1:7 and Revelation 1:5). He was the lamb without spot (I Peter 1:18-19). Think often on that!