

A Better Covenant Cleanses

March 19, 2023
Hebrews 9:1-14

Pastor Mark Turner
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Intro:

- Theme of Hebrews: Jesus is Better!
- We tend to place greater trust in things we can sense
- Under the New Covenant worship is by faith, not the senses
- Under the Old, sacrifice was a visible, tangible reminder^{Heb9:22}
- Under the New, Christ sacrificed once for all^{Heb7:27,9:12}

The Old Covenant Regulations Pointed to Christ

- Tabernacle served as God's dwelling among His people^{Exodus25-30}
- Exacting specs, worship was NOT by imagination or innovation
- Regulative Principle of Worship {Nadab & Abihu^{Lev10:1-2}}
- Under New, Spirit unites us to Christ by faith^{Jn4:23}
- Tabernacle visually showed what New would bring^{Jn1:14}
- Worship no longer about a place, but the person of Jesus Christ!

The Old Tabernacle Symbols 2-5

- God gave exact instructions^{Exo25-31} for skilled men to construct a tabernacle which reflected holiness of God
- Golden urn - manna showed God's care^{Ex16:31-35}
- Aaron's Staff - God kept His people; priests chosen^{Num17} by God
- Tablets-reminded of responsibility of God's covenant
- Ark-showed forth God's covenant love - items of testimony^{Ex25:16}
- Altar of Incense-not in Holy of Holies^{Ex30:6} but closely associated with daily worship^{Ex30:7} & Day of Atonement^{Lev16:12-13}
- Cherubim-heavenly creatures tasked to guard holy things^{Gen3:24}
- Author not denigrated these objects but showing how they point to Christ the fulfillment of God's promises!

Christ Ends Earthly Mediated Access to God 6-10

- Priestly duties described with limitations
- Daily in holy place, but only once a year in Holiest
- Priests used animal blood sacrifices^{Lev16:17,21-22}
- Reminder that access to God was very limited⁸ under Old
- Exacting sacrifices held back God's wrath for sin^{Rom3:23-25}
- Imperfect sacrifices^{Old} looked forward to God's solution^{New}
- Old was flawed (because of human part^{Heb8:8})
- Pointed to coming of Christ - the perfect Mediator

Guilty Consciences Cleansed 11-12

- Ever had a guilty conscience? Run & hide in shame^{AdamGen3:8}
- Old couldn't cleanse (perfect) the conscience^{Heb9:7-9}
- But God sent Jesus who secured an eternal redemption^{Heb9:12}
- Perfect Priest, Jesus, without blemish shed His perfect blood provides the cleansing of our consciences as we rest in faith
- Stop trying to work^{sacrifice} to cleanse your conscience, instead rest in God's provision: Jesus Christ – eternal Perfect Priest!

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