

The Runner's Power

Hebrews 9

Purpose of the lesson: To find in Jesus' sacrifice of Himself a strong, secure foundation for life.

In view of the colossal problems besetting us – drugs, divorce, depression, to name a few-it seems like a gross oversimplification to say that the blood of Jesus is the solution. But in a different context, the Hebrews faced similar problems of neglect, unbelief and immaturity. They were in danger of dropping out of the race and turning back to their old ways. Seemingly, they lacked the power and purpose to advance and press on in their faith race.

GROUP DISCUSSION: Why does our culture often deny and dodge the truth of Christ-that He offered His own blood for humanity's sins?

PERSONAL REFLECTION: Think about your first experience reading the account of Christ's Passion week. How did it affect you? Why? Why is it important to keep reading the story?

What was the solution given to the Hebrews? The blood of Jesus. Only a full and perfect knowledge of what Jesus is and does for us can bring us to a full and perfect Christian life. Read Hebrews 9.

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1. Describe the Old Testament sanctuary from verses 1-5. (What did it look like? What would it have felt like to be there?)
 2. What is the point of the reminders about the Old Testament sanctuary (vv1-5)?
 3. In what way did the priest's gifts and sacrifices fall short (vv. 6-10)?

4. Contrast what Jesus did (vv.11-14) with the old system (vv.1-10). How could successfully marshal a debate to show that Jesus came to give us something better?
5. In verse 15 “for this reason” introduces the writer’s proof of why Jesus had to offer his blood for us. What does it mean to you that you are set free to receive an eternal inheritance?
6. Why is the shedding of sacrificial blood required even under the old covenant (vv.16-22)?
7. The writer explains why the offering of Jesus’ blood is not only necessary but also a superior sacrifice. Why is it important to direct our attention to “heavenly things”(v.23)?
8. In what sense was Jesus qualified “to appear for us in God’s presence” (v.24)?
9. What difference would it make to those steeped in Old Testament religion to know that Jesus one-for-all offered his own blood, rather than offering animal blood (vv.25-26)?
10. How can you deepen your understanding of and appreciation for Christ’s self-sacrifice?

11. How would you encourage someone to face eternity with hope and peace, Based on what you have learned in this chapter?
12. Also certain is Jesus' second coming (v.28). In light of his blood offering, how would you like to spend your time waiting for Him?

Thank and praise the Lord Jesus Christ for His suffering to make atonement for your sins. Be specific about the benefits of His death for you.

NOW OR LATER

Think about people you know who find Christ's blood to be offensive. How can you pray for them? What can you do to introduce them to Jesus?