

### The Lord Jesus Christ had to Shed His Blood

#### Hebrews 9:16-28

Hebrews 9:16-28 - <sup>16</sup> For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. <sup>17</sup> For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. <sup>18</sup> Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. <sup>19</sup> For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, <sup>20</sup> saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." <sup>21</sup> Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. <sup>22</sup> And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

<sup>23</sup> Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. <sup>24</sup> For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; <sup>25</sup> not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— <sup>26</sup> He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. <sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

#### Background Notes

Have you ever talked to people who say they like everything about Christianity except the emphasis on the **blood** of Christ? They like the idea of following the example of Jesus, and showing Christian love, etc., but they don't like the fact that He had to shed His blood on the cross for our salvation from our sin. In fact, that aspect of the Christian faith is offensive to them.

Apparently some of the Jews to whom the letter to the Hebrews was written had the same problem. After all, Jesus of Nazareth had been executed like a criminal. What kind of Messiah was this? To them, the death and shed blood of Christ was a stumbling block.

From God's perspective, Jesus did not die as a criminal on the Roman cross. He died on the cross as the perfect Sacrifice for the sins of the world. Hebrews 2 says that the Lord Jesus had to suffer and die in order to make *propitiation* for the sins of the people.

What's the meaning of the word "*propitiation*"? *Propitiation* means that our Lord's death as the sinless Sacrifice satisfied the anger of God against sin. Propitiation is not the pagan idea that God must be "appeased" with a blood sacrifice. No! ***Propitiation means satisfying the wrath of a holy God against sin.***

In the first half of Hebrews 9 the author explained that the high priest under the old Covenant had to bring the blood of the atoning sacrifice into the Holy of Holies of the Tabernacle. ***He could not enter without blood*** (v7). In the same way, Christ, the perfect Sacrifice and our High Priest under the New Covenant, shed His own blood and entered the Heavenly Sanctuary to atone for our sins.

*"For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? <sup>15</sup> And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death" (v13-15).*

So the death of Christ and the shedding of His precious blood was absolutely necessary for our salvation - whether or not this seems offensive to people, then or today. I trust that you don't find the blood of Christ offensive. If you do, you need to read and understand the book of Hebrews.

In verses 16-18, the author seemed to try a slightly different tack to drive home the point that it was necessary for Christ to die. He had already shown that the death of Christ was the basis of the New Covenant, and that He is the Mediator of the New Covenant: *"He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death" (v15).*

So the author likened the New Covenant to a Will, or Last Testament. That's really what a Will or Testament is – it's a covenant. As we all know, a Will goes into effect at the death of the testator - when the one who signed the Will dies. *"For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives" (v16-17)*

In the same way, Jesus Christ had to die in order for the New Covenant to go into effect.

## **Doctrinal Points**

### **1. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**

Verse 22: *"And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."*

We often quote this verse in a gospel message, and rightly so. But notice - the context of this verse is the first Covenant, or the Law! Under the Law, almost all things were cleansed by blood.

Why was there such an emphasis on blood in the old Covenant? Why was everything, including the people, sprinkled with blood? Why were covenants sealed in blood? Verse 20 quotes Exodus 24:8: *“This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.”*

The penalty for sin is death, and the shedding of blood was required because it emphasized that life had to be given so that sin could be covered. Leviticus 17:11: *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”* So the shedding of blood portrays the giving up of life, which was necessary under the Law for sin to be covered.

All the shedding of blood in the Old Testament, of course, looked forward to the coming of the Son of God who, as the Lamb of God, would shed His blood for the sins of the world. The Lord Jesus had to shed His blood. He had to give up His life as a substitute for us, so that we could be saved. If the Lord Jesus had died of pneumonia or had a heart attack, we would still be in our sins. He had to voluntarily give up His life and shed His blood as a sacrifice – as our Substitute. ***Without the shedding of Christ’s blood there is no forgiveness.***

## **2. With the shedding of Christ’s blood there is more than forgiveness.**

In our studies of the epistle to the Hebrews, we’ve seen that the Old Testament Tabernacle and its design was actually a **copy** of the true heavenly Sanctuary. In verses 23-28 the author taught that same truth, with the emphasis on the fact that Christ had to shed His blood to cleanse or purify this heavenly Sanctuary. Verse 23: *“Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.”*

In what way did the heavenly Sanctuary have to be cleansed? Some commentators lean toward the idea that because of the fall of Satan and the fact that sin has affected the universe, therefore the heavenly Sanctuary must be cleansed. That may be part of what was meant here, but I think the main idea is that the heavenly Sanctuary needed to be cleansed **because of us**. Although we are forgiven sinners, we still sin. Yet even as sinners, because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ we can enter the very presence of God. Hebrews 10:19: *“... having boldness to enter the holiest by the blood of Jesus...”*

Why are we, who still sin, able to enter the presence of God and not contaminate the heavenly Sanctuary? It’s because the blood of Christ that was shed for us has cleansed the heavenly Sanctuary, so we can enter the very presence of God.

Moreover, the blood of Christ had to be shed only once, for all time - not often, like the Old Testament sacrifices. Now sin has been put away completely. Now we have forgiveness of sins, salvation from the penalty of sin (v26). Now the heavenly Sanctuary has been cleansed. Now we can enter the very presence of God without fear (v23). Now our Lord appears before the Father for us, to deliver us from the power of sin (v24). Now we eagerly await His return, when He will save us from the very presence of sin (v28).

Verse 28: *“So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”* What’s the idea in the words *“to those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time?”* Does this mean that only “those who eagerly wait for Him” will be taken to be with Him? No, a “partial Rapture” doctrine is not taught here! The idea is that because the Lord has shed His blood once for all, the sin question has been settled. So when He comes back the second time, it will be apart from the problem of sin – so we will not have to fear death or judgment, and thus we can **eagerly** wait for Him!

What a great “package of salvation” our Lord Jesus has provided for us! With the shedding of Christ’s blood, there is more than forgiveness – ***much more!***

## Practical Application

### Remember - reincarnation is not in the Bible.

Has anyone ever asked you if the Bible teaches reincarnation? The answer is: **No!** Where would you find a verse in the Bible to demonstrate that? Hebrews 9:27: *“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”*

Reincarnation is not taught in the Bible.

In the context of verse 27, the point is that Christ’s death cannot be repeated because He was a real Person, and people only die once. But this verse can also be used to show that the Bible does not teach reincarnation. The idea of a “continuous cycle of death and rebirth” is not found anywhere in the Bible. It is actually a satanic doctrine. The idea of reincarnation deceives people into thinking that they will be reborn into another life, so they don’t have to fear the judgment of God when they die.

The Bible says that ***there’s no “second chance” after people die.*** After they die, they will be judged. There’s only one escape from eternal condemnation to hell, and that is to trust Christ as personal Savior. His shed blood alone can satisfy the wrath of God against sin. Remember, reincarnation is not found in the Bible.