

Hebrews 9.15-28

Blood, Blood, Blood: Gruesome or Glorious?

Hebrews 9.¹⁵Therefore 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. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For 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, ²⁰saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” ²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. ²³Thus 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. ²⁴For 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. ²⁵Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶for 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. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸so 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.

1. Deal > *Blessing*

a. Unconditional

The LORD said to Abram, “...*I will* make of you a great nation, and *I will* bless you and make your name great, so that *you will be* a blessing. *I will* bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you *I will* curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
Genesis 12.1-3

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.
Genesis 15.12

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God
Ephesians 2.8

b. Conditional

v. 19 every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people

sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.
Romans 5.13

Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “*All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.*” And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD.
Exodus 24.3,4

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.
Galatians 3.23,24

c. Conflict?

v. 15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. 1 Timothy 2.5,6

Abraham’s descendants, to whom God had promised blessing, were the very ones God later bound to curse and punishment in the old covenant, that is, the law given through Moses. This is why a mediator was needed. Because of his sin, man needed a mediator. But because of his promise, God, too, needed a mediator. For if God cursed his people so that Abraham’s offspring were cut off from salvation – as their failure under the Mosaic covenant obliged him to do – how own curse would fall upon himself.
Richard Phillips

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Romans 10.4

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.
2 Corinthians 1.20

2. Delivery > Blood

a. Lots that does a Little

vs. 18-22 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.

And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar...And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." Exodus 24.5-8

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Hebrews 10.4

b. Little that does a Lot

v. 15 he is the mediator of a new covenant...since a death has occurred that redeems them

v. 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.

you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ
1 Peter 1.18,19

3. Done > *Believe*

Christianity tells people to repent and promises them forgiveness. It therefore has nothing (as far as I know) to say to people who do not know they have done anything to repent of and who do not feel they need any forgiveness. It is after you have realized that there is a real Moral Law and a Power behind the law, and that you have broken the law and put yourself wrong with that Power – it is after all this, and not a moment sooner, that Christianity begins to talk... C.S. Lewis

a. Backward

Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram... offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide...On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." Genesis 22.14

v. 15 a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant

Jesus: "Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." John 8.56

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. Galatians 3.29

"Sins leave a stain upon the soul, a stain of guilt and of pollution. Nothing can fetch out this stain but the blood of Christ; and, rather than it should not be washed out, Christ was willing to shed his own blood, to purchase pardon and purity for His people." Matthew Henry

Believers were saved under the old covenant through their obedient faith in God – demonstrated by their sacrifices as they humbly acknowledged that sin required death and as they placed their souls under the mercy of God. Their sacrifices were not the means of salvation, but they were the evidence of believing, faithful hearts. To these, Christ's blood extended its retroactive power. Kent Hughes

b. Forward

vs. 16-17 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.

Jesus: “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Mark 14.24

For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. Romans 6.10

There are only two kinds of men: the righteous who think they are sinner, and the sinners who think they are righteous.
Blaise Pascal

the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin 1 John 1.7

c. Forever

“If there be any habitation for the spirits of just men, if great souls perish not with the body, mayest thou rest in peace”
Tacitus

v. 15 those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. Galatians 3.13,14

vs. 26-28 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.

For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10.14

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. Micah 7.18,19

Whoever believes in him is not condemned John 3.18

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life” John 5.24

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel’s veins
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains
William Cowper, 1772