

CHRIST IS THE MINISTER AND MEDIATOR OF THE NEW COVENANT

HEBREWS 09: 15–22

Introduction: Jesus Christ, Mediator of the New Covenant

Jesus Christ is the Mediator of the new testament or covenant. Remember: a testament or covenant is an agreement between two parties. This particular covenant is the great covenant of God, the new covenant and agreement that He has made with man. God has set up a new agreement with man. He no longer relates to man like He did centuries ago, that is, by law, by man trying to keep certain rules and regulations and thereby becoming acceptable to God. Under the old covenant of law man just could never relate to God, not adequately and not perfectly. Man was always failing to keep the law; he was always breaking his relationship to God. As a result, he was condemned and cut off from God. He never had true fellowship and communion with God, not on a continuous basis, not a fellowship and communion that met the very basic needs of man. What are those needs? What are the basic needs of man?

=> Love and friendship with God and others.

=> A clear heart and conscience — to be completely free of guilt — to know that his sins are truly forgiven.

=> Deliverance from sin, evil, corruption, death and condemnation.

=> Absolute assurance and security that God has accepted him and that he will live in the presence of God perfected forever.

The new covenant meets every one of these needs. It meets them through the Lord Jesus Christ — through the Medi.ator of the new covenant of God.

I. Jesus Christ is the Mediator of the new covenant (v. 15).

II. Argument 1: a will is not in effect until the death of the one who made it (vv. 16-17).

III. Argument 2: the institution of the first covenant shows that all things are cleansed by blood (vv. 18-22).

I. *Hebrews 09:15 Mediator of the New Covenant*

Jesus Christ is the Mediator of the new covenant. Remember: a mediator is a person who stands between two parties and brings them together. He is the negotiator, the go-between, the arbitrator, the middle person. This is Jesus Christ, the great mediator between God and man.

But what gives Jesus Christ the right to be the great mediator between God and man?

Why is He the mediator and not some great leader of an earthly religion? What is there about Jesus Christ that makes Him so unique, that makes Him stand head and shoulders above all others when it comes to relating to God?

=> HIS DEATH. THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST IS WHAT GIVES HIM THE RIGHT TO BE THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN.

When Jesus Christ died, He died for *all men*. He sacrificed His life for everyone — no matter who they are. He took the sins of every human being upon Himself — He bore the guilt and condemnation for every person. How could He do this?

He was the Son of God who had come to earth for this very purpose. He became flesh and blood and lived as a Man upon earth. But there was one distinct difference: He never sinned. He never transgressed the law of God. He possessed the ideal, perfect righteousness. He stood before men as the *Ideal Man* which means that His ideal righteousness could cover man.

But something else was needed, something critical. Man had already sinned and transgressed; he already stood guilty before God. Therefore, the penalty for having broken the law had to be paid. Man had to die or else some *perfect sacrifice* had to step forward and die for him. As just stated, there was only one perfect and ideal person, the Lord Jesus Christ. He and He alone could step forward and bear the guilt and punishment for man. It is this that stands out above all else — this that sets Jesus Christ apart from everyone else in the universe — this that makes Jesus Christ stand head and shoulders above all others — this above all else that qualifies Him to be the great Mediator between God and man.

=> JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR MAN. HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR MAN.

His death redeems man, frees man from sin, death and judgment. What does this mean?

=> When we accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ *for our sins*, then Jesus Christ bore our sins; we do not have to bear them.

=> When we accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our death, then Jesus Christ bore our death; we do not have to die.

=> When we accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our judgment, then Jesus Christ bore our judgment; we do not have to face judgment.

The results are glorious: our sins are forgiven and we receive an eternal inheritance.

God accepts us, and we receive the glorious promise and assurance of living with Him forever and ever. We receive that for which we as men and women long and ache:

=> love and friendship with God

=> a clear heart and conscience

=> deliverance from sin, evil, corruption, death and condemnation

=> eternal life

=> absolute assurance and security

And note verse 15: even the believers under the first covenant of law received these things. The ideal perfection, righteousness and sacrifice of Jesus Christ covers all people. The ideal can and does stand for all.

Note one other glorious fact: this is true. It is true that Jesus Christ is the Mediator of the new covenant. God heaps argument upon argument, proof upon proof to show that Jesus Christ is the great Minister and High Priest of heaven. There are two strong arguments given in the next two notes.

Gal 1:4 *Who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.*

Eph 5:2 *And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Titus 2:14 *Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

1 John 3:16 *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

Rev 1:5 *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.*

Psa 69:9 *For zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.*

Isa 53:5 *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

Gal 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."*

Heb 2:9 *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

1 Pet 3:18 *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.*

2 Cor 5:21 *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Heb 9:28 *So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

1 Pet 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

II. Hebrews 09:16–17 Last Will and Testament

Argument one — a last will and testament is not in effect until the death of the one who made it. This one fact is critical to note: God’s covenant with man is the covenant of a last will and testament. That is, the terms are set exclusively by God, not man. God sets the terms and conditions and man either accepts or rejects them. God’s testament or covenant is somewhat like the *last will and testament* of any man. The recipient cannot change the terms of the will and testament; he can only accept or reject them.

Now, to the point: a testament or covenant does not take effect until when? Not until the death of the one who made it dies. God had willed that *His new covenant* would not go into force until Jesus Christ had died. As men upon their death give inheritance to those whom they love and care for, so God upon the death of His Son gives His inheritance to those whom He loves and cares for. The proof that Jesus Christ is the Mediator of God’s new covenant is that He died as the sacrifice for our sins. (See Heb. 8:6-13.)

Heb 8:6 But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

Heb 9:26-28 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

III. Hebrews 09:18–22 Covenant and the Blood of Jesus Christ

Argument two — the institution of the old covenant shows that all things are cleansed by blood. This is clearly seen when the old covenant was instituted by Moses (cp. Exo. 24:3-8, esp. 6-8). After God had given the law to Moses, Moses shared the law with the people. Then he made a sacrificial offering to the Lord. He took the blood of the animal and sprinkled both the book of the law and the people. This was a dedication service, a service commemorating the institution of God’s first covenant, and note how it was being instituted: by death — by the shedding of the blood of a sacrifice. Note what Moses says in v. 20.

Heb 9:20 He said, “This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.”

But this is not the only example we have. Moses also held a dedication service when the tabernacle was completed, and he sprinkled it and all the furnishings with blood (v. 21).

What is the significance of this argument?

Heb 9:22 *The law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

Under the covenant and law, almost all things were purged and cleansed by blood. In fact, without the shedding of blood there was no cleansing or forgiveness. This was true throughout the whole reign of the law — from the institution of the law down to the present. For men have always had a sense of failing, of coming short, and of being imperfect. They have known a frightening fact: they had to pay for their sins or else someone or something had to take their place and be sacrificed for them. Therefore, man has constantly made sacrifice for his sins in order to become acceptable to God. He has always sensed and known that “without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” — no cleansing and no forgiveness.

This is the argument, the proof that Jesus Christ is the Mediator of God’s new covenant with man. Jesus Christ shed His blood; He died for man. He has paid the penalty for man’s sins. He has instituted and launched God’s new covenant with man.

Mat 26:28 *“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*

Rom 5:9 *Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!*

Heb 9:14 *How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!*

Heb 9:22 *In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

Heb 10:17-22 *Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

1 Pet 1:18-19 *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

***1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

***Rev 1:5** And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood. ■*