

CHRIST IS THE MINISTER AND MEDIATOR OF THE PERFECT SACRIFICE FOR SINS (PART I) HEBREWS 09:23–28

Introduction

This is one of those great passages of Scripture that has a bottomless reservoir of meaning. It presents Jesus Christ as the perfect sacrifice for sins. The one thing man needs to face up to is this: he and his world are sinful and imperfect. He and his world die and waste away. Therefore, he needs to have his sins cleansed and taken away. In order to stand before the holy and perfect God, he must somehow be cleansed of sin and imperfection and be counted perfect. How is this possible? By Jesus Christ — by the sacrifice which Christ has made for man. Jesus Christ is the perfect sacrifice for sins.

- I. Jesus Christ purifies everything, even the very things of heaven (vv. 23-24).
- II. Jesus Christ does not offer a repeated sacrifice (vv. 25-26).
- III. Jesus Christ bore the penalty of judgment for man (vv. 27-28).

I. *Hebrews 09:23–24 The Death of Jesus Christ*

Jesus Christ purifies everything, even the very things of heaven. Jesus Christ provides a universal redemption. It was absolutely necessary that earthly sanctuaries and worship be purified with blood, and it is also absolutely necessary that the heavenly sanctuary and worship be purified with the blood of the Sovereign Lord. Why? Why does anything in heaven need to be cleansed and purified?

- => It is not because anything in heaven is sinful and unclean. It is not. Heaven is heaven; it is perfect and eternal.
- => It is because the way into heaven must be covered and enshrouded with blood in order to cover man as he approaches God. Man has to be covered with the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ even when he enters and stands in heaven. The only acceptance man has before God is the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ. Everywhere man stands and everything man touches — no matter where it is, in heaven or on earth — has to be covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. It has to be covered in order to protect man. Man's only acceptance before God is the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ, and man can never be accepted without that covering. It shall forever be his covering and his only acceptance into heaven before God.

This is critical — an absolute essential to note — for it shows how great the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ is and how great it is in the eyes and mind of God. It is so great

that God has insisted that the blood of His Son be used to cover everything throughout the whole universe, both of the physical and the spiritual world, both the physical and the spiritual dimension. The blood of His Son's dear life covers every place that man shall ever go and everything that man shall ever touch. Picturesque and symbolic language, yes, but a picture of the truth nevertheless. For man shall never be acceptable to God apart from the sacrificial death and blood of God's dear Son. Therefore, it is an absolute necessity that all things be covered by the death of Christ — by the great sacrifice which He made in obedience to His Father's will. God the Father would never allow any other way, for His dear Son paid the ultimate price — a price so far beyond our imagination that our understanding amounts to no more than a drop in comparison to the great ocean of truth. This is the reason Jesus Christ has appeared in the presence of God for us — to cleanse and purify the way for us. Jesus Christ has purified everything. He has provided a universal redemption for us that will last forever and ever without end. He is the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

***Eph 5:25-26** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.*

***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 10:19-22** 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 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.*

II. Hebrews 09:25–26 The Death of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ does not offer a repeated sacrifice, but He sacrificed Himself once (v. 25-26). The earthly High Priest had to make sacrifice often; he had to enter into the Holy of Holies every year to make sacrifice for sins. He was as all other men, sinful. Therefore, he could never make the perfect sacrifice. But not Jesus Christ. He was perfect, the very Son of God Himself. He was the perfect High Priest who could sacrifice Himself for the sins of men. Because He was perfect, His sacrifice was perfect — forever acceptable to God. Therefore, Jesus Christ could offer sacrifice for sins once and sins could be forgiven forever and ever. He is the great mediator of the perfect sacrifice. He has done “away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (v. 26).

III. Hebrews 09:27–28 Jesus Christ Bore Our Death and Judgment

Jesus Christ bore the death and judgment for many. Note four significant points.

1. Man dies and he dies once — only once. There is no second chance. This is the emphasis of “once” (hapax). Man has only one chance to be forgiven, saved and redeemed — only one chance to become acceptable to God and receive the inheritance of the promise, that is, eternal life. Man dies, and when he dies, his opportunity is over. Jesus Christ died in this world and in the time frame of this life. He did not die in some other world nor in the time frame of some other world. He died upon earth *as a Man for men*. Therefore, there will never again be a chance to be covered by His sacrifice other than in this world and in this life. Men die and they die only once, never again to live upon the earth.

Rev 5:12 In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!”

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

James 1:10 But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.

1 Pet 1:24 For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall.”

2 Sam 14:14 Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him.

Psa 49:10 For all can see that wise men die; the foolish and the senseless alike perish and leave their wealth to others.

Psa 89:48 What man can live and not see death, or save himself from the power of the grave?

Psa 103:15-16 As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

Eccl 8:8 No man has power over the wind to contain it; so no one has power over the day of his death. As no one is discharged in time of war, so wickedness will not release those who practice it.

Isa 40:6 A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.”

2. Man dies and then comes the judgment. He has sinned and cursed God, ignored and neglected God, rebelled against and rejected God. This is the tragedy of tragedies.

We just live like we want — go our own way and do our own thing — instead of living like God says. We are short of what we should be and ever so imperfect. We are guilty of transgressing the Word and Law of God; therefore, we must bear the judgment of God. When? When shall we be judged? This verse tells us as clearly as it can be stated; “Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment” (v. 27). Once we die, we shall be judged: separated and cut off from God forever and never allowed to enter God’s presence. We shall be forbidden to enter heaven and cast into the place that is the very opposite of heaven — into hell itself. Judgment follows death. We shall be judged and separated from God immediately upon death — to be separated from Him forever and ever.

Mat 25:31-32 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

2 Pet 2:9 If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

2 Pet 3:7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

Jude 1:14-15 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

3. But note the glorious news: Christ was once offered to bear the sins and judgment of many. Christ has taken our sins upon Himself. He has sacrificed Himself for our sins and borne our judgment for us. We no longer have to bear the judgment for our sins and imperfections. If we believe — truly trust Jesus Christ to bear our sins and judgment — then God counts our sins as having been borne by Christ. God counts us as being free from sin — as being perfect and acceptable to Him. Therefore, we never have to be judged and condemned for sin.

But note: this glorious salvation is not wrought in the lives of all. A person has to believe and trust in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This is only reasonable: if a person does not believe in something, he does not allow it to work for him. But if he does believe, he does allow it to work for him. When we believe — really believe — then the sacrifice of Jesus Christ works for us. His sacrifice covers our sins and we become acceptable to God. We never have to face the judgment and condemnation for our sins.

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.

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.

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."

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.

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.

Heb 9:26 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

4. Jesus Christ will come to earth a second time, and He shall come not to bear sin, but to save those who look for Him.

=> What a phenomenal statement!

=> What an astounding promise!

=> What a spectacular sight it will be!

Jesus Christ will rent the sky above and return to earth to save all who look for Him. And we can rest assured that He can save us. For He will be perfect and eternal, the very embodiment of ideal perfection and righteousness. Therefore as the Ideal Perfection and Righteousness, He can cover us with Himself. He can make us perfect and righteous, and He will — if we look for Him.

Other Scriptures tell us what will happen and give us some detail. Briefly stated, the spectacular sight will be...

- the bodies of dead believers, who died looking for His return, shall be resurrected to meet Him in the sky.
- the persons who are living and looking for Him shall be lifted up off the earth and ascend to join Him in the sky.

1 Th 4:16-18 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*

Mat 16:27 *“For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”*

Mat 24:44 *“So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*

Mat 25:31-32 *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”*

1 Cor 4:5 *Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.*

2 Tim 4:1 *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:*

Titus 2:12-13 *It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

1 John 2:28 *And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.*

Jude 1:14-15 *Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”*

Rev 3:11 *I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ■*

HEBREWS 09: 27 DEATH (THANATOS)

*Just as a man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement,
Hebrews 09:27*

The basic meaning of death is *separation*. Death never means extinction, annihilation, nonexistence, or inactivity. "Death is the separation of a person from the purpose or use for which he was intended." (H.S. Miller. Quoted by Lehman Strauss. *Devotional Studies in Galatians and Ephesians*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Bros. Copyright 1957 by Lehman Strauss, p. 137.)

The Bible speaks of three deaths.

1. Physical death: the *separation* of a man's spirit or life from the body. This is what men commonly call death. It is when a person ceases to exist on this earth and is buried (1 Cor. 15:21-22; Heb. 9:27).

1 Cor 15:21-22 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

2. Spiritual death: the *separation* of man's spirit from God while he is still living and walking upon earth. This death is the *natural state* of a man on earth without Christ. Man is seen as still in his sins and *dead* to God (Eph. 2:1; 4:18; 1 Jn. 5:12).

Spiritual death speaks of a person who is dead while he still lives (1 Tim. 5:6). He is a natural man living in this present world, but he is said to be dead to the Lord Jesus Christ and to God and to spiritual matters.

- a. A person who wastes his life in wild living is spiritually dead.

Luke 15:32 "But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

- b. A person who has not partaken of Christ is spiritually dead.

John 6:53 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."

- c. A person who does not have the spirit of Christ is said to be spiritually dead.

Rom 8:9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

- d. A person who lives in sin is said to be spiritually dead.

Eph 2:1 *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.*

Col 2:13 *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.*

- e. A person who is separated from God is said to be spiritually dead.

Eph 4:18-19 *They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.*

- f. A person who sleeps in sin is spiritually dead.

Eph 5:14 *For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."*

- g. A person who lives in sinful pleasure is dead while he lives.

1 Tim 5:6 *But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.*

- h. A person who does not have the Son of God is dead.

1 Tim 5:6 *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

- i. A person who does great religious works but does the wrong works is dead.

Rev 3:1 *"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead."*

3. Eternal death: the *separation* of man from God's presence forever. This is the second death, an eternal state of being *dead to God*. (1 Cor. 6:9-10; 2 Th. 1:9). It is spiritual death, separation from God, that is prolonged beyond the death of the body. It is called the "second death" or eternal death.

Rom 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Rom 8:6 *The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.*

2 Th 1:9 *They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. □*