

“Nothing But the Blood”  
The Sermon God Wrote #28  
Hebrews 9:11-22  
April 24, 2016

## **Scripture Reading: Hebrews 9:11-22**

### **Introduction**

- If you are a Christian, you have to deal with the fact that it is a bloody faith. And Hebrews 9 is a particularly blood-focused chapter.
- Big idea: Better blood ensures better results

### **On Blood**

1. We live in a sanitized culture
2. We live in a supposedly “enlightened” culture
3. A different mindset
  - a. Archibald Kennedy — By the Hebrews, as by other peoples of antiquity, the blood, both of man and of beast, was regarded as the seat of the soul, that is, of the vital principle common to all sentient organisms. When we reflect how little we know even now, notwithstanding all our advance in physiology and allied sciences, of the mystery of life and death, we can in some measure realise the emotions of awe and dread...with which the early Semites must have regarded the shedding of blood.
  - b. Holman Bible Dictionary — Blood and “life,” or “living being,” are closely associated. The Hebrews of OT times were prohibited from eating blood. “Only be sure not to eat the blood, for the blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the flesh. You shall not eat it; you shall pour it out on the ground like water” (Deut. 12:23–24). For agricultural people this command stressed the value of life. Though death was ever present, life was sacred. Life was not to be regarded cheaply.

### **I. An Eternal Redemption | vs. 11-12**

1. Temporary Redemption — “Do I know that my life matters?”
  - a. Religion
  - b. Achievements
  - c. Relationships
  - d. Experiences

### **II. A Clean Conscience | vs. 13-14**

1. The conscience
  - a. The capacity to self-evaluate | Romans 9:1
  - b. A part of us, not the Holy Spirit | 2 Corinthians 5:11

- c. Can be strong or weak | Romans 14:13-23
- d. Can become non-responsive | 1 Timothy 4:2

### **III. A Rich Inheritance | vs. 15-18**

1. N.T. Wright — The word for ‘covenant’ is the same Greek word as ‘will’ in the legal sense. Before somebody dies, they make a ‘will’ or ‘covenant’, disposing of their assets as they please. This legal document is binding, but (obviously) it does not come into effect until the death of the testator has been established. With great daring, it seems, the writer now proposes that the new covenant itself only comes into force after the relevant death ... which means, of course, the death of Jesus.
2. Matthew 6:19-21 — <sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### **IV. A Costly Forgiveness | vs. 19-22**

1. Forgiveness is always costly
  - a. Ray Stedman — Sin cannot be set aside, even by a loving God, without a death occurring. His judicial sentence, “the soul who sins is the one who will die” (Ezek 18:4), must be carried out. By sprinkling the blood of an animal on the people, Moses is saying that God would accept that substitution as a temporary reprieve until the true Substitute should come. The people must realize that sin is serious, since only death can relieve it.
2. Sacrificing an animal was costly
3. Jesus’ sacrifice was incredibly costly
  - a. Tim Keller — The God of the Bible is not like the primitive deities who demanded our blood for their wrath to be appeased. Rather, this is a God who becomes human and offers his own lifeblood in order to honor moral justice and merciful love so that someday he can destroy all evil without destroying us...Why did Jesus have to die in order to forgive us? There was a debt to be paid— God himself paid it. There was a penalty to be born— God himself bore it. Forgiveness is always a form of costly suffering.

### **Conclusion**

Jesus’ blood secures for us 4 amazing things: redemption, clean conscience, eternal life, and forgiveness. So let’s receive them with thanksgiving each and every day.