

➤ **Review Hebrews 9:1-10.**

Last week's passage ended by explaining that the Old Testament tabernacle rituals for dealing with sin were a picture pointing to the better covenant that was coming, which the writer called "the new order" (9:10).

➤ **Read Hebrews 9:11-28.**

This week's passage will explore the superiority of Christ and the benefits of this new order that are ours! Keep in mind the phrase below from verse 14 as you work through this lesson. You may want to decorate or color it in order to make it stick in your mind.

HOW MUCH MORE

- Using Hebrews 9:11-14, 23-24 fill in the chart below to contrast the old order/covenant with the new order/covenant.

	Old Order/Covenant	New Order/Covenant
Tabernacle		
Sacrifice		
Cleansing		

- In the Old Testament, Moses was warned to construct the "tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I [the LORD] will show you" (Ex. 25:9).
 - What was the earthly tabernacle patterned after? (v. 11; Heb. 8:5)

- b. Why you think it was important that Moses follow the specific pattern?
3. The writer of Hebrews has taken great pains to prove the superiority of Jesus' ministry as high priest and the superiority of his sacrifice in contrast to the earthly ones. Why does he make such a big deal about this? (Consider v. 12 and Heb. 5:9, but also brainstorm to fill out your answer to this question.)
4. The provisions for dealing with sin under the old covenant were set up by God.
- a. What value did these old covenant provisions have? (v. 13)

- b. What limitations did these old covenant provisions have? (Heb.7:18-19; 10:3-4)

5. Before moving on, it is important to discuss why blood was necessary as part of the old and new covenants in dealing with sin. Blood in this passage stands for death.¹ Reread Hebrews 9:11-14, replacing the word "blood" with "death."

- a. How did blood (i.e. death) factor in as a consequence for the original sin against God? (Gen. 2:15-17; See also box to the right.)

Blood and Original Sin

Once Adam and Eve sinned, they sought to cover their nakedness with fig leaves (Gen. 3:7). The fig leaves were inadequate, so the Lord God shed the blood of an animal to clothe Adam and his wife (Gen. 3:21). With the first sin came the first blood spilled to cover it.

- b. What blood did God require in the old covenant to deal with sin? (Review this week's passage.)

- c. What did the blood of the old covenant accomplish? (vv. 13, 22)

- d. Why was the blood (death) of Jesus necessary to establish the new covenant? (vv. 15-17)

Will

"Beneficiaries have no claim on the benefits assigned to them in a will until the testator dies (v. 17). Since Christ's death has been duly attested, 'the promised eternal inheritance' (v. 15) is available to his beneficiaries."²

- e. "HOW MUCH MORE" does the blood of Christ accomplish than the blood of the old covenant?

v. 14

v. 15b; Jn. 8:34–36; Rev. 1:5

v. 26b

v. 28a

1 Jn. 1:7

6. Verse 14 says Jesus' sacrifice (his blood) "cleanse[s] our consciences from acts that lead to death [or dead works or useless rituals], so that we may serve the living God!" Hebrews 10:2 clarifies this a bit by saying when the conscience is cleansed, we "no longer [feel] guilty for [our] sin." Why? (Answer this in your own words by reviewing your answers to the previous question.)
7. It may seem godly to feel guilty for sin, but instead our sense of guilt and shame should lead us to God's provision for it. As Ray Stedman says, "a troubled conscience can easily be taken care of by Christians as they accept the forgiving grace of God. When the conscience is confronted with the value of Christ's blood, it has nothing to say!"³ (Consider 1 John 1:9.)
- a. What dead works (something I do to atone for my sin, earn forgiveness, get back in good standing with God, etc.) do you perform when you are feeling guilty or are motivated by guilt?
- b. Why are they dead works or useless rituals? (If you are stuck, consider these verses: Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16.)

The New Covenant

In the new covenant God would satisfy his justice and spare us from his wrath. This was only possible by the death of his one and only Son. (📖* Rom. 3:21–26)

c. In contrast, when you are done with dead works, what are you free to do instead? (v. 14b)

8. How does Jesus' sacrifice—so much better than any earthly sacrifice—settle our account with God once and for all? (vv. 23–28; Rom. 5:9; 8:1–4)

9. F. F. Bruce, describes the scene of the yearly sacrifice in the Holy of Holies under the old covenant. “The Israelites who watched their high priest enter the sanctuary for them waited expectantly for his reappearance; that was a welcome sign that he and the sacrifice which he presented had been accepted by God.”⁴ We also wait but we wait knowing that Jesus and his sacrifice have been accepted by God.

What will we receive at his return?

v. 15

v. 28

Lk. 21:27–28

Rom. 8:23

Phil. 3:20–21

1 Pet. 1:3–5

Take time to praise God for HOW MUCH MORE he accomplished by the sacrifice of his beloved Son “so that we may serve the living God” (v. 14).

*📖 For further study

¹ Donald Guthrie, *Hebrews: An Introduction and Commentary*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, ed. Leon Morris, vol. 15 (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1983), 190.

² Kenneth L. Barker, ed., *NIV Study Bible*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985), 1869n9:16.

³ <https://www.raystedman.org/new-testament/hebrews/a-clear-conscience>

⁴ F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Hebrews: The English Text with Introduction, Exposition and Notes*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament, ed. F. F. Bruce (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1964), 223. See also Acts 5:30–31.