

# Hebrews Bible Study

Hebrews 9:1-14

## ***The Conscience-Cleansing Work of Christ***

### **Outline**

1. The necessity of a clean conscience
  - A. A guilty conscience is a barrier to drawing near to serve God
  - B. The Scriptures teach that we need a clean conscience
  - C. The original hearers of Hebrews had the same need

*How can you get the clean conscience you need to draw near to serve God?*

2. How NOT to get a clean conscience (Hebrews 9:1-10)
  - A. The earthly tabernacle and the priests
    - a. The Holy Place
      - The lampstand and the consecrated bread
      - The priests who entered to minister
    - b. The Holy of Holies
      - God is holy and those who are sinful cannot draw near or they will die
      - The altar of incense and the ark of the covenant
        - The ark was the place God's presence dwelled
        - Golden jar of manna, Aaron's budded staff, the tablets of the covenant
        - The cherubim of glory
      - The High Priest
        - Only once a year
        - Had to go through elaborate cleansing rituals
        - Representative of the people
        - Atonement for sin
        - Very real threat of death
  - B. This system and these priests could not cleanse the conscience
    - a. The point of the Old Covenant was to show that there is no way any effort on the part of sinful humans can enable them to draw near to God.
    - b. The cherubim as an example

*You cannot get the clean conscience you need by your own gifts and sacrifices*

3. How you CAN get a clean conscience (Hebrews 9:11-14)
  - A. The true tabernacle
    - a. Ezekiel 1 and 10
    - b. Revelation 4
  - B. The true High Priest and sacrifice

- a. Christ is the true High Priest
- b. Christ is the perfect sacrifice
  - His powerful blood
- C. The work of Christ cleanses your conscience
  - a. Eternal redemption
  - b. Cleanses your consciences from “dead works”
  - c. You can draw near to serve God
    - Christ has made you a priesthood
- D. Draw near to worship and serve God

*You can get the clean conscience you need by the powerful work of Christ on your behalf.*

### **To Discuss Next Week**

1. What wrong thinking or lies do you believe when you sin and you have a guilty conscience? How does it affect your perception of your nearness to God and your ability to serve him?
2. In what ways are you tempted to try to cleanse your own conscience?
3. How does the work of Christ on your behalf cleanse your conscience? Write out what you learned from vs. 11-14.
4. How does it change you to know that work of Christ on your behalf cleanses your conscience and enables you to draw near to serve God?
5. I want to look more closely at what kind of “service” we give to the Lord as his priesthood in the New Covenant. Please read the following passages and answer the questions below.
  - A. In 1 Peter 2:4-10, Peter writes about what it means that we are a holy priesthood. What do you learn about your priesthood from this passage?
  - B. In Romans 12:1, Paul says we should offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God as a form of worship. Then in 12:2-13:14, Paul talks about all kind of good deeds Christians should be engaged in. What do you learn from this about what being a “living sacrifice” means in your life?
  - C. Read Ephesians 4:29-5:2. Here, Paul writes about following Christ’s example, who gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. What do you learn from this passage about what that means for your life?
  - D. Hebrews 13:15 also says that we can continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise. What does that mean according to verses 15-16?
6. Learning About Typology

The Bible is God’s story of the redemption of sinful humanity through his Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible, which was inspired by God’s Spirit, unfolds this story, which is grounded in actual

historical events, *progressively*. Within this progression, God purposefully prefigured the redemptive work in Christ in the Old Testament by giving types, which were shadows or small pictures, of who he would be and what he would do to bring about redemption. The bigger and greater reality to which these types pointed is known as the “antitype.”

Sidney Greidanus writes, “Old Testament redemptive events, persons or institutions can function as types which foreshadow the great Antitype, the person and/or work of Jesus Christ.”

The Old Testament writers knew that the Holy Spirit was doing this (1 Peter 1:10-12) and the New Testament writers reveal the reality of what they were pointing to.

Here are some Old Testament types that the author of Hebrews has shown are fulfilled in Christ:

- A. Moses (Hebrews 3:1-6).
- B. The Levitical priesthood and Melchizedek (5:1-10; 7:1-17).
- C. The earthly tabernacle with its priesthood and the heavenly one with its High Priest (8:1-6 and 9:1-14)

For each of these, ask yourself, “How did this person/event/place etc. prefigure Christ and/or his work? How is Christ greater?”

In Hebrews 9:1-14, the author mentions the entire Old Testament/Old Covenant system of atonement and sacrifice, the lampstands, the consecrated bread, the altar of incense, the golden jar of manna, and the sacrificed blood of goats and calves, and the ceremonial cleansing rituals.

Do you think these things prefigured the person or work of Christ? If so, why? What’s your biblical evidence for the progression and fulfillment of these types (if you believe they are)?