

SERIES: **Better- the book of Hebrews**

TITLE: **Bathed in Blood**

Meet me in **Hebrews 9:15-28**

The phrase 'bathed in blood/ blood bath' strikes up images of horror and true crime tv....BUT

The story is told of a shepherd- wild dogs came in and killed several of his sheep; among those, a young lamb was left without its mother, and a sheep was left without her young. The shepherd knew the mother sheep wouldn't take in a lamb that wasn't her own, so he took the orphan lamb and drenched it in the blood of the lamb that was slain so that the mother would receive it as its own.

Throughout scripture Jesus is portrayed as a lamb that was slaughtered; we sing about it.

This morning's passage explains to us why the language.

#### **OUTLINE:**

- **Recap (V15)**
- **The two titan truths of theology (V16-22)**
- **The sacrifice that settled the debt (V23-26)**
- **Why this is important (V27)**
- **What now? (V28)**

Verse 15 is practically a summary of the whole book so far. Let's break it down:

**Hebrews 9:15** Therefore, (because it's the blood of Jesus cleanses us)

he is the mediator (He bridges the gap between God and us)

of a new covenant, (an entirely new agreement uniting God and man)

so that those who are called (Church, all who have answered the bidding/ summons/invitation)

might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance, (eternal life & God Himself)

because a death has taken place for redemption from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

(the first agreement had, rightfully, left us in debt; Jesus settled what was owed- the payment being his own life)

**Hebrews 9:16-22** Where a will exists, (in the original Greek 'will'= same word that's also translated 'covenant') the death of the one who made it must be established. <sup>17</sup>For a will is valid only when people die, since it is never in effect while the one who made it is living. <sup>18</sup>That is why even the first covenant was inaugurated with blood.

<sup>19</sup>For when every command had been proclaimed by Moses to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, along with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll itself and all the people, <sup>20</sup>saying, **This is the blood of the covenant that God has ordained for you.**

<sup>21</sup>In the same way, he sprinkled the tabernacle and all the articles of worship with blood. <sup>22</sup>According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

#### **The two titan truths of theology:**

##### **1. Sin is Vile**

- a. It demands a terrible price

V22- All these gold-covered, finely crafted tools for ceremony- all sprinkled with blood!

Romans 6:23- wages= death

- b. We are sin-stained (Romans 3:23)

We may step on the 'sin scale' and say, "ok I'm pretty bad, but the reality is, we're still worse!"

10,000 sin scales couldn't begin to measure the weight of our iniquity! It runs deep.

We all agree that "big sins" are bad- but then we go on to justify ourselves for the "little sins" we're so prone to enjoy. Jesus' teaching leave no room for that (Matt. 5)- ALL sin is vile

## 2. God is Holy

- a. He cannot *endorse* sin (this is the sin of progressive Christianity)
- b. He cannot *allow* sin (this is the sin of many seasoned Christians who've been getting away with it)
- c. He cannot *ignore* sin (He'd passionate about justice- He is Just)
- d. He is obligated to *address* sin (the way we could not ignore a nest of serpents under our bed)

I.O.W. **Sin is such egregious of an offense against God,  
that the only proper response He has is to demand death**

I've been a Christian long enough to know that in THIS moment, there are 2 dangers creeping-

### 2 Dangers:

- **If you're not yet a Christian, the danger is that you would *blindly* reject this truth**

Your inner lawyer is stepping up for you- excusing and explaining your sin away;

Q: what if that inner voice has been corrupted, (like a crooked lawyer)?

Christianity is not a blind faith- it can stand to your scrutiny, it invites it. (RNM- Apologetics)

- **If you are a Christian, the danger is that you would come to believe that you are *beyond* this truth**

I am all for going deep in theology, and growing in maturity;

BUT, as we set out to explore the vast sea of knowledge & wisdom, you'd be wise to realize that the 2 oars of truth that propel us along are *God's majestic holiness* and our *vile sinfulness*

The Sacrifice That Settled the Debt-

**Hebrews 9:23** Therefore, it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves to be purified with better sacrifices than these.

The blood of animals may be good enough for the tabernacle and gold spoons and bronze altars, but it's not gonna cut it for the heavenly realities which they represent

**Hebrews 9:24-26** For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with hands (only a model of the true one) but into heaven itself, so that he might now appear in the presence of God for us.

John Flavel, the 16<sup>th</sup> century puritan, imagines what this moment may have been like:

John Flavel, The Fathers Bargain-

*"Here you may suppose the Father to say when driving His bargain with Christ for you.*

*The Father speaks. "My Son, here is a company of poor, miserable souls that have utterly undone themselves and now lay open to my justice. Justice demands satisfaction for them, or will satisfy itself in the eternal ruin of them."*

*The Son responds. "Oh my Father. Such is my love to and pity for them, that rather than they shall perish eternally I will be responsible for them as their guarantee. Bring in all thy bills, that I may see what they owe thee. Bring them all in, that there be no after-reckonings with them. At my hands shall thou require it. I would rather choose to suffer the wrath that is theirs than they should suffer it. Upon me, my Father, upon me be all their debt."*

*The Father responds. "But my Son, if thou undertake for them, thou must reckon to pay the last mite. Expect no abatement. Son, if I spare them... I will not spare you."*

*The Son responds. "Content Father. Let it be so. Charge it all upon me. I am able to discharge it. And though it prove a kind of undoing to me, though it impoverish all my riches, empty all my treasures... I am content to take it."*

<sup>25</sup> He did not do this to offer himself many times, as the high priest enters the sanctuary yearly with the blood of another. <sup>26</sup> Otherwise, he would have had to suffer many times since the foundation of the world. But now he has appeared one time, at the end of the ages, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of himself.

**Sin required the blood of the guilty,**

**but in a shocking turn of events,**

**Christ took on *our guilt* & shed *His blood*** (and gave us His goodness and washed us with His blood)

WHO IS A GOD LIKE HIM?!! Marvel at His love! Do you think about it? Do you sit in this truth?

***When you are overcome by what you've done, set your gaze on what He has done!***

*"What kind of love is this, friends? What kind of love is that is so big, so without bounds, that He would come, He would want, He would want to do so much to rescue people who wanted nothing to do with Him? Who fought Him even when He came to cleave us from hell? What kind of love is it that sees us in our filth, comes to rescue us, sees us resist that rescue, but continues to rescue us anyway? What foolishness is this? That He would come offer us rescue and we would say, "No!" Why? What are we gaining by our resistance? Oh, how glorious He is, that He saw you like that and didn't give up!" - [Wolves at the Gate, The Fathers Bargain](#)*

**Why is this important?**

**Hebrews 9:27** And just as it is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment—

**You will die. You will go before The Judge.**

The difference between a guilty or innocent verdict will not be what your Mama thought of you; what your kids have to say about you; what achievements you acquired; your goodness; your greatness; whether you managed to balance out your karma or not; the only thing that will matter on that terrifying day is: ***Are you washed in the blood of Christ?***

**2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

It will be a terrifying day for those who seek to bargain for themselves.

There is not a single sin that God will leave unpunished; either in us or in Christ

Our records will be laid bare, no place to hide- all accounts must be settled!

Even Christians will stand and be judged; not for salvation, but for what we've done with it

**1 Corinthians 3:14-15** If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned up, he will experience loss, but he himself will be saved—but only as through fire.

The day is coming when we will all stand before the judge- in the courtroom Jesus, His garments still stained with blood- what excuse could anyone possibly have then?

## What Now?

**Hebrews 9:28** so also Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

## What Now?

- **The time to be washed in the blood of the lamb is only running out-  
*Today is the day of salvation!***

What's keeping you from surrendering your life to him?

- **Don't grow so comfortable in this world that you no longer long for His return**
  - Stir your affections for The Lord daily (carve out time to spend with God; remember His grace)
    - This will kill sin patterns in your life

"will appear a second time... to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him"

Don't grow tired of waiting, when He does it will be worth it, the suffering of this life will be inconsequential compared to His reward

**Revelation 22:12** "Look, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me to repay each person according to his work."

*What can wash away my sin?*

*Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*What can make me whole again?*

*Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*\*CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM*

## COMMUNION

When that first covenant was inaugurated, the bible says that it was established in blood:

**Exodus 24:8** Moses took the blood, splattered it on the people, and said,  
"This is **the blood** of the covenant that the Lord has made with you concerning all these words."

But when Jesus came to make a way through grace he said,

**Matthew 26:28** For this is **my blood** of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

**Romans 2:5-16** Because of your hardened and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment is revealed. <sup>6</sup> He will repay each one according to his works: <sup>7</sup> eternal life to those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality; <sup>8</sup> but wrath and anger to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth while obeying unrighteousness. <sup>9</sup> There will be affliction and distress for every human being who does evil, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does what is good, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. <sup>11</sup> For there is no favoritism with God.

<sup>12</sup> For all who sin without the law will also perish without the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. <sup>13</sup> For the hearers of the law are not righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be justified. <sup>14</sup> So, when Gentiles, who do not by nature have the law, do what the law demands, they are a law to themselves even though they do not have the law. <sup>15</sup> They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences confirm this. Their competing thoughts either accuse or even excuse them <sup>16</sup> on the day when God judges what people have kept secret, according to my gospel through Christ Jesus.

**Psalms 39:4-6** "Lord, make me aware of my end and the number of my days so that I will know how short-lived I am.

<sup>5</sup> In fact, you have made my days just inches long, and my life span is as nothing to you. Yes, every human being stands as only a vapor. *Selah* <sup>6</sup> Yes, a person goes about like a mere shadow. Indeed, they rush around in vain, gathering possessions without knowing who will get them.

**Psalms 90:9-12** For all our days ebb away under your wrath; we end our years like a sigh. <sup>10</sup> Our lives last seventy years or, if we are strong, eighty years. Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow; indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away. <sup>11</sup> Who understands the power of your anger? Your wrath matches the fear that is due you. <sup>12</sup> Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.

**Ephesians 5:15-16** Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise— <sup>16</sup> making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

**James 4:13-14** Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit." <sup>14</sup> Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes.

When Christ comes again, the time to cast our sin on his cross will have expired- at that time he comes to separate

**Matthew 25:31-34; 41; 46**

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will also say to those on the left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!

<sup>46</sup> "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

**Revelation 22:14-15** “Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

the time I ignorantly used a pumice ( 'pəməs) stone as a bar of soap.

I exfoliated 3 layers of skin right off; I used to be even more Mexican if you can believe it!

Galatians 2:21 do not lay aside the grace of God

We cannot afford to diminish the seriousness of sin or the holiness of God

Unsaved- will hinder your path to salvation

Saved- will spoil your spiritual life

The rituals and ceremonies of the law were good enough to change your behavior, but not enough to change your heart; good enough to change your perspective, but not good enough to change your position; they could help you in this life, but fell short of any eternal impact.

The blood of animals was like a credit card payment, good enough to get you out of this jam, but not actually settling the debt.

Sin removed because Christ appeared

If you can know with certainty that God will never reject you, you can begin to be honest with yourself and others about your weakness and shortcomings- no need to hide or fear being discovered