



# JESUS

Up **C**lose and **P**ersonal

A Study of Hebrews | The Pastors' Bible Study 2013-2014

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**Hebrews 9:15-28**

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**Kristin Huffman**

## 1. Christ as mediator

<sup>15</sup> For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

## 2. A will only takes effect after a death

<sup>16</sup> In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, <sup>17</sup> because a will is in force only when

somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.

### 3. Blood in first covenant

<sup>18</sup> This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. <sup>19</sup> When Moses had proclaimed every command of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. <sup>20</sup> He said, “This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.” <sup>21</sup> In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. <sup>22</sup> In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

4. Heavenly things purified with better sacrifices...Jesus' blood

<sup>23</sup> It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. <sup>24</sup> For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.

5. Only once

<sup>25</sup> Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. <sup>26</sup> Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away

with sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many;

## 6. Anticipating the Second Coming

<sup>28b</sup> and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

## Reflection Questions

1. Jesus has died to set us free and as his people we will receive the promise of eternal inheritance. This is an amazing truth and promise, but what does it actually mean to you in your life? Think about all the things that “eternal inheritance” might mean. How does knowing this help in regular life here on this earth?
2. When I was working with an attorney on my first will, he told me that he had a client who wanted to start his will with the words, “If I should die...” as opposed to “When I die...” For some reason this person was afraid to say that he was going to die. But he did know that if he did die, then he wanted the provisions of the will to come to pass. What **had** to happen so that we would receive the promises of God? Why couldn't we just have the promises without the death?
3. The details of the Old Testament sacrifices are gruesome and graphic but they also declare the importance of the sacrifices and the need for forgiveness. Do you think we pay enough attention to our need for forgiveness? Reflect on how we as God's people might acknowledge our sin and need for forgiveness in ways that speak to its importance in our walk with Jesus.
4. Think about how Jesus' shedding his blood, dying for us was the superior sacrifice. What is the significance of him only having to make the sacrifice once, as opposed to the annual visit of the high priest to the Holy of Holies?
5. How can you wait expectantly for Jesus' second coming?