

BFF399 Christ, the Mediator of a New Covenant

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

**Steve:** I am much better. Thank you. The last time we talked, I was in the middle of this cold/flu, and then besides some sinus stuff, I'm feeling much better, so I'm doing what I can to rest and pray and take herbs. [laughs]

**Scott:** I'm just trying to dodge it wherever I go. I see people who've gotten sick and I'm like, "Nope, going away from them." I'm zigzagging through life trying not to get it.

**Steve:** Well, it's nothing to play with. Just about everybody I talked to has battled it in some form or another. I met someone out in the street this morning walking their dog, and they said that one of their kids had strep and flu at the same time.

**Scott:** That's tough.

**Steve:** What we're going to talk about today is eternal. That's hard for us to take in when we have bodies that are affected by how much sleep we get, by what the weather's like, by whether we have a cold. We are very vulnerable, temporal creatures, but we're going to talk about something today that is absolutely eternal, and that's for all time.

It's hard for me to take it in. I've read this portion several times this morning. I've read it multiple times in the past, scores of times. I continue to see new things in this chunk of scripture. Last week, we talked about our foundation, the Blood of Christ, by reading in Genesis, by reading in Exodus, little bit in Leviticus.

Once we grasp these foundational concepts or at least get a taste of them, then the new covenant makes much more sense. Sometimes think that reading the Bible is like taking a shower in truth.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** Scripture speaks about the washing of water with the Word. I don't think I have given enough credit to the power of the Word of God. Even when I don't understand all I am reading, it's still impacting me.

Father, here we are, coming to this eternal, incredibly important, life-changing, world-changing, eternity-changing truth. Give us a fresh appreciation. Give us fresh understanding. Give us new ears to hear what You have to say to us today.

Then as we read Your Word, I pray that the truths that are there will lodge in our spirit. Whether we can comprehend it with our head, we receive it meekly and in faith in our hearts. Bypass, you might say, our little filters of understanding and trying to put things in categories.

Help us to just open up and embrace The Word of God and the truth found therein this morning. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** We're going to jump right to Hebrews 9. I'm going to begin reading in the 11th verse. Then I'm not going to stop until the 10th chapter, the 25th verse. If you're interested, that's 43 verses, but these 43 verses don't need a whole lot of commentary, although we might have to comment a little as we're reading through them.

“When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear

the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

I can hear John the Baptist crying out, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." There it is. Just as it is appointed for man to die once and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.

I would say the big thought in this paragraph is that there are heavenly things and there are copies of these true things. Jesus has not just taken care of things on earth, He has appeared in our behalf in heaven.

This is the high priest, this is what Jesus Himself has done. Not only is He the high priest, He is the perfect sacrifice at the very same time, because He's offering himself. It's a one-time deal. He doesn't need to keep doing it every day. He has done it once for all time.

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.'

Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on

their hearts, and write them on their minds,' then he adds, 'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.' Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

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We have to put on your faith pants for this one. "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. Wash me, and I shall be clean." This is it. Past tense. Single offering, perfected us for all time.

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"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

There it is. Wow. Now you have the joyful task, Scott, of responding to this incredible expression of truth.

**Scott:** Wow. That's big.

**Steve:** That's the perfect response. Wow.

**Scott:** There's a lot in there. The overwhelming thought, was kind of what you were saying, that this is done. If you don't understand your assurance of salvation from that passage, I don't know what's going to make you feel assured.

**Steve:** That one verse, verse 14, "For by one sacrifice, He has made perfect forever, those who are being made holy or being sanctified." That is so powerful, isn't it?

**Scott:** It's so kind, because we all know we're still struggling, but He just says it flat out, "Look, it's done, but there's grace. We understand you're still struggling. You don't have to question your salvation if you're still struggling with something."

I think there's a lot of people who struggle with that, but this puts the nail in the coffin. "It's done, your sins are dead and gone. Even if you're struggling, you're just being sanctified, it's OK. We got you. Jesus, He still paid it all. You're good. God loves you. Stop worrying about whether you're saved." That's what I found in there.

**Steve:** That's a lot of wasted energy. This is why we need to continue to believe God's word and expose ourselves to it. I don't know how else to say it. I feel like we need to come to the word of God with our arms spread wide open and then our heads raised and say, "Amen," and just drink it in and wrap ourselves up in it because these truths are transformative the more we take them in.

**Scott:** The other thing I saw was where it says, "Now we have confidence to enter the most holy place." I was curious. What was the consequence if you decided to go into the most holy place back in the Old Testament?

**Steve:** I think you bit the dust.

**Scott:** I think so too, if I'm remembering correctly. If you decided, "Uh, heck with it. I'm going into the most holy place," that was pretty serious.

**Steve:** Oh yeah.

**Scott:** For these people, this is revolutionary that we have confidence to enter the most holy place without doing any sacrifices. We are now the high priest of old. Jesus is the new high priest, but we can enter right in with Him. I think it's easy to not feel how revolutionary that was.

**Steve:** That's why we need to marinate in the fear of God, that this was a serious stuff. This is what made Jesus' offering so much more serious, so much greater, because even the high priest could only go in once a year, and now Jesus has opened the door. I know that I'm getting it from our pulpit in the church that we attend. Our pastor is frequently been reiterating the truth that Eden was the goal and restoration is the goal and getting us back to that place where we can have unbridled communion with our Father.

This is what Jesus is saying, "I made a way. That's why I'm the way, the truth, and the life. If you want to come to the Father, you come through Me because I have taken away your sins. I have removed the veil. I have offered you this. You come unto Me. You follow Me, and you will find true life and true communion."

I think a lot of us think, "I'd just like to stay outside," just like the original Israelites. "Moses, you go up to the mountain. I just as soon stay down here in the bottom. You tell us what He says. We'll try to do our best."

God is saying, "No. I want each of you to come unto Me. I want you to hear My call. I want to have that communion that I had with Adam with each of My children." That's it. Jesus has said, "I have taken care of that. I have taken care of that. My blood has made it."

**Steve:** so that you can be perfected for all time. You have been set apart. You have been sanctified. I know there's still work going on in your life, but you have what it takes now to come into the holy places by the Blood of Jesus."

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** There's scriptures that Paul, he says, "Now the Blood of Jesus makes us near unto God through Christ." That's the whole point. Through Christ, we get near unto God. Hallelujah. Let's go near now.

Father, thank You that You have done a magnificent job. We have understood, best we can, the original high priest and the sacrifices of bulls and goats and how the tabernacle was constructed.

We noticed that in the holy of holies, that's where You will meet with Your people, right where Jesus, the atonement cover covering the law in truth, the word made flesh has made a way for us. Thank You for this blood that is eternal in its ramifications. That is perfect. That makes us perfect. That takes away sin once for all time.

I pray for each of us listening, those that think, "Uh, I've got some sins that I don't think it can cover." I pray that You will remove that untruth today and that You'll replace it with fresh faith in the good news, the great news, the gospel.

That once for all, You have removed our sins as far as the east is from the west and made a way for us to be ushered into the presence of God. Help us to do it in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at [spdemme@gmail.com](mailto:spdemme@gmail.com). If you have a question for me, you can reach me at [scott@unsocializedmedia.com](mailto:scott@unsocializedmedia.com). Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.