

(15) 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.

(18) 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."

(21) 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.

(23) 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 the 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.

(25) 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.

Think on these things:

- 1) Jesus is called "the Mediator of a new covenant." How would you define the role of a mediator?

**A mediator is one who works to solve a problem between two parties. They listen to both sides express their positions and try to offer a decision/solution to end the disagreement. This can be viewed as reconciliation. Jesus, the Christ, is the one Mediator between God and mankind (1 Timothy 2:5). --- The solution was His death on the cross for the sins of mankind.**

- 2) Vs. 15-17 bring up the broad concept of death, a will, and an inheritance. These are things most of us should understand.

When does a "will" take effect, legally? **Upon the death of its maker.**

Whose death established the will spoken of here? **Jesus' death on the cross.**

What did this death accomplish for us (v. 15b)? **His death redeemed us from the transgressions we committed under the first (old) covenant, the Law.**

Who is to receive the inheritance (v. 15a), and for how long is it kept? **Those whom God has called may receive an "eternal" inheritance promised to them by God Himself.**

- 3) Were both the first and new (second) covenants established by blood, i.e., a death? Explain (vs. 15-20).

**Yes, the first covenant was established by the blood of animals and sustained over the years by many, many sacrifices. The new covenant was established by the shed blood of Jesus upon the cross.**

- 4) Many of us are uncomfortable being around blood that is sprayed, running or pooling, yet this was a very common visual in the old covenant. Leviticus 17:11 says, "the life of the flesh is in the blood." Most human sins were 'covered' by the blood of sacrificed animals in the first (old) covenant. What does v. 22 tell us are two applications God affixes to shed blood?

**Under the first covenant, blood was used to 'purify' the tabernacle (tent) replica of heaven's reality. Shed blood is also the requirement to convey (authorize) the forgiveness of sins. (The weakness of the old covenant is that it doesn't clear the conscience of the sinner [v. 9].)**

- 5) The bloody old covenant sacrifices were 'necessary' to purify the heavenly copies on earth, i.e., the tabernacle in the wilderness, then the Jewish Temple (v. 23). We know that Jesus died a sacrificial death on a cross for us at calvary (Golgotha) outside the city of Jerusalem. But verses 24-26 indicate what was really happening in heaven itself at that time, in the very presence of God (v. 24). How did Jesus --- once for all time --- put away sin (v. 26)?

**Jesus sacrificed Himself. He doesn't do this again and again; He did it one time for eternity.**

- 6) V. 27 is a well-known and often quoted verse, known even to many unbelievers. Write it below. For people who do or 'might' believe in the existence of God, how might this impact them?

Verse – **(And just as) It is appointed for man to die once, and, after that, comes judgment.**

Impact – **This is typically a very sobering truth. Everybody dies. Everybody will also face God's judgment! For many, the haunting question being pondered is "Will I go to heaven or hell?" Only the believer living faithfully unto God to the end knows with certainty. (Believers, whose names are written in the Book of Life, will face a judgment by fire regarding their good works, whether or not they measured up to God's noble, genuine standards [1 Corinthians 3:10-15].)**

- 7) V. 28 is a clear statement about the 'second' advent of Jesus Christ. He first came and took upon Himself flesh, as a baby, who then grew up into a man who taught us about our Father God and salvation, before dying on the cross to save all humanity (see Romans 4:24-25 and 5:6-11). What will He accomplish with His second arrival on earth?

**Jesus will NOT return again to deal with sin. That is done. He will return to "save those eagerly waiting for Him."**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: