

Purifying Our Consciences
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Hebrews 9:1-14 (ESV Strong's)

¹¹ But 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) ¹² 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. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ 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.
(Hebrews 9:11-14, ESV)

Introduction

We talked last time about how it is not so much our knowing about God, but rather the reality of our being known by God—“being naked and unashamed” (Genesis 2:25, Ephesians 5:30-32)--that is truly important. We also talked about how this Second Covenant, this New Covenant is truly good news because it overcomes our faithlessness, that same faithlessness that rendered the First Covenant useless despite the glory of the One making such a Covenant with the creatures once made in His very own image and likeness. God does this by purifying our consciences and freeing us from guilt and shame.

1. Regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. (Hebrews 9:1-5)

- a) The two rooms in Moses' earthly copy of the holy of holies in the heavens.
- b) The difference between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place and what it teaches us.

2. Priests and the high priest; contemporary ministers and Christ. (Hebrews 9:6-10)

- a) The daily place and work of the priests and its significance.
- b) The annual place and work of the High Priest and its significance.

3. The blood of Christ and the purification of our consciences. (Hebrews 9:11-14)

- a) The high priestly work of Christ that secured “*an eternal redemption*” (v.12).
- b) The purification of our flesh and the purification of our conscience by Christ alone.

Conclusion

The “naked” part of being known by God as well as by others is, at least in one sense, unavoidable (see Revelation 20:12). However, the “unashamed” part of being known by God and others is actually impossible without the purifying work of the blood of Christ and the daily intercession of our Great High Priest and Savior. We need God for us, God with us and God within us, and all that they are becoming to us and doing in and through us in this process of sanctification.

For our prayerful study, discovery and application:

- 1) What did you learn about relationship with God through the holy places and practices of the OT?
- 2) How is the work of priests and the high priest like the work of ministers and Christ today?
- 3) What were you learn or were reminded of, and how will you use that to be better known by God?