

Once To Die, Then To Judgment
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Hebrews 9:15-28

²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,
²⁸ 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.
(Hebrews 9:27-28, ESV)

Introduction

God's timing often astounds me, and this week's message is no exception. For as we celebrate communion this weekend, and again consider the significance of "the body and blood of Christ" for all who believe, the timing of today's passage from The Letter to the Hebrews seems impeccable! Not only is "the name of Christ the only name given under heaven by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12), but is both the mediator of this new and better covenant, and the soon coming Judge and King.

1. The mediator of a new covenant. (Hebrews 9:15-17)

- a) "So that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance."
- b) "For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established."

2. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (Hebrews 9:18-22)

- a) The giving of the First Covenant (Exodus 20:1-24:18).
- b) "And without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (v.22).

3. Christ's intercession and promised return. (Hebrews 9:23-28)

- a) "Christ has entered...heaven itself to appear in the presence of God on our behalf" (v.24).
- b) "Christ...will appear a second time...to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him" (v.28).

Conclusion

What seems truly important as we take stock of what we just read and considered here are these words: "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" (Hebrews 9:27-28, ESV). There are four key points in this very short passage—we only live once and then face judgment, Christ came to redeem us and will return "to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him."

For our prayerful study, discovery and application:

- 1) Why is the shedding of blood significant to both the old and new covenants?
- 2) What is the significance of Christ's first and second comings, and what does that mean to you?
- 3) What did the Word and Spirit of God remind you or reveal anew to you today?

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