

20. Understanding Why Christ Offered His Blood Only Once

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand the sufficiency of the blood of Christ. We saw that the Father was satisfied with the payment that Christ made. He showed that satisfaction by raising Christ from the dead. In this topic, we are going to see why it was necessary for Christ to offer His blood only once.

We have seen that the high priests of Israel carried out their ministry in the earthly tabernacle. In contrast, Christ carries out His ministry in the heavenly tabernacle. That is why Hebrews 9:23 says, “Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.” The word translated “copies” means an example, a copy, or an imitation of the genuine thing. It is the word Christ used when He said, in John 13:15, “For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.” Christ gave us an example to follow. Here, in this verse, the ministry of the Old Testament priests was an imitation of what Christ would one day do in His ministry as He intercedes for us. The priests had a good ministry but Christ has a much greater ministry.

The Old Testament priests had to purify the earthly temple and the pieces of furniture that were in the tabernacle. Leviticus 16:15-16 says, “Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.” Because of the sins of the people of Israel, the tabernacle and everything in it had to be purified.

In contrast, Christ presented His sacrifice to the Father. The New Covenant is a much better covenant than the Old Covenant. Because Christ was without sin, His sacrifice was better than any of the sacrifices that were offered in the tabernacle. His sacrifice presented to the Father in the heavenly tabernacle is a much greater sacrifice than any of the Old Testament sacrifices. Hebrews 10:12-14 says, “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.” Here, we see that the sacrifice that Christ made perfects all those who believe forever.

That is why Hebrews 9:24-26 goes on to say, “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another--He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” Christ did not enter an earthly temple to offer His blood. The earthly tabernacle and later the temple were only copies or types of heaven. Christ entered into heaven itself once to present His blood to the Father. The word translated “presence” is usually translated “face”. Christ came face to face with the Father to present His blood.

The high priest had to enter the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle every year. Each year, the high priest came with the blood of a different animal as he offered the sacrifice. That was due to the fact that the blood of animals could never take away sin. In contrast, Christ came with His own blood to the Father and not the blood of another. Animal sacrifices were offered repeatedly throughout the Old Testament beginning with the early chapters of Genesis. Genesis 4:4 says, “Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering.” Sacrifices were still being offered at the time of Christ.

In contrast, we see that Christ only had to offer Himself once. We see that Christ did this at the end of the ages. The word translated “end” means *the completion or end*. The disciples used this word when they asked Christ in Matthew 24:3, “Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’” Here, we see that the disciples want to know when the end of the age would be. Christ also used this word, in Matthew 28:19-20, when He said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” Here, we are reminded that Christ will be with us until the end.

Christ did not suffer over and over. Instead, He suffered only once and that ministry is at the end of the ages. The word translated “ages” speaks of the time that lasts through all eternity. This word is used twice in Revelation 20:10, which says, “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Here, it speaks of the eternal judgment of Satan. Then, Revelation 22:5 also uses the word twice when that verse says, “There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.” Here, we see that all believers will reign with Christ forever and ever.

Christ permanently put away the sins of all who have true faith by the sacrifice of Himself. This includes all those who have true faith from the foundation (creation) of the world to eternity future. This eternal payment for sin is described in Titus 2:11-14, where we read, “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” When Christ offered His blood, He delivered us from the penalty of sin. Today, as Christ intercedes for us He delivers us from the power of sin. When eternity comes, we will be delivered from the presence of sin and there will be no more sin forever.

Hebrews 9:27-28 goes on to say, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.” All who are born on this earth die once with the exception of individuals like Enoch and Elijah in the Old Testament and those taken

at the Rapture in the New Testament. In the same way, Christ was our sacrifice just once when He bore our sins.

We also see that all people will experience judgment after death. In 2 Corinthians 5:10, we read, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” Those who have had true faith will have their good judged to see what works are eternal and can be rewarded. Those who do not have true faith will be judged according to their sinful works.

The judgment of those who do not repent of sin is described in Revelation 20:11-15, where we read, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” Here, we see that the judgment of non-believers is eternal.

We see the judgment for Christians for their works in 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, where we read, “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.” Here, we see that the works of Christians will be tested by fire.

Some of our works are eternal and are compared to gold, silver and precious stones. Some of our works are just for this earth and they are compared to wood, hay, and stubble. 2 Peter 3:10 says, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” Here, we see that the works that are for this earth will not last and only the works that have eternal value will be rewarded. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to do works that have eternal value. Then, they can look forward to great rewards because of the blood that Christ shed for us. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children how to continually practice the works that have eternal value.