

• The blessings of the new covenant are many

• Many contrasts between the symbolic tabernacle on earth and the real tabernacle in heaven itself

1. The blood of Christ gives eternal redemption

2. The blood of Christ gives daily cleansing

• The Old Testament sacrifices pointed to the blood of Christ

• Jesus gave himself

• With the help of the Holy Spirit

• Jesus sprinkles His blood on our consciences

• We feel forgiven

• This sinlessness reckoned ours

¹¹ But Christ, the high priest of the good things we now have, arrived in the greater and more complete tent. It was not made by human beings and does not belong to this world. ¹² He entered the Most Holy Place once-for-ever taking with him not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood and so he secured eternal redemption.

The blessings of the new covenant include the empowering and assuring work of the Holy Spirit, giving us certainty that we are children of God, and access to all the blessings of being the sons and daughters of God. It includes the ability to pray with great confidence, the foretaste of the resurrection given to us by the Holy Spirit^{☒1}, the groanings that cannot be uttered^{☒2} given to us by the Holy Spirit, the 'changing from one degree of glory to another'^{☒3} as we have fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are many contrasts between the tabernacle on earth (the symbol) and the tabernacle not made by human beings (heaven itself). One was a symbol; the other is the reality. One was temporary; the other is permanent. One was a tent made by Moses; the other is a realm created by God. One required animal sacrifices; in the other God required the one-and-only sacrifice of his Son as the Saviour of the world. One had to take place frequently (because it never succeeded); the other happened once (because it was immediately and totally successful). One gave annual and symbolic redemption and freedom to live within the camp of Israel. The other gives eternal redemption and eternal life with God. The blood of Christ does three things according to these verses.

1. **It gives eternal redemption**, as we have seen. But there is more.

2. **It gives daily cleansing.** Verses 13–14 are again one long sentence in Greek, but we could translate it as two sentences. ¹³ *The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a cow being sprinkled upon those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them in order to make them clean again outwardly.* ¹⁴ *How much more will the blood of Christ who through the eternal Spirit sacrificed himself unblemished to God cleanse our consciences from dead works so that we may serve the living God.*

Our writer is again contrasting the Mosaic law with the gospel. The Old Testament sacrifices used the blood of goats and bulls; and Numbers 19:9 refers to a ceremony that used the blood of a red cow. In some ceremonies^{☒1☒2} the people were assured that the ritual made them ceremonially clean because the blood was sprinkled upon them with the branch of a tree dipped in a mixture of blood and water. But this all points to something done by the blood of Christ – the death of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross.

He sacrificed himself. The priests used to sacrifice something **other than** themselves. Jesus gave himself.

Jesus was relying on the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit who led Jesus to the cross. It was the Holy Spirit who helped Jesus while he was on the cross (although I doubt if it felt that way to Jesus himself!). It was the Holy Spirit who raised him from the dead^{☒1☒2} and proved that his sacrifice was received by God the Father.

Jesus no longer sprinkles blood on our bodies as the old high priests did. But he sprinkles his blood on our consciences. That is, he makes us feel clean within. We know by the Holy Spirit that his death upon the cross is enough for our forgiveness. We feel forgiven. God's Spirit gives us a sense of the love of God.

Jesus committed no sin. He offered himself unblemished. This means that he was a perfect sacrifice for our sins. It is this sinlessness that is reckoned ours (as Paul might put it) when we believe and 'sanctifies us for ever' (as Hebrews puts it). This enables us to serve God. It is terrible trying to serve God when you have a bad conscience.

☒1 see 2
Corinthians 5:5
☒2 Romans 8:26
☒3 2 Corinthians
3:18

☒1 Leviticus
16:14-15
☒2 Numbers 19:4

☒1 see Romans
1:4; 8:11
☒2 1 Peter 3:18

• We are forgiven 'dead works'

We are forgiven all 'dead works'. This includes all sins, but it also refers to all things that we might think to be good but which actually have no spiritual life in them – deeds of Old Testament ritual (or modern ritual!), deeds which were not part of the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives. They did us no good. They need forgiveness and cleansing. When we are rid of dead works and have cleansed consciences we are able to serve the living God. God is alive. There is no value in bringing that which is dead to the God who is alive!

3. The blood of Christ makes possible our inheritance

3. **The blood of Christ makes possible our inheritance.** ¹⁵ *And through this –through the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Christ and its being sprinkled on our consciences – he is the mediator of a new covenant. All the blessings of the new covenant begin to flow because Jesus has died for us. And they become a living reality when our consciences are cleansed. The purpose of God is that – because a death has taken place for our redemption from the transgressions that were committed against the first covenant – all who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*

• Christ kept the Mosaic law

Christ kept the Mosaic law. He was a Jew. He was circumcised. He lived a godly life. He kept the sabbath-regulations and the holy days of Israel's law. More amazingly he kept the tenth commandment. He did not want anything that was not God's will for him. He loved God with all his heart and soul and mind and strength. He loved his neighbour as himself.

• Christ carried upon himself the curse that rested upon other people

Christ died 'under the law'. The law imposed a curse upon anyone who did not keep it. Jesus kept it but carried upon himself the curse that rested upon other people. He was not a law-breaker, but he died for law-breakers. Those who trust him are forgiven and ready to proceed to obtain the 'inheritance' God has for his people.

• 'Eternal inheritance' is everything that God wants to give us in this world and for ever

'Eternal inheritance' is everything that God wants to give us in this world and for ever. It has to do with our ministry. Every person who is 'called' (powerfully brought to salvation, calling into fellowship with Jesus) already has eternal salvation, a salvation that will never be lost. Such a person will – as he hears God's voice and responds to God – have the daily cleansing of conscience. But then such a person by persisting in faith – by faith and patience – inherits the promises of God. The tenses in Hebrews 9:11–15 are important.

• The tenses in Hebrews 9:11-15 are important

- In verses 12 a past tense was used. We **have** received eternal redemption.
- In verse 14 a future tense was used. We **shall** day by day receive a cleansed conscience.
- In verse 15 a 'subjunctive' is used; we **may** or **might** receive the 'full inheritance'. It is not automatic. It is to be received by faith and patience, but we may receive it. The blood of Christ makes it possible.



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Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His *Preaching Through The Bible (PTTB)* books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.



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