

“Nothing but the Blood”  
Hebrews 9:18-28  
(Preached at Trinity, August 4, 2024)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citation will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. The second half of **Chapter 9** contains one of the basic elements of our redemption. It was an element that ran throughout the Old Covenant.  
**Hebrews 9:22 NAU** - "And according to the Law, *one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*"
2. Few recognize the significance of the shedding of blood. Christianity has often been criticized as being obsessed with blood. We glory in it. We sing about it.  
*What can wash away my sin, nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
There is power, power, wonder working power in the blood of the Lamb.  
And can it be that I should gain An interest in the Savior's blood?  
Alas! And did my Saviour bleed, and did my Sovereign die!  
There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins."  
Bearing shame and scoffing rude, In my place condemned He stood, Sealed my pardon with his blood, Hallelujah – what a Saviour.*
3. Why do we place so much attention upon the bloody death of a person who died over 2000 years ago? Isn't it just a bit morbid and gory? Why does it matter? Why is it at the heart of Christianity?  
In order for us to speak to these questions we need to understand something about sin and the consequences of sin.
4. God made a covenant with the first man, Adam. Adam was the father of humanity. All of us are his offspring. But more important than physical lineage, Adam was our spiritual head. When God made the covenant with Adam, Adam was our representative. In essence, God made the covenant with us all. It was a simple covenant that had a single purpose. God wrote His Law upon the heart of Adam and then gave one precept that displayed whether Adam would love God above all else. In the Book of Deuteronomy love is described as the sum of our duty to God.  
**Deuteronomy 6:4-6 KJV** - "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD: <sup>5</sup> And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. <sup>6</sup> And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:"
5. The covenant God made with Adam was called the Covenant of Works.  
**Genesis 2:16-17 NAU** - "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; <sup>17</sup> but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."  
There was a promise of life for obedience and death if Adam did not obey. Of course, we know Adam did not obey and he suffered the penalty of death – which we all share.

6. Since Adam lost his right to life his own blood was required. God would later reveal this:  
**Leviticus 17:11 NAU** - "For the life of the flesh is in the blood"
7. Something else happened when Adam sinned. Adam had forfeited his life but God did not immediately require it. God displayed His mercy and provided a covering for Adam in the form of an animal skin.  
**Genesis 3:21 NAU** - "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them."
8. The clear implication was that an animal had to be killed and its blood spilt in order for God to provide this covering. God did something else after Adam sinned.  
In **Genesis 3:15** He revealed a Covenant of Grace that would run throughout the Old Covenant. There would be a future offspring of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent – Satan. God would further reveal that this would take place by the death of this offspring.  
**Genesis 3:15 NAU** - "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."
9. All of God's dealings with man after the fall was by way of covenant.  
LBC 7:1 – *Of God's Covenant* – "The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience to Him as their creator, yet they could never have attained the reward of life but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which He hath been pleased to express by way of covenant."
10. God continued to give a series of covenants, each further revealing this promised future seed of the woman. God raised up Abraham and made a covenant with him—a covenant promising a great nation. He pledged to be their God and they would be His people. He provided the sacrificial system whereby the blood of animals would serve as a further revelation of the covering God provided in the Garden.  
God provided an earthly tabernacle whereby His presence might be with them as their sin was covered by blood.
11. God's covenant continued to press that a death had to occur. A sacrifice had to be made. Blood had to be spilled. God spoke through Moses:  
**Leviticus 17:11 NAU** - "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement."
12. The author tells us in **Verse 21** that Moses sprinkled everything with the blood.  
**Hebrews 9:21 NAU** - "And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood."

I. The author of Hebrews is reminding us of the importance of the shedding of blood.

**Hebrews 9:18 NAU** - "Therefore even the first *covenant* was not inaugurated without blood."

A. The first covenant was sealed with the blood of a sacrifice.

**Exodus. 24:3-8 NAU** - "Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!" <sup>4</sup> Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>5</sup> He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD. <sup>6</sup> Moses took half of the blood and put *it* in basins, and the *other* half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. <sup>7</sup> Then he took the book of the covenant and read *it* in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!" <sup>8</sup> So Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

1. The blood of the Old Covenant was insufficient.

2. The earthly tabernacle was only a copy of the heavenly tabernacle that provides our ultimate entrance into the presence of God. Jesus is the Mediator of a more excellent covenant – the heavenly tabernacle.

**Hebrews 8:3-6 NAU**- "For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary that this *high priest* also have something to offer. <sup>4</sup> Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; <sup>5</sup> who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned *by God* when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain." <sup>6</sup> But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises."

B. The blood of the Old Covenant was insufficient because of its limitations.

1. It only provided access to God's temporal, earthly presence – the Holy of Holies. It provided ceremonial cleansing but could not remove the guilt of the human conscience. This is the terror that fills the human heart. Paul said God's wrath is revealed—revealed upon the heart of man and a constant knowledge of condemnation.

2. The high priest would enter on the Day of Atonement and sprinkle the blood on the Mercy Seat. It provided covering for sin retroactive to the previous Day of Atonement. But it could not provide any future relief.

3. The blood of Jesus provided forgiveness retroactive back to the Garden and stretching forward until the end of time. He satisfied God's forgiveness for all of God's elect.

Some professing Christians come to Christ over and over. Some have been baptized numerous times. This is because they haven't rested in Christ.

Their conscience still bears testimony to their guilt. Jesus provides peace for our conscience.

- II. Only the blood of Christ is able to provide access into the heavenly Tabernacle.
- A. A more perfect covenant was necessary.
1. Only the death of Christ is able to seal the promise of the New Covenant. This is the meaning of **Verses 16-17**.
  2. The author compares it to a last will and testament.  
In order for a person's will to be carried out he must first die. Before his death it isn't binding. But after the death occurs it is fixed and binding.  
**Hebrews 9:16-17 NAU** - "For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. <sup>17</sup> For a covenant is valid *only* when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives."
  3. This has often been the theme for murder mysteries and detective shows. Colombo suspects the heirs of the millionaire for his untimely death. His vast wealth was not accessible to the heirs until his death.
  4. Only through the death of Jesus Christ we have become the heirs of eternal life.
- B. By the death of Christ He sealed the New Covenant ushering in its promises as a binding oath.
1. The word "blood" occurs six times in **Verses 18-22**.  
The blood of Christ sealed the New Covenant.  
**Matthew 26:27-28 NAU** - "And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; <sup>28</sup> for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."
  2. **Verse 22** he reminds us that there can be no forgiveness without the shedding of blood.  
**Hebrews 9:22 NAU** - "And according to the Law, *one may* almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."
  3. How can blood cleanse? It purges the filth of our sin. Imagine a white robe splattered with blood. You can hardly call clean and spotless. But this is exactly what the blood of Christ does. He takes the pollution of our sin and makes it white as snow.  
**Revelation 7:13-14 NAU** - "Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup> I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."  
**Isaiah 1:18 NAU** - "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool."

4. Jesus forever stands as our Advocate. He is our Intercessor who has made atonement for our sin. All who rest in Him find forgiveness for their sins. **1 John 2:1-2 NAU** - "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup> and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world.*"

#### Conclusion:

1. This was the excellence of the Passover. Israel was no less sinful than the Egyptians. Their sin also made them guilty before God. But God provided a means of atonement. **Exodus 12:21-22 NAU** - "Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover *lamb*. <sup>22</sup> "You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning."
2. Upon the doorway of every Israelite blood dripped. **Exodus 12:13 NAU** - "The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt."
3. The sacrificial blood was their covering. As the angel of death moved throughout their homes he passed over the ones bearing the blood. **Exodus 12:13 NAU** - "The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt."
4. Jesus is our great Passover Lamb. Those covered by His blood shall never see God's wrath. **1 Corinthians 5:7 NAU** - "Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed."
5. Are you resting in Him? Are you trusting in His blood alone? **Romans 3:23-26 NAU** - "or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, / say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."