

Title: Christ is the Mediator

Text: Hebrews 8: 13-9: 1-15

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Place: Cyril Rennel's Barn in Telford, PA

Hebrews 8: 13: In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

Has the Lord made the first covenant old to me? Has the Lord made that legal covenant obsolete to you?

It is a question that we might think should not even have to be asked to Gentile believers. We were never under that first covenant to begin with. This letter is written to Hebrews. These were folks who were indeed under that legal covenant which God made with the physical descendants of Abraham. But Gentiles—probably all of us here—were never under the covenant that God gave specifically to that one nation which he raised up and named Israel.

Last week, we saw how Peter made that clear in:

Acts 15:10: Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Peter says, “Why tempt ye God by placing the yoke given to us Israelites, upon these Gentile believers. And besides, it is a yoke which none of our Jewish fathers nor we were able to bear?”

So if the old Mosaic covenant never applied to Gentiles why is it that I would ask this question to myself and to those of you who are Gentiles?

It is because every man born of Adam is a legalist by nature. The heart is desperately wicked and none can know it. A sinner can learn all the correct doctrine, claim to rejoice only in Christ Jesus, claim to put no confidence in his flesh, and yet Christ profit him nothing because of his carnal service, his ordinances, his ceremonies, his observance of days, his placing significance on outward images, and such.

The Spirit of God is declaring in this Hebrew letter that the ordinances of services used under that old covenant were to shut mens' mouths in sin.

Illustration: Circumcision at 8 days old. Do not break the Sabbath? How will we circumcise a child when his 8th day falls on the Sabbath?

Old covenant was given to foreshadow Christ Jesus who is the better Covenant, and the Mediator of that covenant, which is established and is established upon better promises.

Illustration fulfilled in Christ: When Christ circumcises the heart a believer enters into Christ our Sabbath and we rest in him as God rested in him from the foundation of the world.

It was never intended to proceed any further than the coming of Christ Jesus the Lord. The substance being come, the shadow not only ceased to be necessary but is become improper for the believer to observe in any regard.

Proposal: The issue is Christ Jesus the Lord. Whosoever submits to any old testament service, or tries to equate them with the worship of Christ which Christ has ordained, is calling into question that Christ has come and that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to all who believe.

I. THE CARNAL ORDINANCES AND THE WORLDLY SANCTUARY POINTED TO CHRIST JESUS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Let see that. Next, those carnal ordinances are described:

Hebrews 9: 1: Then verily the first *covenant* had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. the first, wherein *was* the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. **3:** And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; **4:** Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein *was* the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; **5:** And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. **6:** Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service *of God*. **7:** But into the second *went* the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and *for* the errors of the people:

Then we are given the significance of what those things point toward:

Hebrews 9: 8: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: **9:** Which *was* a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; **10:** Which *stood* only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed *on them* until the time of reformation.

Now the end, the fulfillment, the very image of this shadow is come. And listen:

Hebrews 9: 11: But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; **12:** Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption.

- The Sanctuary—the holy place where God meets with his people is Christ.
- The greater more perfect Tabernacle, not made with hands is Christ.
- Those items in that earthly tabernacle—the Lamp and the Table of Shewbread—have their glory and fulfillment in Christ Jesus. He is the believers only Light by whose power alone we are made to believe on him. He is the Table of Shewbread in whom we have communion with God.
- He is the intercessor seen in the golden censor used by the High Priest.
- Christ is our Manna, our Bread, from heaven.
- Christ is our Aaron whom God has declared High Priest, by making his Rod to bud in resurrection glory.
- All the law written on tables of stone are fulfilled in perfection by Christ our Golden Ark.
- Christ is our Mercy Seat—he has satisfied, propitiated, God on behalf of his people
- It is by his life-blood—that we have remission of sins
- This all is set forth most gloriously in Christ Jesus who is the great High Priest of his people. By his one offering, by his one entrance into the presence of God, he has obtained eternal redemption for every chosen child of God.

Now, under that old covenant, what did the blood of bulls and goats foreshadow? And what did the ashes of the red heifer foreshadow?

Hebrews 9: 13: For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

The blood of bulls and goats refers back to that what was just stated that is, Christ accomplished our redemption—particularly our justification--by his own blood. Externally--as a foreshadow, as a figure, as type of what Christ would do—under that old covenant God declared the people atoned for when the High Priest entered into the holiest of holies for them, once a year with the blood of a lamb sacrificed for them.

The ashes of the heifer—speaks of sanctification. When a sinner was defiled—they could be defiled, unclean by touching anything dead whether they knew it or not. Externally, as a shadow of the good thing to come, once a clean-priest had sprinkled the ashes of the red heifer upon their outward flesh, typically, they were sanctified—purified—clean—to enter into God’s presence.

Well, those are such good shadows, so glorifying to Christ, why don’t we bring those over into our worship? Not to put any confidence in them, just as a picture like they always were?

Hebrews 9: 14: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Christ is the end of the law--that is why? We are justified by the blood of Christ alone. We are sanctified by the Spirit of Christ purging, not by sprinkling our outward bodies, but our conscience. To continue in the shadow in any form is to continue in dead works. Those who have been purged within are made alive in spirit, they are not merely dead sinful flesh any longer. Those born of Christ serve the living God in spirit and in truth, not dead works.

Would you dare take to yourself the office, the power, the rights which belong to Christ Jesus the Son of God alone? You would not dare call yourself a high priest? Because Christ is your High Priest. You would not dare claim any authority to justify or sanctify you or any one around you because it is God that justifieth, it is Christ that died and risen again, it is Christ that Sanctifieth through the eternal Spirit. It is Christ who is preeminent in all things. All fullness dwells in Christ.

Hebrews 9: 15: And for this cause HE IS THE MEDIATOR of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

FOR THIS CAUSE—because God the Father is well—pleased, because Christ Jesus the Lord the great High Priest of his people has obtained eternal redemption—the justification, as well as the sanctification of his people—HE IS THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. He entered into God’s presence with his blood and he enters into the hearts of his people with his blood through the Holy Spirit and he alone brings two opposing parties together in himself.

Hebrew 8: 13: In that he saith, A new *covenant*, HE HATH made the first old...9: 15: And for this cause HE IS THE MEDIATOR of the new testament

Now we see the offense and the issue! THE OLD COVENANT WAS GIVEN TO MAKE THE OFFENSE OF OUR SIN ABOUND! CHRIST IS THE END OF THE OLD COVENANT FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS—FOR ACCEPTANCE WITH GOD. HE IS THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND HIS ELECT. THEREFORE THE HOLY SPIRIT DECLARES THAT WE DARE NOT ASCRIBE WHAT ONLY CHRIST MUST AND CAN ACCOMPLISH TO OURSELVES BY OUR USE OF ANY EARTHLY

ORDINANCE, CEREMONY, OR SACRIFICE, AND NOT EVEN BOASTING OF THE GIFTS THAT ONLY CHRIST GIVES BY GRACE.

If I claim that I am justified by my sacrifice—whether it be some old testament ordinance or merely by my act of believing, instead of Christ alone justifying me and giving me faith as a result, I make myself the mediator. HE IS THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT!

If I use high-pressure tactics to force a confession out of someone, or force someone to believe my doctrine, rather than wait on Christ the Power and Wisdom of God through his Spirit to purge their conscience from dead works to serve the living God then I make myself the mediator. HE IS THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT!

If I use the same tactics to frighten professing believers with threats of punishment and censure in the name of making men holy, sanctified, pure—instead of declaring the name of Christ Jesus who alone has power to affect this work, then I make myself the mediator. HE IS THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT!

If I claim that the Lord's ordinances of baptism or the Lord's Supper are less than what they then I make myself the mediator. If my baptism, or my baptizing others, is anything less than a public confession that Christ has justified and sanctified me by his death, burial and resurrection—that my conscience has been purged and my body washed in the pure water of the Holy Spirit then I make myself the mediator. HE IS THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT!

The same goes for the ordinance of the Lord's Table—if I claim it is for anything other than to remember his broken body and his shed blood till he returns, I make myself the mediator. HE IS THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

Illustration: Satan is subtle. His desire is to keep you in religion—even claiming to trust Christ alone by grace alone. But just add a little something.

Paul told the Galatians that if he gave sinners just one little loophole to glory in—then he would not suffer the rejection of religious men. But...

Galatians 1: 10: ...if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. 11: But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12: For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Every believer must be taught the gospel by Jesus Christ. He is the Mediator of the everlasting covenant.

Ephesians 4: 7: But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

II. TURN TO GALATIANS AND LISTEN TO THE DANGER THAT PAUL LAYS OUT FOR US.

1. We call Christ a liar if we give credit to any of our acts of religious devotions.

Galatians 2: 16: Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. 17: But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

Paul is saying that if I add my works to Christ's works then I am saying that I think Christ lied, that he was the minister of sin, that he is not really the end of the law, that I am not really complete in him, that he alone is the Life who must give dead sinners life, that he alone is the mediator of the everlasting covenant, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Paul said, God forbid. Christ is the minister of Truth. On the contrary, if I declare Christ is All in my gospel then in practice I give man glory:

Galatians 2: 18: For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

2. We declare Christ's death to be in vain, if righteousness comes by our hand rather than all of grace.

Galatians 2: 19: For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. 20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. 21: I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

3. If we claim we came into this grace by blood, the will of the flesh, the will of man or if we claim we that our perfect sanctification is by our acts of obedience, then we are altogether disobedient to Christ Jesus the Truth.

Galatians 3: 1: O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

The gospel of Christ, the glory of Christ in his full sufficiency was preached to them in a manner so that it was as if they had seen Christ crucified with their own eyes!

Galatians 3: 2: This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3: Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? 4: Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain.

Be sure you get this next phrase. When Paul said they were not obeying the Truth, he is saying they were not obeying Christ the Truth.

Galatians 3: 5: He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit,

God, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ alone ministers the Spirit. Peter said, "He hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear." "I will send the Comforter to you." HE IS THE MEDIATOR OF THE EVERLASTING COVENANT OF GRACE. AND THERE IS NO OTHER COVENANT.

Galatians 3: 5: He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 6: Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

We, who live after the law of Moses has been given, we will be saved by the Mediator ministering to us the Spirit through the gospel, who works the miracle of sovereign grace in creating believers anew in his righteousness, even as Abraham was brought to believe God and made righteous, 15 years before circumcision and 430 years before the old covenant existed, that is by Christ Jesus the Mediator of the New Testament!

4. If we insist that but one work, one ordinance, one sacrifice, one performance of ourselves is needed to bring us into union with God, then we are debtors to perform the whole law of God ourselves.

Galatians 5: 1: Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. 2: Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. 3: For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4: Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. 5: For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6: For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

III. BACK IN HEBREWS 10. HAS THE LORD MADE THE EVERLASTING COVENANT OF GRACE IN YOUR HEART? What then?

Hebrews 10: 15 *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16: This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17: And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18: Now where remission of these *is, there is* no more offering for sin.

Hebrews 10: 19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20: By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21: And *having* an high priest over the house of God; 22: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23: Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) 24: And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Application:

If the Lord gives the measure of the gift of grace so that you stand together for the glory of Christ alone then you will certainly face opposition. This opposition will come from those without and within.

Be sure you understand me, I do not so much mean from those who are heathens but from religious folks.

You will not find one place in the history of time where the Lord's people have been persecuted as much by the profane as by professors in religion.

I Corinthians 4: 9: For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

Robert Hawker "Whosoever looks deeply, and beyond the mere surface of things, cannot but observe, that a full, free, and finished Gospel, is as much despised now, by mere professors, as it ever was in the days of the Apostle Paul. The preaching which holds forth Christ, as All and in All, is a sect as much now as ever, every where spoken against. He that would escape the censure of licentiousness, it is not enough, that he manifests the purity of his principles by an holiness of life, and conversation; but he must compliment human nature, at the expense of divine truth."

But for the believer Christ is the issue and believers make the issue in every doctrine we are taught or that we teach to be Christ?

But be not troubled by them that are puffed up—whose doctrine is designed to protect a false refuge. Then is the offense of the cross ceased—the truth of Christ is ceased. This truth of what Christ alone accomplished, and can accomplish, through the sacrifice of himself is offensive to the self-righteous. But to the believer, Christ our All is the very the glory of the cross!

The kingdom of God is not in word—mere logic and reason, arguing from traditions of men up to God will never gender toward anything but strife and a legal, threatening spirit.

The kingdom of God is in power. The Lord teaches his people in the heart. Always begin with Christ. Every doctrine, every ordinance, every command of our Lord begins and ends and has its glory in the person and work of Christ. When Christ enters in through the Holy Spirit his Power and Wisdom makes the religious man renounce the hidden things of dishonesty for Christ alone.

Therefore we don't know men after the flesh but after the Power.

2 Cor 5: 17: Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Paul concluded: Galatians 4: 12: As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13: For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. 14: But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. 15: For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. 16: And as many as walk according to this rule, peace *be* on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. 17: From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. 18: Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.