

HEBREWS

“NO TURNING BACK”

Hebrews Lesson 14

Ice Breaker: Are you named as a beneficiary in anyone’s will? If so, how do you feel about it?

INTRO: Inheriting something is usually bitter sweet. You can’t have the inheritance without the death of the one who put you in the will. Jesus wanted us to inherit a life free from the law of sin and death. Because He offered Himself as a sacrifice to take away sin, we have inherited righteousness... apart from the law!

READ: Hebrews 9:16-28

16 In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, 17 because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. 18 This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. 19 When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. 20 He said, “This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.” 21 In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. 22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence. 25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. 26 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Q: In verse 16 and 18, the writer uses a play on words. The Greek word he uses for “will” in verse 16 is the same word he uses for “covenant” in verse 18, a word that could carry both meanings. Why might he be doing this?

- He wants us to know the new covenant is actually a will that names as beneficiaries, those of us who, through faith, submit to Jesus as King.

Q: If the new covenant is our inheritance, what does that mean?

- It means we have inherited a new basis for relating to God... by faith not law.
 - Rom. 8:1-2 *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”*

- It means we have inherited the acquittal that comes through faith in Christ!
 - **Titus 3:3-7** *“At one **time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.** 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 **he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.** He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, **having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.**
 - Being justified is being acquitted.*
 - Acts 13:39 *“Through him everyone who believes is **justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.**”*

Q: Verse 22 says that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Why does God require blood in order to grant forgiveness?

- Lev. 17:11 *“For **the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.**”*
 - Jesus’ blood represented His life. His blood and His life were given as a sacrifice to make atonement for our lives because no other blood was good enough.
 - Heb. 10:4 *“...because it is impossible for the **blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.**”*
- **2Cor. 5:21** *“God made **him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**”*
 - Jesus lived the life we couldn’t, but we get credit for it anyway.

Q: Verse 26 says that Jesus did “away with sin”. What does this mean?

- Col. 2:13-14 *“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.**”*
 - Jesus didn’t just take my sins to the cross; He took the law of the old covenant to the cross.
 - With written code cancelled, sin is dead!
 - Rom. 7:8 *“...For apart from law, sin is dead.”*
 - Rom. 8:1 *“Therefore, **there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...**”*

Q: Verse 27 says we all have to die once and then face judgment. What is the implication of this truth?

- We only have this one life to live for the master!
- We only get one shot at using it for Him!

Q: Verse 28 says Jesus “*will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*” Why is waiting for Jesus to re-appear so significant?

- Under the old covenant, when the high priest entered into the Holy of Holies to offer sacrifice for sins, the people waited fearfully for the high priest to come back out so they could know if God accepted the sacrifice.
 - If he came back out, they understood that their sacrifice had only bought them another year... the bill for their sins would be due next year.
 - If he didn't come back out, it meant that God had not accepted their sacrifice and the bill was due now!
 - Under the new covenant, our high priest has entered the Holy of Holies and we are still waiting for Him to come back out.
 - When Jesus comes back, it won't be to start the clock on our sins again; it will be to bring salvation to us!
 - We don't have to wait in fear because Jesus has been accepted as our sacrifice.
 - There is no bill for our sins waiting on us!
 - We aren't racking up any new bills either, because we have inherited a new covenant with God where we aren't judged by how good we can be.
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APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT: *Answer the following questions as best you can, then get with your discipler/discipleship group and discuss your answers.*

1. What has your inheritance done for you? How has it changed you?
2. Knowing that you only have this one life to live for the master, have you been focusing your time, talents, and treasure on pleasing Him, pleasing you, or pleasing someone else? (Consider each area individually.)
3. How much do you think about Jesus coming back?
 - a. Does the thought excite you or scare you? Why?