

In review... verses 11-15: 'But Christ came *as* High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect **tabernacle not made with hands**, that is, not of this creation. ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, **but with His own blood** He entered the Most Holy Place (**God's Throne Room**) once for all, **having obtained eternal redemption.** ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ **how much more shall the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?' (dead works are works of the Law) ¹⁵ And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

It says, 'for this reason He is the Mediator'... what reason? That He entered the real Holy Place, the Throne Room of Heaven and brought Himself and His blood as the complete and perfect sacrifice to purify us and obtain for us, eternal redemption... unlike the earthly high priests, He was sinless, so He didn't have to offer any sacrifice for Himself and His was the perfect sacrifice which needed to be offered only once... not every year... once... for all... for all time... past present and future.

The purpose of the New Covenant and the Perfect Sacrifice and the Perfect High Priest are to bring men to God, which the Old Covenant, the old sacrifices offered over and over, and the old priesthood could never do. To bring men to God... the first ones being... those who had been waiting in Sheol, the place of the Dead.

By His death, He brought redemption to those who had believed and died under the First Covenant. Last time, we saw that when Jesus Christ was crucified, when He died, He went down to Sheol, the place of the dead, to Paradise, and gathered all the Old Testament Saints, believers who had gone there when they died, who had been waiting for the coming Messiah... some, for nearly 4000 years. Abel was the first to die and enter Sheol. Paul teaches this further in Rom 3: 'for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, **to demonstrate His righteousness**, because **in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,** ²⁶ **to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness**, that **He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

Paul is saying that during the Old Covenant, God allowed the sins of those believing under the Old Covenant, to be covered over by the blood of imperfect sacrifices, animals offered by imperfect priests, sinful men, under the imperfect Old Covenant, because eventually, all the sins of those who believed, would not only be covered over, but they'd be completely removed and forgiven by the coming Perfect Sacrifice, offered by the perfect High Priest, in the true Holy Place, Heaven. Remember, the Bible refers to Jesus Christ as **the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the World**... slain at the same time that God chose all those who would be included in His last Will and Testament. Jesus Christ's sacrifice covered all the sins of all the chosen for all time, from Adam onward.

With God, there is no past, present or future... with Him it's all **Now**... He is Eternal.

But Paul is saying that when God overlooked sin, allowing it to be covered by the blood of animals from the time of Adam until the Cross, He seemed to be unjust or unrighteous... by not requiring them to live up to His demanded standard of perfection. He is saying, now that Jesus Christ's sacrifice has provided complete redemption for all of those who were down in Paradise, those He gathered up and took back to Heaven... now God has been proven to be completely righteous... the Cross demonstrated the righteousness of God.

He had been allowing their sins to be covered over 'on account;' the sacrifices they had offered under the Old Covenant were like a promissory note... partial payment until payment in full was made when Jesus Christ was crucified. But that promissory note still couldn't gain them access to God... they had to wait in Paradise until the full payment was made at the Crucifixion. God was proving Himself to be righteous, adhering to His own

standard of perfection. Since He is eternal and Christ's sacrifice was actually made from the foundation of the World... His physical Crucifixion, accomplished within time and space, demonstrated God to be Holy and Righteous.

Now, a good question is, 'to whom was God's righteousness being demonstrated?' His very first audience has always been angels, both elect and fallen. The elect angels may have looked on in wonder... thinking, how is it that God irrevocably condemned our angel brothers who rebelled, but not all of the humans? And the fallen angels may have looked on, accusingly asking, 'How is it that you condemned us without remedy but not all of **those** filthy little creatures?'

God proved Himself Righteous and Holy by the Sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God... His blood covered and paid the full penalty for sin, of God's chosen, for all time.

The reality is: apart from His love, grace and mercy, the only way for God to have been proven righteous would have been for Him to allow everyone to die and then send us all to Hell. But to keep from doing that, because of His Love, He sent Jesus Christ to be the perfect sacrifice to satisfy all the requirements of the Law.

Verse 16: For where there *is* a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ¹⁷ For a testament *is* in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

The Old Covenant was the First Will and Testament of God Almighty. Its purpose was to point men to the coming Savior and The New Covenant which is God's New Will... the Last Will and Testament of God. God's First Will and Testament was never meant to be permanent; it was always meant to be temporary. It was never meant to be final or complete... it was only meant to point to the reality; it was imperfect, designed to point to the perfect. The sacrificed lambs, and their blood, pointed to the Lamb of God and His shed Blood. The impermanent priesthood of sinful men pointed to the eternal Holy Priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ... and the temporary Tabernacle pointed to the Eternal Throne Room of God.

Any will and testament only comes into force when the person who made the will, the testator, dies. Even the first Will and Testament of God... the First Covenant... was brought into force with death and with blood. When the Law was first given to Moses and then to the people... everything and everyone was sprinkled with blood... blood everywhere... constantly... a never ending reminder that the wages of sin is death and that sin always results in death.

God is Holy and His standard is Holiness and Perfection. He said, 'The soul that sins shall die.' Ezek. 18:20 and, 'the wages of sin is death.' Rom 6:23 and, 'Your sin has separated you from your God.' Isa. 59:2

The only way for a person to come into God's presence was for his sin to be completely paid for. Since Jesus Christ was, Himself, Holy and Perfect, His death was accepted as full payment for the sins of all those who trust in Jesus Christ and His payment for their sin.

That is why Jesus Christ had to be born as one of us, a Man. God had established in the Law, in the First Covenant, that a near kinsman could redeem for his relative, what had been lost... Lev 25:25. And it was further exemplified through the relationship of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz, ancestors of Jesus Christ. Since He became one of us, He could redeem us... He could make the full payment on the promissory note that the Old Covenant had paid, for all those who were in Paradise and for all of us... past, present and future.

Jesus Christ had to die for His Will and Testament to come into force, so that those named in His Will could collect their inheritance... so that we could collect our inheritance... the first installment of our inheritance is Eternal Life and we received the **down payment, earnest money**, for our full eternal inheritance when God put His Holy Spirit inside us. And remember... earnest money is non refundable. The life of God lives within us forever... we are one with Him; it's a great Mystery... but it's true.

Here is an important point regarding the Election of God, our Predestination to Eternal Life, that we were chosen by God before the foundation of the World. Paul writes in Eph 1: 'Blessed *be* the God and Father of

our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, (remember, we are seated with Him now) ⁴ **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself,** according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He made us accepted in the Beloved.** He didn't just make us 'acceptable,' He made us 'accepted!' an already established, eternal fact!

Here's the point about predestination and God's last will and testament... He chose and decided who He wanted to put in His Will... doesn't every testator have the right, even the responsibility, to choose exactly to whom He plans to leave His estate... to whom He will leave an inheritance and exactly how much to each one?

Did you ever hear of anyone ever making out his will so that when he died, his estate was announced and then anyone and everyone could come knocking on the Lawyer's door, with his hand out, to claim part of the estate?

Most of you have had a lawyer draw up your will... and you decided exactly who would be named in your will and you decided it long before you died. How insulted or offended would you be if someone tried to tell you that you could or could not prepare your will exactly how you wanted to, or that you had to include people you hadn't chosen?

Just something to think about if you're ever tempted to think that God didn't actually choose you for Himself, before He even laid the foundation of the World... He did... He named you in His will... long before you were even born... He knew you and He loved you with an everlasting love that will never change... and He has kept His hand and His eye upon you from the moment of your conception. You are His precious possession.

He chose us as His heirs from the foundation of the World; He sacrificed His Son to purchase us from the foundation of the World and He wrote our names in His Book of Life from the foundation of the World.

Then, in the fullness of time, He sent forth His Son to be born of a virgin, to live a sinless life and then to willingly be offered up as the perfect sacrifice to pay the full penalty of all our sin... to open the way to bring us directly into the presence of God the Father, to His very Throne Room, where we can remain forever... that is, when we're not busy out helping the Lord Jesus Christ rule and reign forever over His entire Kingdom... ruling and reigning as adopted sons and daughters of God the Father... His chosen heirs.

Verse 18: Therefore not even the first *covenant* was dedicated without blood. ¹⁹ For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." ²¹ Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. ²² And according to the law ***almost*** all things are purified with blood, and without ***without shedding of blood there is no remission.***

Sin demands death... blood represents death... but the death of Jesus Christ brings life and redemption.

The sacrificing of animals never truly covered sin... they were symbolic acts that demonstrated the faith of those who offered them, that they believed God and had faith in what He said.

Remember way back to Abraham... 500 years before the Law... it says, 'Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness.' Abel, 2000 years before that, brought a lamb to be sacrificed; he believed God and God was pleased with what he brought. It was a symbolic act demonstrating faith in God's Word.

Everything the priests and the high priest did were just symbolic actions which demonstrated they believed what God said and sought to obey Him... their actions demonstrated their faith.

Now, our faith is in the truly effective act of Jesus Christ... His sacrifice and blood which result in our complete righteousness... one act, one faith, and complete righteousness for eternity.

Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. It means, without death. Without full payment for the penalty of sin... breaking the Law... there is no release from the penalty of the Law for those who broke the Law. But if one who is qualified, meeting the exact standards of God of Holiness and Perfection, and is also a kinsman of the law breaker... if that one pays the full penalty for the sin of His kinsmen... death... then kinsmen can be released from their sentence of death... the deserved penalty of their sin.

Notice it says that 'almost' all things are purified with blood. When God set up the Law, the Old Covenant, He made provision for even the poorest and lowliest. If they couldn't afford to bring a lamb, they could bring two pigeons; it says, 'But if he is not able to bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons, then he who sinned shall bring for his offering one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a sin offering.' Lev 5:11 If a person couldn't even afford two pigeons for sacrifice, he could bring some flour... flour! And just like the offerings of sacrificed animals... the sacrificed flour was a symbolic act which demonstrated faith and belief in what God had said.

But there was something far deeper in God's allowance of just flour as an acceptable sacrifice under the Old Covenant. He was showing the reality of the complete inadequacy of any and all of the sacrifices to truly do away with sin. Obviously, flour couldn't really cover over sin... it had to be God's grace through the faith of the one bringing the flour... but God even accepted that, for the time being. So, obviously neither could the blood of goats and sheep really cover over sin... Only the coming sacrifice of the Lamb of God could really do away with sin... only His shed blood could really bring about the remission of sin and our complete forgiveness.

And God was saying, 'Even if you bring your prized bull to be sacrificed, it means no more to Me than the one bringing a few cups of flour... what matters to me is your faith in Me and My Word, your faith which is behind the symbolic act.'

It harkens back to the widow who put her last two small coins into the offering box at the synagogue. Jesus said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; ⁴ for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

Her two small coins were worthless but they demonstrated her complete faith and dependence on God... her belief that He is faithful... and that's the point of everything... that God is faithful... His Word is true... His love is everlasting... He will never fail.

Verse 23: 'Therefore... therefore what? *Without shedding of blood there is no remission... 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. 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;*'

The Tabernacle and the Temple were merely copies of the reality which is, the Throne Room of God in Heaven. It was necessary that they be purified with the blood of goats and lambs... but the true, the reality which they represented... the one in Heaven... had to be prepared with the pure shed blood of the perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God.

He is now in Heaven, appearing for us, in our place. He took our place on the Cross, dying in our stead and He has taken our place before God, pleading our case for us. Remember, we are now seated with Him in Heavenly places.

When our souls, within our fleshly bodies sin, down here on Earth, and we always do... Satan, the accuser, who still has access to Heaven, forcefully condemns us before God. But Jesus Christ stands between us and God, He is our advocate. He reminds the Father that we are His, we were chosen from the foundation of the

World and He paid for us at the foundation of the World. He wrote our names in the Lamb's Book of Life from the foundation of the World. We are the Father's adopted children, we are His heirs, we were bought and paid for with Jesus Christ's own shed blood on the Cross... we stand before God, clothed in the complete Righteousness and Holiness of the Lord Jesus Christ... and the Father declares 'That one is innocent! Case closed!'

Verse 25: 'Not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— ²⁶ 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.

Either Jesus Christ's sacrifice was perfect and complete, fully putting away the sin of all His elect for all time, or it was not. Either He had to be sacrificed only once for all time, or not... and if it's not... then He would have to have been sacrificed over and over for every sin of every person who ever trusted in Him and it would never have fully taken sin away.

Now, once at the end of the ages He has appeared to put away sin.

Verse 27: 'And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.'

To every human, there is an exact moment, appointed by God, when that person will die... either naturally or traumatically... either young or old... either contentedly or miserably... every person will die and at that moment, that exact split second... any chance that person had to put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ will have passed.

Job 14 says, "Man *who is* born of woman
Is of few days and full of trouble.

² He comes forth like a flower and fades away;
He flees like a shadow and does not continue...

⁵ Since his days *are* determined,
The number of his months *is* with You;
You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.

David wrote, 'My times *are* in Your hand;' Psa 31:15

Then, from the moment of their death, all those since the time of Adam, who have not placed their faith in God's Word, in His promised deliverer, the Lord Jesus Christ... all of them continue to wait in Hades, the bad side of Sheol, the place of the dead, waiting for the time a little over 1000 years from now, when they will finally be raised up to stand before Jesus Christ in Judgment where they will be condemned, because the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ will not have been applied to their sin and they will be cast into the Lake of Fire which was prepared for Satan and all the fallen angels.

Jesus Christ became a man and therefore it was appointed for Him... an exact moment... to die... just once... and after that... Judgment. God's judgment of Him was absolute righteousness and acceptance. He had fulfilled the Law completely and perfectly. Therefore, as our Kinsman Redeemer, He was qualified to offer His Blood on the true Mercy Seat in Heaven, the Throne of God, as full payment and pardon for all our sin.

The only exceptions to this rule, that it is appointed unto men once to die, are: Enoch who 'walked with God' and was taken by God before having died, Elijah who was taken up in a fiery chariot while Elisha watched... and all of us who are still alive when God the Father tells His Son that the moment has finally come for Him to return in the clouds and to receive us up unto Himself, when we will be changed in a moment and given new

eternal bodies like His own, and He will then take us all back to Heaven to the place He has been preparing for us, where we will receive our eternal rewards during the seven years of Tribulation down here on Earth.

Verse 28b: 'To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.'

That is talking about the soon coming Rapture. Then, seven years later, when He returns to the Earth at Armageddon, it says that the Jews still alive will all suddenly recognize Him and mourn because of their unbelief, and they will all suddenly believe and turn to Him... but they were not 'eagerly waiting for Him.' We are the ones, the ones who already know Him who are now eagerly waiting for Him.

'To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.'