

Letter to the **Hebrews**



Lesson 9-The Sanctuary and the Cleansing Blood

Focus: Hebrews 9:1-28

- **The layout of the earthly sanctuary (v.1-5)**
 - *The articles of the sanctuary all had their specific place, and each carried significance in meaning as well. The Altar of sacrifice in the courtyard was the place of slaying and offering the animals as a burnt offering to God. Sin was confessed there upon the victim that would die for the sins of the people. Thus, it was symbolic of the cross of Jesus Christ and how He died there for our sins. The courtyard was symbolic of things that were to be done on the earth, as in the place where Christ met with man and died for our sins. Only the priests could go within the Sanctuary or holy places. The holy places therefore were symbolic of Heaven where only Christ has gone for us (sinners do not live or go there, especially at this time of history). Christ has gone there to do a work for us. **The lamp stand** shows us that Christ is the light of this world and we also should be **a light to the world through Him** (Matthew 5:14; John 8:12). **The flame** was powered by oil and therefore we and our light should be empowered by the Holy Spirit (1 Samuel 16:13; John 15:4,5; Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5:22,23). The table of showbread was symbolic of Christ and His word by which alone we must live (Matthew 4:4; John 6:35, 48). The altar of incense represented the place where the prayers of God's people could ascend before God mingled with the fragrance of grace and the blood of the sacrifice. We must pray in the name of Jesus (See also Rev. 8:2-4 and John 14:13,14). The Most Holy Place had the presence of God there and the ark of the covenant which held His Ten Commandments. This shows us God's throne of Judgment and also mercy. His government is based upon His laws of eternal love; they are at it's very core and foundation! They represent God's righteous and perfect character!*
- **The Services of the earthly sanctuary and their use (v.6-10)**
 - *There were two basic services done. The daily (v.6) and the yearly (v.7). The yearly is found mentioned in Leviticus 16. The yearly was the finishing service of the year.*
- **Christ's work and service which was above the earthly services but reflected by them (v.11-15)**
 - ***In verse 12** the Hebrew word "**hagion**" is translated in describing the place that Christ entered. The NIV Bible (1984 ed.) translates that word as "Most Holy Place," as in Christ entered into that place upon his return to heaven. The NKJV translated it the same way. The **KJV** gives us the translation, "Holy Place." The Greek word in the Strong's Bible concordance is referenced as G39. It is the Neuter form of G40. The meaning, as given, is "a sacred thing (that is, spot); -holiest (of all); holy place, sanctuary." **Therefore**, the Greek word used here has multiple meanings. The word given here is in the singular form, and could be understood as meaning any one of the previously mentioned definitions. Although some people have thought it could be the "Most Holy Place" we **do***

not have textual evidence to prove that was the intended meaning. **It could simply mean “sanctuary,” or “holy place”** (as the KJV translated it). We have to allow for this in our understanding of this word. We cannot make any insistence upon what the NIV or NKJV rendered it as; the **Greek term** gives us multiple meanings or understandings. We could say **“He entered the Sanctuary (or, Holy Place) once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”** Christ did not need to daily bring his own blood into the sanctuary or to daily sacrifice himself. Only once was necessary, and He has now taken His blood there.

- (v.13,14) *The blood of Christ is much better than the blood of bulls, goats, or any animal! He will cleanse us all! Our consciences should be cleansed and our hearts should be renewed by seeing His great love for us! (Romans 5:5-10; John 3:16; 1 John 4:10,19).*
- **The Shedding of Blood is necessary for forgiveness and for making such a covenant as God does with us (v.16-22)**
 - *The says, “The life of the flesh is in the blood” (See Leviticus 17:11,14). “The wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23). If man ate the forbidden fruit, they would “surely die” (Gen. 2:17). Everything was covered in blood when the covenant was ratified. It was necessary to make such a deal, as to save us all from certain death.*
- **A better sacrifice was necessary for the heavenly things (v.23-28)**
 - *Christ was a FAR superior sacrifice to any of the animal offerings of old. He is the Maker, Creator, and Designer of Life itself! He is the very embodiment and source of Life itself! He is the Originator of all life that we can see, know, and experience! He was the one who became a human being and offered His own life for our sin and penalty so that we might receive the life that He only Himself deserved to have! We do not deserve anything but death. It is only by God’s incredible mercy that we can be saved! And He freely offers it to us all from His great heart of love and mercy towards us! (See Revelation 22:17; 3:20).*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to be cleansed of all your sins by the purifying blood of Jesus Christ?_____