

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA

November 8, 2009 – Rev. Craig A. Patterson

“Christ Has Put Away Sin Once And For All!”

(Text: Hebrews 9:24-28)

Context: The writer of this letter to the Hebrew believers in the first century points to the familiar practices of the sacrifices made by the Jewish priests. He compares the frequent sacrifices made by the high priest to the one sacrifice of Christ. He explains that the frequent sacrifices that were offered by the priests pointed to the coming sacrifice that would be made by Christ (the promised Messiah). It would be nonsensical to think that the Messiah was to come and offer Himself as a sacrifice repeatedly like the priests had offered sacrifices over and over again. ‘No!’ says the writer of this epistle, ‘It is the other way around! The previous sacrifices were always intended to point forward to this one sacrifice that the Christ would offer in order to take away sins forever!’

I. **The Jews Had Repeated The Same Sacrifices Repeatedly For So Long That They Had Become Sidetracked And Were Focusing Upon The Sacrificial Activity, Itself, Rather Than What It Pointed To.**

- A. “It must be done this way,” had become the focus of the faithful Jew.
 - 1. Rigid adherence to the way of conducting the sacrifice had overtaken the reason for the sacrifice’s existence.
 - 2. The tool used for pointing had become the thing being pointed to.
 - a. In regard to the place of the sacrifice, the holy place, or “holy of holies” in the Temple, was a “mere copy of the true one” – Heb. 9:24.
- B. The tool (the sacrificial system) which was intended to be used to point to the greater truth, itself, had become the object of adoration.
 - 1. Religious leaders focused upon the sacrificial system and all of its details.
 - 2. The reason for the sacrificial system had been forgotten.
- C. Tired of waiting for the fulfillment of God’s promised Messiah (the One who would come to make the ultimate payment), the actual fulfillment caught the Jews by surprise.
 - 1. Why now and why would God choose to fulfill His promises in this way, through Jesus of Nazareth?!
 - a. “...but now at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (9:26).
- D. How are you and I sidetracked? How are you and I surprised by Jesus Christ being the one true and final payment for sins?

II. **Christ Was Offered Once And For All To Bear The Sins Of Many.**

- A. His perfect sacrifice was full and sufficient for the putting away of sins of all people for all time. The sacrifice was made “once and for all.” (hapax)
 - 1. Jesus became human so that He could suffer in our place.
 - 2. Jesus needed to be God so that His one-time sacrifice would be sufficient for the sins of all people of all time.
 - 3. He was tempted in all ways as we are, “but without sin” (Heb. 4:15). He was/is the sinless Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
- B. Jesus will “appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin for those who eagerly await Him” (9:28).
- C. It is appointed for men to die once and then comes judgment (God’s verdict of heaven or hell) (9:27).