

## Sermon 11-11-18 Hebrews 9:24-28 Sin Sent Away

Dear Forgiven:

It has been said that there are two certainties in life:

- Death
- Taxes

But, there is another certainty in life and that is Sin.

### Sin

I heard a well known TV personality once say that everyone is born to love and be kind to each other. Apparently, this person doesn't know that the Bible says: All are born with a sinful nature and all by nature are inclined to do sinful actions.

Furthermore, even if one did not know the Bible, just look at how people treat each other in their natural state. By nature we are not kind and loving to each other. It takes the love of God to change us and give us the ability to love and be kind to one another.

Jesus came to this world of ours to do away with sin. He came to call people to follow him and become his disciples. He came to convert us from our sinful self.

The book of Hebrews was written primarily to Jewish Christians. So much of Hebrews deals with Old Testament concepts and symbol that Jewish believers would identify with. One of those concepts is the role of the High Priest.

I. Jesus appears for us in heaven as the High Priest vv24-25

A. The role of the High Priest

1. to sacrifice for sin - Leviticus 16:32-34

“The priest who is anointed and ordained is to make atonement...atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites.” Atonement means “At one, satisfaction or reconciliation between God and man.”

## 2. Jesus is our High Priest - Hebrews 7:23-25

“Now there have been many of those priests...but Jesus lives forever...he is able to save completely those who came to God through him, because Jesus always lives to intercede for them.”

### Jesus is our Defense Lawyer

- We all need a spiritual defense lawyer.
- I John 2:1 “But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense...”

If anybody does sin...just look at the 10 Commandments

- Have we always put God 1<sup>st</sup> in our lives?
- Have we always used God’s name properly?
- Have we always obeyed the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment?
- Have we always obeyed those in authority over us?
- Do we sometimes harbor hatred in our hearts for others?
- Do we always have pure thoughts?
- Have we always been good stewards of God’s blessings?
- Have we always refrained from gossip?
- Are we always content with God’s blessings?

On the Day of Atonement in the Old Testament, the High Priest had two goats...

- one goat was slaughtered for the sins of the people
- another goat was driven out of the camp with the sins of the people - scapegoat
- Jesus fulfills both roles for us

### B. The rule of the High Priest

#### 1. Mediator between God and Man

In the Old Testament one could only approach God through the sacrifice of the High Priest. “Jesus became the source of eternal salvation...and was designated by God to be high priest.” Hebrews 5:1

2. Jesus sits at the right hand of God “We do have such a high priest who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven.” Hebrews 8:1

\* Right Hand – position of power and strength

\* Jesus sits at the right hand of God defending us when we sin

II. Jesus appeared once on the cross to wipe away our sins vv26-27

A. Role of the cross - Sin is an affront to a holy God

Does our culture understand this? Do we as a society see sin as an affront to a holy God?

“An entire generation of believers is now virtually ignorant about sin....We desperately need to recover a holy hatred of sin. We need to do this...as a church, but we also need to do it...as believers. Sin is surely not a pleasant subject to study or preach on, but it is necessary....We must see our sin for what it is...an affront to a holy God.”

King David said: “I was sinful from the time of my conception.” Psalm 51:5

The Apostle Paul said: “We were dead in our sins.” Ephesians 2:1-3

Sin broke God’s holy law. God demands that death be the payment for our sins. My death and your death....however, Jesus came to take our place...to die for us....so we don’t have to.

B. Rule of death

\* **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** Romans 3:23

\* “For the wages of sin is death.” Romans 6:23

\* “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned...” Romans 5:12-14

“What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver his life from the power of the grave?” Psalms

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.” I Peter 2:24

The cross is the answer to sin, to death, to God’s demand that sin be paid for.

### **How do we react when we hear...**

- of a person who slumps in his chair because of a heart attack
- of a person who dies in an automobile accident
- of a person who dies after a long illness

People don’t simply “pass away”...everyone enters another dimension of life where he or she stands before the judgment throne of God to determine one’s eternal destiny.

Burt Olney was an unbeliever. He had an argument with a pastor over this verse in the Bible: “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

- Olney said: I don’t believe in the Bible
- The pastor replied: I am not here to argue the Bible but to preach it

After a bit of back and forth, Burt Olney started walking home. As he walked down the street the tree toads up in the trees seem to sing the awful verse in his ear. The frogs in the pond nearby seem to croak: “Judg-ment...Judg-ment.”

The next morning Burt called the pastor and said: “I have come to see you about that verse of Scripture we talked about last night. I spent a terrible time since then. These words have burned their way into me. Tell me, what must I do to be saved? I have got to get rid of this torture.”

The pastor replied: “Burt, through faith in Jesus...the finished work of Christ on the cross...you are saved....judgment has been satisfied by Christ.”

### III. Jesus will appear again v28

#### A. The role of the resurrection

I Corinthians 15:14ff “And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith...you are still in your sins...if only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.”

I Corinthians 15:20ff “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead...in Christ all will be made alive...those who belong to him.”

Death is a certainty in life.

- Aristotle called death the thing to be feared the most
- Francois Rabelais said: “I am going to the great perhaps.”
- Jean-Paul said that death removes all meaning from life

#### **ZOE – Life as God has it**

To the believer in Jesus...

- death is but a sleep and a transition from this life to the next
- the lifting of the anchor from this vale of tears
- the entrance into God’s presence
- Jesus offers us ZOE the Greek word for “life as God has it”
- ZOE – life that is intensive, has vitality, energy and fulfillment
- “O dwellers in the dust, awake and sing for joy” Isaiah 26:19

#### B. The Role of the resurrection

“For God has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man God has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising Jesus from the dead.”

All will be raised: Some to eternal life and some to eternal death.

“...The dead will be raised...and we will be changed...Death has been swallowed up in victory...” I Corinthians 15:42

A mother was putting up the wash in the yard while her little girl was playing on the grass. Suddenly the child jumped to her feet, crying, “Mamma, mamma, a bee, a bee!” Run into your mother’s arms commanded the mother. The little girl did just that and all was still for a moment. The mother quietly assured her daughter that all was well. The bee will not sting you now. Why? asked the child. Look, the mother said showing her arm...I have taken the sting for you.

The Bible says: “Where O death is your victory! Where, O death is your sting!

**Jesus says to us: “I have taken the sting for you!”**

A young Buddhist girl of 17 was dying of tuberculosis in a hospital. As death’s cold fingers touched her she screamed with fear. Her Buddha god seemed indifferent to her fear. The nurses had no medicine that would quiet her troubled heart.

A missionary talked with her about Jesus. Over and over the missionary said: “He that believes on the Son has life.” The young girl prayed: The Lord is my Savior. The missionary was about to leave but the young girl said: Oh, don’t go, tell me more about Jesus. The missionary told the young girl more about Jesus and she drank in every word. The girl spent her waking hours reading the Gospel of John. The next day the missionary saw the girl and asked her: Are you afraid to die? The girl replied: No, the fear is all gone...I am ready to be taken home by Jesus.

**Because He lives...I can face tomorrow...**

- Because He lives...all fear is gone...
- Because I know He holds the future...life is worth living...
- Because He lives...we live forever.