

Hebrews

Hebrews 9:22-28 – Forgiveness and Judgment

May 24, 2009

I. **Hebrews 9:22-28** . . . And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and **without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness**. [23] Therefore it was necessary for the copies (*types*) of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves (*were cleansed*) with better sacrifices than these. (**John 12:31** . . . *Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*) [24] For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy (*replica, reproduction*) of the true one, but into heaven itself, **now to appear in the presence (face) of God for us**; (**II Cor 5:21** . . . *God made Christ who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ. Our Sacrificial Lamb is continually before the face of God.*) [25] nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. [26] Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once **at the consummation of the ages** (**Romans 5:6** . . . *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*) He has been manifested to put away sin by the (*voluntary*) **sacrifice of Himself**. [27] And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, [28] so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

II. Prayer

III. Forgiveness

A. **Hebrews 9:22b** . . . without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

1. The first thing I want you to notice is that this statement is an absolute unlike the previous one in this same verse – “*one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood.*”
2. Second, notice how God ties together the shedding of blood – or the death of something or someone – and forgiveness.
3. Third, notice that He doesn’t link the death of something or someone with the forgiveness of sin – as if He were speaking explicitly about Christ’s death on our behalf in paying for our sin so we could gain God’s forgiveness. He simply links death with

forgiveness in general – and it is this general link between death and forgiveness that I want to talk about today.

- B. Among today's Christians, there are several major teachings related to the purpose and use of forgiveness. I am not going to address those varied teachings today because I have done that in the past. It is enough to say that **the intended purpose of forgiveness** is the restoration of a relationship which has been damaged or broken through the behavior of one party or, as can often be the case, by both parties.
1. The cause of the damage or brokenness can be a one time word or a single deed. Sometimes its caused by a single act repeated over a period of time. Most often, we damage or break a relationship by numerous offenses piled one on top of the other over an extended period of time.
 2. However, in spite of what caused the damage or brokenness, for reconciliation to take place, the cause must be repented of and a serious commitment must be made to take appropriate action to prevent the offense from being repeated (***such a commitment is the natural and assumed outcome of repentance***).
 - a. Jesus made this clear in teaching his disciples about repentance and forgiveness when he said in **Luke 17:3-4** . . . "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he **repents, forgive** him. [4] "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."
 - b. Peter affirmed this great truth in his sermon on Pentecost when those listening were pierced to the heart and as a result asked what they should do – to which Peter said, "**Repent**, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness** of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38**).
- C. What is my point? Forgiveness and repentance (*which is a form of death that promises to bring forth new life*) are inseparably linked. In other words, without the death of that which caused the offense and the promise of new life that is free of the offense, there is no way to achieve the intent of forgiveness – which is the healing of the damaged or broken relationships so that reconciliation takes place. Let me explain.

1. Repentance is a change of mind about current behavior which produces a change in thinking and a change of behavior.
 - a. Death is the end of what was.
 - b. Therefore, we can rightly say that repentance is a form of death. It is dying to something old and coming alive to something new.
2. On the other side of repentance is forgiveness. For it to do its intended work – which is that of healing damaged or broken relationships – it must agree to accept the promise of something new. And not just anything new. The something new must be a new that removes the old hurtful and offensive ways and replaces them with the kind of thoughts, words, and deeds that promote and protect the health of the relationship.
 - a. In other words, for forgiveness to bring healing to a damaged or broken relationship, it cannot change the thinking and behavior of the offended party alone.
 - b. It can only bring healing when it is a response to changed thinking and behavior on the part of the offender, first, and then the offended.
3. And so we see that forgiveness is:
 - a. First of all, repentance on the part of the offender – a repentance that puts to death that which caused the offense and brings to life a new way which promotes and protects the peace between the parties involved.
 - b. Second, forgiveness is the acceptance of that promised new life and a commitment to become a full participant in this reconciled relationship.

D. Therefore, God says to us here in **Hebrews 9:22b** . . . without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

IV. Judgment

- A. **Hebrews 9:27** . . . And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.
 1. Appointed to die once – death is unavoidable! Let me ask you a question. How high do you think the death rate rose during the Second World War?
 2. After death comes judgment. This does not mean that immediately after each person dies he faces the Judge of all mankind. What it

means is that we should expect judgment at some point following death.

3. The judgment referred to here is the final judgment of God where the Judge is Christ.

B. We read in the Scriptures that this final Judgment will have the following characteristics:

1. **Judgment according To Our Deeds** (30 explicit scriptures) –
Romans 2:5-11 . . . But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, [6] who will render to each person according to his deeds: [7] to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; [8] but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. [9] There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, [10] but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. [11] For there is no partiality with God.
 - a. **Psalms 62:12** . . . And lovingkindness is Yours, O Lord, for You recompense a man according to his work.
 - b. **Jeremiah 17:10** . . . "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.
 - c. **II Corinthians 5:10** . . . For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
 - d. **I Peter 1:17** . . . If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;
 - e. **Revelation 22:12** . . . Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.
 - f. **Matthew 7:21-23** . . . "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. [22] "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in

Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' [23] "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

2. **Judgment according to our level of maturity, amount of knowledge, position, and access to the truth – Luke 12:47-48** . . . "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, [48] but the one who did not know his master's will, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. **From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.**
3. **Judgment according to the way we judge others – Matthew 7:2-5** . . . For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. [3] "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? [4] "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? [5] "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.
4. **Judgment according to all we do – not just the big sins but also the little ones, too – Matthew 12:36-37** . . . But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. [37] For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.
5. **Those who teach God's truth to others** will face a stricter judgment (*greater condemnation for any failure to live according to what they teach*) – **James 3:1-2** . . . Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. [2] For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

6. **Judgment** not only brings condemnation and loss, it also **brings praise and reward** –
 - a. **Matthew 5:10-12** . . . "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. [12] "Rejoice and be glad, for **your reward in heaven is great**; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
 - b. **Luke 14:13-14** . . . "But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, [14] and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be **repaid at the resurrection** of the righteous."
 - c. **James 1:12** . . . Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will **receive the crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.
 - d. **I Peter 5:1-4** . . . Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, [2] shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; [3] nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. [4] And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will **receive the unfading crown of glory**.
 - e. **II Timothy 4:8** . . . in the future there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

7. **Judgment according to the Book Of Life** – (5 scriptures)
 - a. **Exodus 32:30-33** . . . On the next day Moses said to the people, "You yourselves have committed a great sin; and now I am going up to the LORD, perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." [31] Then Moses returned to the LORD, and said, "Alas, this people has committed a great sin, and they have made a god of gold for themselves. [32] "But now, if You will, forgive their sin—and if not, please blot me out from Your book which You have written!" [33] The LORD said to Moses,

"Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.

- b. **Daniel 12:1-2** . . . "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. [2] "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.
- c. **Luke 10:17-20** . . . The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." [18] And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. [19] "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. [20] "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."
- d. **Philippians 4:3** . . . Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.
- e. **Revelation 21:22-27** . . . I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. [23] And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. [24] The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. [25] In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; [26] and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; [27] and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

V. Conclusion

- A. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
- B. And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.