

Daily Devotional, November 5, 2021 Christ, Why Settle for Anything Less?

But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! Hebrews 9:11-14 (NIV)

The early Christians who received this message found In the Book of Hebrews, were struggling with their faith. It was hard to live faithfully in a world that didn't support them, that mocked them, and even arrested and killed them. They had received and accepted the truth about Jesus's death on the cross paying for their sins and His resurrection giving them new life. They had turned their lives over to Christ and walked in a new way with Him. But soon it got hard. It became quite challenging. They began to struggle with their faith, and some even considered walking away from it altogether, and going back to their old way of life in Judaism.

In the Book of Hebrews, perhaps a letter or perhaps a sermon, warned them against abandoning their Christian faith. A high view of Jesus is presented throughout the book, arguing for His superiority over all other paths that attempt to know God. Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant, a new way of knowing and relating to God. And this new covenant is superior in every way to anything any of them had ever known or experienced previously.

It seems strange to us that they would consider walking away from Jesus and re-engage with their Jewish way of life. After all, it's quite easy for me to see the advantages of a life with Christ. But I have the privilege of a perspective informed by the faithful witness of generation after generation who walked that path before me. I have the advantage of a church community that supports me and resources that encourage my better welfare. They struggled without those things, wondering if it was all going to be worth it.

The answer that the author provides, which is highlighted in today's passage, is that only through Christ's death on the cross can we truly be forgiven. It is His blood that makes us clean and His resurrected life in us that give us new life. It is the Holy Spirit that empowers us to live faithful lives that honor God. My challenges may differ from the challenges that they faced. But I never want to forget the truth of this passage: In Christ my life is whole and complete. There is no other person or system that can do that for me.

Prayer: Thank You, Jesus, for Your sacrifice on the cross, for Your love that paid the debt, for my sins I could never pay. Thank You for the truth of eternal life that is possible only in and through You. Help me to walk in that truth every day. Amen..