

Hebrews 9:24-28
November, 2021
Good Shepherd

When I served on the Apache Reservation, I did things that I had never have before. In order to save the World Mission Board money, pastors often did repair work on the missions. Some got to be pretty good at it. I did some electrical work. I worked on furnaces and water coolers. And, my biggest project was to put a water line in to the school kitchen. I dug a ditch to lay about 150 feet of water line and when I reached the kitchen, I did the plumbing from the outside so that everything would line up in the inside. The job wasn't easy. For example, one day, I had to go to Globe to get a small piece of pipe. (22 miles) It didn't work the first time; so I went back. It didn't work the second time. I went back. It finally worked the third time! All of that travel for a small piece of pipe! I learned that I couldn't do the big jobs, I had to have help. I found Apache men who were willing to help and they did jobs the right way the first time!

Human beings are born into this world thinking that they can repair their problem of sin so that it won't be held against them on Judgment Day. But that doesn't work. The idea of repairing a leaky water pipe with duct tape isn't a good one. If we think that we can repair our own life of sin and make us worthy of heaven, then we fail miserably! But if people depend on Jesus to remove the problem of sin, they will inherit the home He has prepared for us.

Our hope for eternity lies in Christ and Christ alone! The words of our text tell us -

Jesus went to the cross once for all.

Why did Jesus go to the cross? He went to the cross to pay the debt of sin to God for us. In the Old Testament time, the

priests offered sacrifices for the sins of the people. Over and over again they sprinkled blood and sacrificed animals that were pictures of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who would come to take away the sin of the world.

On the great day of atonement the high priest would take the blood of a goat and enter the Most Holy Place. He would sprinkle blood on the ark of the covenant. God's presence was there. Without the blood of the goat, that pictured the blood of Christ, the high priest would die, just as we would die forever in the presence of God on Judgment Day, if the blood of Christ had not washed us clean of our sins.

Jesus did not enter a man-made sanctuary as the priest did when he offered sacrifices in the OT. Jesus entered heaven, into the presence of God the Father.

Jesus did not have to enter heaven to be sacrificed again and again. When it came to offering the perfect sacrifice for our sin, that happened only once. Our text states: He has appeared once for all to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

When Jesus finished paying for the sin of the world at the cross, He said, It is finished. The work Jesus had come to do was completed. There was nothing left for Jesus to do. Anything we do to try to help Jesus save us, is a waste of time! Jesus has done it all – no mistakes!

Do you know what happens when you try to add anything to what Jesus has done for us? You destroy what Jesus has done for you! Jesus plus anything else equals no salvation. Jesus plus nothing else equals salvation. When I try to help Jesus pay for my sin, I am adding something sinful to the perfect payment Jesus made at the cross! If I do that, I destroy all that Jesus did for me!

If I fall into the false belief that I need to add something to what Jesus has done for me to make it worthwhile, how will I know when I have done enough to erase my sin? We don't! Our only hope is believing that Jesus did away with sin by sacrificing Himself!

We look forward to the day when Jesus will return to destroy this sinful world. We are ready for that day because Jesus went to the cross once and for all. The writer of Hebrews says, Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.

Jesus is coming again. Not to be nailed to another cross, but to take us to heaven! Our sins were paid for when Jesus was on the cross. When Jesus returns He will destroy this universe and our world and create a new heaven and a new earth.

As the blood of animals served as signs to point to Christ's first coming as the Lamb of God, so there are signs all around us that show that the second coming of Jesus could come soon. There are wars, signs in the sun, moon and stars, false teachings in the church, earthquakes, floods and other disasters. All these signs keep occurring, like flashing emergency lights showing that the end is near.

Jesus could come soon in clouds of glory. When He comes, this present universe and earth will be destroyed by fire. There will be a new creation, a place where God wipes away all tears from our eyes, a place where we will see Jesus face to face!

It says in the text that Jesus will bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.

*We are waiting for Jesus to come!
We pray that Jesus will come!
When Jesus comes, we will see Him!
God will wipe away all tears from our eyes!
There will be no more pain, no more sorrow!*

There was only one sacrifice that Jesus made for sin and there is only one lifetime on this earth to believe that Jesus is our Savior. Our time of grace is the only time we have to believe that God's judgment for our sins was poured out on Jesus when He was on the cross. The only safe place is beneath the cross of Jesus. By God's grace you are standing in that safe place where Jesus went to the cross, once for all.

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