



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

The Power of Jesus' Sacrifice

June 16, 2019

Hebrews 9:11-22

“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!” (Hebrews 9:14).

Under the old covenant revealed in the Old Testament, the LORD made provisions for cleansing His people from ritual defilements, such as touching a dead body or going into a Roman governor's palace during Passover. However, sacrifices offered by the priests could not purify a conscience or free believers from trying to do all the works they could in their efforts to be saved. Furthermore, offerings made once a year on the Day of Atonement were only for the forgiveness of unintentional sins, of accidentally breaking one of God's laws. Thankfully, from both the Old and New Testaments, we learn that all who placed their faith in the LORD and trusted in His promises were saved. For examples, Noah believed God and built the ark. Abraham believed God's promises and offered to sacrifice his son as God commanded; then, God provided a ram as a substitute sacrifice for Abraham's son. Moses and Elijah believed God and met Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration; still, the salvation of all who believed depended on the future substitutionary sacrificial death of God's Son for the forgiveness of all sins, intentional and unintentional. Under the new covenant, God will forgive both the intentional and unintentional sins of everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ for their salvation. Now, those who believe in Jesus Christ can live with a clean conscience and have assurance of God's forgiveness. Now, believers serve God because they love Jesus who saved them, not because they have a list of works that they think they must do to earn eternal life.

Thinking Further

1. What is one blessing believers in Jesus can receive from Jesus as their High Priest?
2. What is one blessing believers in Jesus can receive from Jesus as their sacrifice?
3. What had to happen before believers in Jesus could receive their promised eternal inheritance?
4. What is one blessing that the followers of Jesus inherit?
5. Name something sacrifices under the old covenant could not accomplish for the Hebrews.

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