

Feb 15/26 - Hebrews 9:11-26 "A Way into His Presence"

The desire in this study is to help us hear the language of Jesus' death as the preacher to the Hebrews intended, within the story of covenant and temple, so that we might trust Christ's finished work, draw near with confidence, and live in the freedom of restored fellowship with God.

Read Hebrews 9:11-24

1. (11-12) What contrasts does the writer make between the old covenant priesthood and Jesus' priestly work?
2. Verses 13-14 ask a "how much more" question. What is the lesser work being described, and what is the greater work Jesus accomplishes?
3. Hebrews repeatedly uses covenant language. Based on verses 15-20, what does "covenant" seem to mean in this passage?
4. Why does the writer insist that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (v.22)? What story makes that statement intelligible?
5. How does Hebrews 9 portray the purpose of sacrifice — punishment, covering, cleansing, or something else?
6. In verses 24-26, where is Jesus now, and what is he doing? (see also Hebrews 7:25)
7. The sermon ends with the invitation "Come near." What keeps people from drawing near to God — and what actually opens the way according to Hebrews 9?

Closing Prayer

Invite your group to sit in a moment of quiet, then lead them in prayer using language like this:

*Jesus, our great High Priest,
we come near not trusting our work, but yours.
Where we carry guilt, cleanse our conscience.
Where we carry shame, remind us we are covered.
Where we fear drawing close, assure us the way is open.
Help us to live today in the freedom you have secured —
for your glory and for our joy. Amen.*