

## **Devotional Questions – Hebrews 9:11-28, Study Leader’s Questions**

1. *What kind of redemption did Christ obtain for us (Hebrews 9:12)?*
2. *What will the blood of Christ do (Hebrews 9:13-14)?*
3. *What is the goal for Christians that is mentioned in Hebrews 9:14? What would be necessary for you to reach that goal?*
4. *How is it that a cleansed conscience will enable us to serve God (Hebrews 9:14)?*
5. *What will those who are called receive (Hebrews 9:15)?*
6. *What must be proven before a will\* takes effect (Hebrews 9:16)? \*The correct reading is “**a testament.**” See Dr Ruckman’s commentary *The Book of Hebrews* pp 177-184 concerning the correct reading “**testament**” Hebrews 9:15, 16, 17, 18, 20 versus the incorrect reading “*covenant*” found in the modern versions.*
7. *What did Moses sprinkle with blood (Hebrews 9:19, 21)?*
8. *How does the complete sacrifice of Christ strengthen your faith today?*
9. *What does it mean that God is pure and cannot be contaminated by our sin? How does this motivate you to have a heart that is after His because of what He did for you?*
10. *How can you truly love and serve God and keep from repeating your past mistakes or sins?*
11. *Why does the author believe that it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins (Hebrews 9:22 [Hebrews 10:4])?*
12. *What is Jesus coming again for (Hebrews 9:28) and how should that affect our lives now?*

## Devotional Questions – Hebrews 9:11-28, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Hebrews* pp 166-195 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1608-1609 for detailed comments.

### 1. What kind of redemption did Christ obtain for us (Hebrews 9:12)?

The Lord Jesus Christ ***“obtained eternal redemption for us”*** Hebrews 9:12. Observe that by means of ***“eternal redemption”*** through the Lord Jesus Christ, the Christian is:

- ***“justified freely”*** i.e. ***“made righteous”*** Romans 5:18-19 *‘just-as-if-I-had-not-sinned’*  
***“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”*** Romans 3:24.
- Freed from ***“the curse of the law”***  
***“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree”*** Galatians 3:13.
- Adopted of God  
***“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons”*** Galatians 4:4-5.
- Forgiven of sin  
***“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins”*** Colossians 1:14.
- ***“Sealed unto the day of redemption”*** ***“to wit, the redemption of our body”*** Romans 8:23  
***“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”*** Ephesians 4:30.  
***“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot”*** 2 Peter 1:18-19.

That is why ***“...the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever”*** Psalm 49:8 because offers close at death:

***“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”*** Hebrews 9:27.

### 2. What will the blood of Christ do (Hebrews 9:13-14)?

It will ***“purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God”*** Hebrews 9:14. ***“The blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean”*** Hebrews 9:13 from which the ***“water of separation”*** Numbers 19:9, 13, 20, 21, 31:23 was made, could not.

Note that for the Christian ***“the blood of Christ”***:

- Strengthens unity with other believers via ***“the communion of the blood of Christ”*** 1 Corinthians 10:16
- Establishes him in ***“the household of God”*** Ephesians 2:13, 19
- Makes him one of God's ***“elect”*** 1 Peter 1:2
- Redeems him from ***“corruptible things”*** 2 Peter 1:18 e.g. ***“philosophy and vain deceit”*** Colossians 2:8, ***“science falsely so called”*** 1 Timothy 6:20 and ***“vain...man's religion”*** James 1:26. See Question 1 and *The Christian's Handbook of Science and Philosophy* by Dr Peter S. Ruckman.

- *Cleanses him from all sin, 1 John 1:7, Revelation 1:5*

*Pleading the blood*, for God's blood brain wash, is an on-going application for the believer, or should be for drawing near to God ***"with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience"*** Hebrews 10:22 and ***"having...boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus"*** Hebrews 10:19.

3. *What is the goal for Christians that is mentioned in Hebrews 9:14? What would be necessary for you to reach that goal?*

***"Divine service"*** Hebrews 9:1 i.e. when the meeting is over – as an application from an anecdotal account of a somewhat ebullient Baptist at a Society of Friends gathering.

Paul explains how the mindset for that form of ***"divine service"*** is achieved. Note in passing that the expression has passed into the language as a recognised term for church services.

See [www.thefreedictionary.com/divine+service](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/divine+service).

***"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men"*** Acts 24:16 i.e. pleading the blood again for a cleansed conscience, see *Question 1*.

4. *How is it that a cleansed conscience will enable us to serve God (Hebrews 9:14)?*

It should eliminate self-centredness in service:

- *False teaching "for filthy lucre's sake" Titus 1:11*
- ***"Respect of persons"*** for worldly wealth or position James 2:1
- *Judgements made via "evil thoughts" James 2:4 i.e. what's in it for me?*

It should encourage soundness in service:

- ***"Sound mind" in "the spirit...of power, and of love"*** 2 Timothy 1:7
- ***"Sound words...in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus"*** 2 Timothy 1:13
- ***"Sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers"*** Titus 1:9
- ***"Sound speech that cannot be condemned"*** Titus 2:8
- ***"Sound in faith, in charity, in patience"*** Titus 2:2, desirable traits in all of God's servants.

5. *What will those who are called receive (Hebrews 9:15)?*

They will receive ***"the promise of eternal inheritance"*** Hebrews 9:15. However, Hebrews 9:15 states in full ***"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."***

Doctrinally, the reference is to Old Testament saints i.e. ***"under the first testament"*** inheriting the literal land of Canaan as God promised to Abraham.

***"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went"*** Hebrews 11:8.

Doctrinally, therefore, Hebrews 9:15 refers to converted Israel with risen Old Testament saints, entering the literal land of Canaan, now Israel, permanently, *not* ***"compassed with armies"*** Luke 21:20, following the Second Advent. This is converted Israel's entry into ***"my rest"*** Hebrews 3:11, with risen Old Testament saints. See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Hebrews* pp 72-75, 77-78 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1601.

Spiritual application may be made with respect to today's believers in that having been freed from *"the curse of the law"* Galatians 3:13, *Question 1* and *"redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ"* 2 Peter 1:18-19, *Question 1*, today's believers at conversion are *"begotten...again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you"* 1 Peter 1:3-4.

This inheritance includes the immortal body *"when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality"* 1 Corinthians 15:54 which is one reason why Paul exhorts Timothy, who suffered *"often infirmities"* 1 Timothy 5:23 to *"lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called"* 1 Timothy 6:12 i.e. looking forward the time when *"often infirmities"* are gone and *"Death is swallowed up in victory"* 1 Corinthians 15:54.

Today's believers should also lay hold on that exhortation. See also Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Books of the General Epistles Volume 1* pp 179-183 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1623.

6. *What must be proven before a will\* takes effect (Hebrews 9:16)?* \*The correct reading is *"a testament."* See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Hebrews* pp 177-184 concerning the correct reading *"testament"* Hebrews 9:15, 16, 17, 18, 20 versus the incorrect reading *"covenant"* found in the modern versions.

Hebrews 9:16 states *"For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator."*

Hebrews 9:17 then explains the necessity for the death of the testator.

*"For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."*

That the Lord Jesus Christ did die was attested by:

- A Roman centurion *"which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost"* Mark 15:39, 44
- A registered physician *"having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first"* Luke 1:3, 23:46, Colossians 4:14
- A third, independent eye witness who *"bare record, and his record is true"* John 19:33, 34, 35.

These are sufficient witnesses for *"the new testament"* Hebrews 9:15 to be *"of force"* Hebrews 9:17.

*"In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established"* 2 Corinthians 13:1.

7. *What did Moses sprinkle with blood (Hebrews 9:19, 21)?*

He sprinkled *"this book of the law"* Deuteronomy 29:21, 30:10, 31:26, *"the people of God"* Hebrews 11:25, *"the tabernacle of the congregation"* Exodus 27:21, the first of 122 references in total in Genesis-Deuteronomy to that expression and *"and all the vessels of the ministry"* Hebrews 9:21.

Note that today's believer with conscience purged *"from dead works to serve the living God"* by *"the blood of Christ"* Hebrews 9:14, see *Question 2*, may then become one of *"the vessels of the ministry,"* specially selected, meeting all the Master's requirements and *"perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"* 2 Timothy 3:17.

*"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work"* 2 Timothy 2:21.

8. *How does the complete sacrifice of Christ strengthen your faith today?*

See *Question 7* and the application for today's believer with respect to 2 Timothy 2:21, 3:17, Hebrews 9:14. The Lord's complete sacrifice therefore encourages application of Hebrews 12:1-2 as a day-to-day mindset, see *Question 3*, "because every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us" is countered as Paul states in Galatians 6:14 "in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Hebrews 12:1-2 states:

"...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

"Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus" Revelation 22:20.

9. *What does it mean that God is pure and cannot be contaminated by our sin? How does this motivate you to have a heart that is after His because of what He did for you?*

Paul and John explain God's purity. No man can even approach God of himself, let alone bring sin into God's presence.

"I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen" 1 Timothy 6:16.

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all" 1 John 1:5.

This world is in darkness and wickedness, terms that are therefore synonymous in describing this world and by definition do not apply to God.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" Ephesians 6:12.

"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness" 1 John 5:19.

Being a man after God's own heart 1 Samuel 13:16, Acts 13:22 requires being "not of double heart" but of "singlesness of heart."

"Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: they were not of double heart" 1 Chronicles 12:33.

"Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God" Colossians 3:22.

This writer is aware of the need for "singleness of heart, fearing God" in prayer for Person 1 and Person 2, both of whom are on-going acquaintances and have received Chick tracts from this writer. The difference is that Person 1 is a personable young woman and Person 2 is a middle-aged male. No further explanation is necessary.

10. How can you truly love and serve God and keep from repeating your past mistakes or sins?

You can't. **"And Joshua said unto the people, *Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins*"** Joshua 24:19. The danger is to forsake the Lord to serve other gods, Joshua 24:20, as even today's believer may do to attack the AV1611 by **"science falsely so called"** 1 Timothy 6:20 i.e. the 'science' of 'textual criticism.' See [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/). Consider therefore this confession of 17<sup>th</sup> century *"Nicholas Herman, of Lorraine...In communion with Rome, a lay brother among the Carmelites"* aka Brother Lawrence, in *The Practice of the Presence of God*.

See

[www.tochrist.org/Doc/Books/Lawrence/The%20Practice%20of%20the%20Presence%20of%20God.pdf](http://www.tochrist.org/Doc/Books/Lawrence/The%20Practice%20of%20the%20Presence%20of%20God.pdf) *Second Conversation*.

*"That when he had failed in his duty, he only confessed his fault, saying to GOD, I shall never do otherwise, if You leave me to myself; 'tis You must hinder my falling, and mend what is amiss. That after this, he gave himself no further uneasiness about it."*

The scriptural statement for maintaining love and service to God as Brother Lawrence sought to do in spite of **"the sin which doth so easily beset us"** Hebrews 12:1 is as follows. Note John's emphasis with respect to the implicit exhortation to keep short accounts with God [www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php) *Hebrews 9 Part 1, Question 1:*

**"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us"** 1 John 1:8-10.

It should also be noted that Brother Lawrence was very much the exception to the rule, as papal 'blessings' show, [www.alamoministries.com/content/english/Antichrist/bewareof.html](http://www.alamoministries.com/content/english/Antichrist/bewareof.html).

Then, note what the great 19<sup>th</sup> century preacher Dr H. Grattan Guinness in **"singleness of heart"** Colossians 3:22 had to say about the Catholic Church, from his book *Romanism and the Reformation*:

*"I see the great Apostacy, I see the desolation of Christendom, I see the smoking ruins, I see the reign of monsters; I see those vice-gods, that Gregory VII, that Innocent III, that Boniface VIII, that Alexander VI, that Gregory XIII, that Pius IX; I see their long succession, I hear their insufferable blasphemies, I see their abominable lives, I see them worshipped by blinded generations, bestowing hollow benedictions, bartering lying indulgences, creating a paganized Christianity; I see their liveried slaves, their shaven priests, their celibate confessors; I see the infamous confessional, the ruined women, the murdered innocents; I hear the lying absolutions, the dying groans; I hear the cries of the victims; I hear the anathemas, the curses, the thunders of the interdicts; I see the racks, the dungeons, the stakes; I see that inhuman Inquisition, those fires of Smithfield, those butcheries of St Bartholomew, that Spanish Armada, those unspeakable dragonnades, that endless train of wars, that dreaded multitude of massacres. I see it all,*

*"And in the name of the ruin it has brought in the Church and in the world, in the name of the truth it has denied, the temple it has defiled, the God it has blasphemed, the souls it has destroyed; in the name of the millions it has deluded; the millions it has slaughtered, the millions it has damned,*

*"With holy confessors, with noble reformers, with innumerable martyrs, with the saints of ages, I denounce it as the masterpiece of Satan, as the body and soul and essence of antichrist."*

Amen!

**"And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth"** Revelation 18:24.

11. Why does the author believe that it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins (Hebrews 9:22 [Hebrews 10:4])?

Hebrews 10:1-3 explain why. The blood of bulls and goats continues to be shed and the worshipper still has conscience of sins as Paul testifies in Romans 7:24 ***“O wretched man that I am!”***

**“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.”**

The law, however, does point the worshipper to the Lord Jesus Christ.

**“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith”** Galatians 3:24.

This justification follows from the Lord’s establishment of the *second* testament that supersedes ***“the first testament”*** Hebrews 9:15, 18 for the individual worshipper by the Lord’s ***“one sacrifice for sins for ever”*** Hebrews 10:12. See *Question 1*.

**“Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified”** Hebrews 10:9-14.

Note by way of application the expression of the Lord’s mindset that also should characterise that of today’s believer, see *Questions 3, 8*, with respect to keeping the Lord’s words as in John 14:23 ***“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”***

**“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God”** Hebrews 10:7. See also Hebrews 10:9.

In other words:

**“And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them”** Matthew 21:6.

Today’s believer has nothing else to do.

12. What is Jesus coming again for (Hebrews 9:28) and how should that affect our lives now?

Note first that *doctrinally*, Hebrews 9:28 is an *End Times* tribulation passage.

**“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”**

Hebrews 9:28 refers to the gathering of faithful Tribulation saints just prior to the Second Advent.

**“And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other”** Matthew 24:31.

That is *not* the catching up of the Church 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. See Dr Ruckman’s explanation in his commentary *The Book of Hebrews* pp 188-195 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1284-1285, also for the modern mauling of the words ***“without sin.”***

That said, the prospect of the Lord's Return, *according 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17, not Hebrews 9:28*, should shape the believer's mindset, Matthew 21:6, Hebrews 10:7, 9, see *Questions 3, 8, 11*, as John explains.

*“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure”* 1 John 3:2-3.

In the meantime:



[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keep\\_Calm\\_and\\_Carry\\_On](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keep_Calm_and_Carry_On)  
[www.wimp.com/keepcalm/](http://www.wimp.com/keepcalm/)

***“Occupy till I come”*** Luke 19:13