

Life Application Notes

Jesus is the Greater Sacrifice – 5th November 2017

Speaker: Chris Kilby

Scripture: Hebrews 9

Introduction

This Sunday continued our sermon series teaching through the Letter to the Hebrews. Chris began by drawing a contrast with what Si Munsie preached about last week – that Jesus is the greater priest. This week, instead, we looked at Jesus as the greater sacrifice. Both of these – the high priest, and sacrificial animals – played a vital role on Yom Kippur – the Jewish Day of Atonement, and throughout the Jewish year.

What is atonement? (At-one-ment, cleansing) Why do we need it? (Our sin before a holy God 😊)

The old has passed away...

Read together Hebrews 9:1-10

What did atonement look like to the Hebrews during the time of Jesus?

Chris used four different words to describe the way the Hebrews would have experienced sacrifices and atonement. *Can anybody remember what these were?* Sacrifices were daily (v.6) – we sin every day; every day needing a new sacrifice to cover these sins. They were exclusive (v.7) – *Who could enter the presence of God? (The high priest, and only once a year.)* They were external – Chris repeatedly pointed out that these ceremonial rituals could not cleanse the conscience, as shown in v.9. Finally, they were only temporary (v.10). This temporariness is not to do with our continual sin, however. *What did Chris mean by this? (God had a better plan: Enter Jesus)*

... behold, the new has come!

Read together Hebrews 9:11-28

What should be different about how we view atonement as Christians?

Chris used four different words to describe Jesus' sacrifice for us. *Can anybody remember what these were?* Unlike the Jewish sacrifices, Jesus only needed to die the once (v.12), and his sacrifice was inclusive – he died once for all. *Why did Jesus only need to die the once for us?* Similarly, his sacrifice affects us internally, purifying our conscience (v.14). Finally, this sacrifice seals God's eternal covenant with his people (v.15).

So how can we apply this to our lives? Firstly, Christ's sacrifice has immense consequences for how we interact with God: *Read together 2 Corinthians 3:17-18. How does this affect how we approach God in prayer and worship?*

But Christ's sacrifice doesn't just affect how we relate to God: *How does it affect how we relate to non-Christians? Read together 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. What implications does this have for our daily 21st Century lives? What is our purpose? (Hint: it's written on the banners at the front of church every week!) What does it mean for us to become the righteousness of God? (Does it just mean we do good things, or is there more?)*

Closing

To close, read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 again, and use that freedom and intimacy to worship God.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

– 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (ESV)
