

**The 1689 Confession; Chapter 8, Paragraph 5 – “Of Christ the Mediator”, Message # 20–
“Christ Offered Once For All”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School Class,
by Pastor Paul Rendall on May 10th, 2020.**

Paragraph 5 – The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, f) hath fully satisfied the justice of God, procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, g) for all those whom the Father hath given unto Him.

f) Hebrews 9: 14, 10: 14; Hebrews 9: 15; Rom 3: 25-26; g) John 17: 2

We have been thinking together about the sacrifice of Christ; how infinitely great an offering it was; giving to every believer, in every generation, all the wondrous blessings of salvation. What a mighty work of redemption it was! Even while we were yet enemies God the Father purposed that the effectual call, our justification and sanctification, and also our eventual glorification, would be applied to us, based upon Christ's purchase; His sacrificial death on the cross. All of Christ's work was perfect in righteousness, both in His life and in His death, and it was therefore confirmed by the Father by His raising Jesus from the dead. Following this glorious event, the Father and the Son then moved the base of Christ's operations to heaven itself. He ascended on high. And then the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit who would be given to every believer, and Christ would continue to intercede for them from where He now sits, at the right hand of God, He continues this holy ministry of intercession for each and every one of God's elect people; all through their lives and into eternity.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are, even now, most definitely and certainly conveying these spiritual blessings to us who believe, and our Lord Jesus, our Great High Priest, continues on forever to minister to us, showing us the greatness of His ability to save us to the uttermost from our sins. And thus, by His faithful ministry, He will someday bring us to everlasting glory. This morning I want to bring to your attention the greatness and the glory of Christ's offering Himself once, only once, for our sins before He entered the Most Holy Place of heaven. This will show us the eternal value of His sacrifice, and how powerful and certain the application of redemption really is. It should build your faith, dear Christian, to realize that this ministry of Christ's intercession for you continues on throughout your whole life, and the effects of it, into eternity and through eternity, forever and ever, for which you ought always to give Him thanks, and rejoice that it is so, and it will be so through endless ages.

1st – Christ's once for all perfect Sacrifice was looked forward to, under the first covenant.

Hebrews Chapter 9, verses 16-28 – “For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.” “For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.” “Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood.” “For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, **“THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD HAS COMMANDED YOU.”** “Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.” “And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.” “Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.” “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another – He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.” “To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

When the apostle Paul speaks here of a testament, He is speaking of a covenant; in this case, the covenant of grace made between Himself and all of God's elect people. Christ is the Mediator of this New Covenant. Our Lord knew that we could not be saved without His going to the cross in our place. There must be the death of the testator; the One whose will it was to do God's will on our behalf, and to fulfill all righteousness in our place, and then lay down His life, to seal this testament, or covenant by the shedding of His precious blood. This testament would be in force only after He died; that is, God accepting of His one sacrifice and offering for our sins, the blessings of salvation in the New Covenant would only be in force, or applied after He died, for all those who were included in the covenant; that is, all of those persons chosen unto eternal life, it would be shown by His death, that they had a right to it. They would have a right to it in an anticipatory way; by faith believing that what was promised would surely be performed by the Messiah. In verse 15 of chapter 9 we see that all the blessings of salvation would be applied retroactively to those persons who were called under the first covenant; the Old Covenant, which was typical of the New, especially so in regard to the shedding of Christ's blood, the blood of His sacrifice being absolutely necessary for any person at any time, and in any generation, in either Old or New Testament times, to be saved with it. This is why it says that, "Christ was slain from the foundation of the world" in Revelation 13: 8.

Verse 18 says that, therefore, not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood; because it was typical in certain very important respects of the New Covenant. And then we are told in verse 19 what Moses did at the dedication of the first covenant; how, according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying – This the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you. He likewise sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. Let's look at this from the vantage point of –

Exodus 24: 1-8 – "Now He said to Moses, 'Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar.' "And Moses alone shall come near the LORD, but they shall not come near; nor shall the people go up with him." "So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments." "And all the people answered with one voice and said, 'All the words which the LORD has said we will do.'" "And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD." "And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel." "Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD." "And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar." "Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people." "And they said, 'All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.'" And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."

So, we see here that according to the law almost all things were purified ceremonially with blood, and without the shedding of blood, Paul says, there is no remission of sins. So all of this sprinkling of the blood was done in faith in what God had commanded Moses. The people, however, were not able to do and keep all the words of the Lord, even though they promised that they would do so. But knowing what we do, that it is only by faith in Christ that we are accepted by God, we can reasonably say that those who had faith looked to what the typical sprinkling of the blood meant. It meant that God would provide the sacrificial lamb in time, the One who would be the fulfillment of all of these types, our Lord Jesus Christ. He would come, and on the cross, He would take away the sin of the world. He would bear the sins of many. Those trusting in the truths of the gospel of what God was showing them in these types would be saved. They were not saved by the ceremonies that were performed, or by having the blood of an animal sacrifice sprinkled upon them, but rather by what the ceremony typified; that is, Christ's blood being shed and the sprinkling of His blood, their faith lays hold of, and their conscience is cleansed. The copies of the things in the heavens were purified by the sprinkling of the blood, but the heavenly things; that is the elect people and all of their worship were only purified with better sacrifices than these.

2nd – As it was appointed for men to die once, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.

We have seen that it is a very wonderful thing that Christ did not have to offer Himself often, as the high priest offered up the sacrifices in Old Testament times, coming every year with the blood of another – for then He would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world. But now, once, at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (verse 26) How was He able to accomplish the redemption of all of God's elect people with one sacrifice? It was because of His ability as the Son of God, fully God and fully man, to bear all of the equivalent punishment which God the Father and God the Son both knew was due to all of the sins of all the elect. His value as God the Son brought infinite merit to His bodily sufferings as the Son of Man because Christ suffered as a Divine Person. Christ in enduring those sufferings of both soul and body; bearing our sins in His body on the tree enabled Him to “put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. In Christ, we find that two natures are joined together in His one blessed Person. Therefore, He was the only Man equipped to satisfy the justice of God the Father in bearing God's righteous wrath against us, for our sins. He was the only Man equipped to deal with the problem of sin's guilt, sin's shame, sin's pollution, and the problem of Adam's sin bringing death to every man.

Now here in verse 27, Paul tells us that there is a parallel between our having to literally physically die once because of Adam's sin and Christ therefore having to offer Himself once to bear the sins of many. The greatness of Adam's sin was, that as the Federal Head of our race, when he fell, all of us as his descendants fell in him and with him. The guilt of Adam's sin was imputed to us, and the pollution of sin has affected the nature of each and every one of his descendants, so that the consequence to each one of us is that we must certainly die. This dying once, physically, is the just punishment due to Adam for his not keeping the commandment given to him, to refrain from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Dying once physically, is therefore the appointment which God has ordained for every man descended of Adam.

Therefore, Christ was offered once, it says in verse 28, to bear the sins of many. You should know that those who believe in Christ will never die spiritually. You remember the Lord Jesus' conversation with Martha in John chapter 11? She had been disappointed that Jesus had not come to heal her brother Lazarus. The sisters, Martha and Mary had sent to Jesus saying that he whom Jesus loved, was sick. But Jesus did not come. Instead the text says in verse 5 – “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.” “So when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.” “Then after this He said to the disciples, ‘Let's go to Judea again.’” In verse 11 He says to them – “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but go that I may wake him up.” He was speaking of Lazarus as being dead, and His waking him from that death.

So when Jesus came to Bethany Martha came out and said to Him – Lord if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” He said to her – I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this? She did believe it. The question is – Do you believe it? Do you believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and that even though you will die physically someday, that your body will someday be restored to you, at Christ's appearing, and it will be a glorified body? That is what Jesus is saying. For those who eagerly wait for His Second Coming, He will appear a second time, and when He returns He will fully complete our salvation by the redemption of the bodies of all of God's elect people.

3rd – Every Christian has been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all.

Hebrews 10: 1-14 – “For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those

who approach perfect.” “For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.” “But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.” “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.” “Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU DID NOT DESIRE, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME.’ “IN BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES FOR SIN YOU HAD NO PLEASURE.” “THEN I SAID, ‘BEHOLD, I HAVE COME – ‘IN THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME-- TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.’” “Previously saying, “SACRIFICE AND OFFERING, BURNT OFFERINGS, AND OFFERINGS FOR SIN YOU DID NOT DESIRE, NOR HAD PLEASURE IN THEM” (which are offered according to the law), then He said, ‘BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.’” “He takes away the first that He may establish the second.” “By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” “And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.” “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.” “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”

So we see here that the apostle Paul is teaching us that the law, only having a shadow of the good things which Christ would bring, and not the very image of those good things, could never with those same sacrifices which were offered, make any person who approached through that means, perfect. If it could have, the sacrifices would have ceased to have been offered. And the worshipers once purified would not any longer have had any more consciousness of sins. But since the sacrifices continued to be offered every year, there was a reminder of sins every year. Because the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sins; it was impossible. But when Christ came into the world, He came saying in the words of Psalm 49, verse 6 – “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.” “In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then Christ said – Behold, I have come – In the volume of the book it is written of Me – To do Your will, O God.”

God takes away the first way, the way of the ceremonial law, that He may establish the second; that is, the first covenant being completely fulfilled by Christ, the sanctification of every believer in Him will most certainly take place because we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all. This is explained very well by verse 10 – “By Christ perfectly doing the Father’s will in keeping God’s commandments perfectly, not only righteousness will be imputed to the person believing in Him, but also Christ’s death and resurrection on their behalf will mean that every person being saved by Christ will die to sin and live to godliness. The will be initial set apart to being made holy by the circumcision of their heart, and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit in the New Birth. And they will from that time forward know the faithful working of God the Holy Spirit in their heart, leading and guiding them into all the truth. Jesus prayed in His High-priestly prayer in John 17: 17 – Sanctify them by Your truth, Your word is truth.” “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.” “And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.”

This is why we must not refuse to listen to the gospel. If we do not come to know the Lord and if we not sanctified and cleansed by the blood of Christ, how can we have eternal life?

Listen to Hebrews 12: 22 – “But you have come to Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, the spirit of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of the sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.” “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks.”

And Hebrews 13: 20 – “Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.” “Amen.” Such is what I want for you, my listeners.

