

Hebrews Part Two

Lesson #9, Chapter 9:23-28

Ask the Lord to focus your mind and heart to glean the most you can from this lesson.

1. What is the connecting thought from Heb. 9:22 to verse 23? (In other words, what is the “therefore” there for?)

2. What two places are mentioned in verse 23?
 - a. What comparison is made between the two places?

3. What does the word “these” refer to when the writer states, “Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with *these*, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than *these*.” Refer to verses 19-22 for your answer. Now rewrite verse 23 with your expanded understanding of “these.”

4. How are the heavenly things cleansed according to verse 23?

5. Who or what is the better sacrifice according to verse 24?

6. What does the holy place made with hands refer to? See verses 11, 24, and 8:1-5.

7. What did Christ enter (verse 24)? Why?

8. What was *not* His purpose while there (verse 25)?

9. Why did Christ appear before God for us? See Matt. 10:32; Rom. 8:34; 1 Jn. 2:1-2.

10. It is difficult to imagine how someone would leave Jesus Christ and return to Judaism after learning what Christ has done for us. What is the root of all such turning away? See Heb. 3:12.

11. The author of Hebrews urges his readers to decide who they will follow: those who would drag them back into Judaism or Christ. Throughout the book, the author has presented Christ in His glorious superiority as *the* way to get to God. Now in Chapter 9 the author draws our eyes upward to heaven. He is calling us to place our faith in the reality of heaven rather than the shadowlands of this world. What are some specific ways you can remind yourself that heaven is more real than what we experience here on earth?

12. In verse 26 we read, *Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world.* Why would Jesus have needed to suffer often according to the line of reasoning in verses 23-25?

13. When did Jesus offer Himself up as the perfect sacrifice according to verse 26?

14. What do you learn about the time when Jesus lived, died, and rose again from the following verses? See Mark 1:15; Gal. 4:4; Eph. 1:10; 1 Tim. 2:6; Titus 1:3; Heb. 9:10; 1 Pet. 1:20.
 - a. What does that teach you about God?

15. Why was it necessary for Jesus' sacrifice to span the time since the *foundation of the world*? See Rom. 5:12, 14-18.

16. Jesus's sacrifice covered the sins of those who lived in the past. Jesus's sacrifice covered the sins of those who lived in the present with Him. Jesus's sacrifice covered those who would live in the future. What does this teach you about His sacrifice and His ability to overcome sin?
 - a. How would understanding—and believing—that truth make a difference in your daily life?

17. Keeping in mind Jesus' complete and comprehensive forgiveness and victory over sin and death we come to the phrase, *He has been manifested*. Define *manifested* (NIV, KJV *appeared* [Strong's #5319]). Now look up Jn. 9:3; 21:1; Rom. 1:19; Col. 1:26 to gain a greater understanding of the word's meaning.

18. Jesus appeared on the scene for what purpose (verse 26)?

19. What do we learn about men and death from verse 27?
 - a. How does that little verse provide an answer for those who say they went to heaven and have now come back to tell us all about it?

20. In the same way that men die once, what did Christ do once? See verse 28.

21. What is His purpose when He appears again according to verse 28?

22. Just what is a *salvation without reference to sin*? See Rom. 6:22; 8:23; Eph. 4:30; 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Pet. 1:3-5, 7-9.

23. What do you learn about those who eagerly await the coming of the Lord Jesus? See Rom. 8:1; 1 Cor. 1:7-8; Phil. 3:20-21; Titus 2:11-14.
 - a. Consider your attitude toward Christ's second appearing. What terms best describe your attitude? What is the best way you can encourage your heart to eagerly wait for Him?

“Strangers on earth, we wait for thee;
O leave the Father’s throne,
Come with a shout of victory,
Lord, and claim us as thine own.
No resting Place we seek on earth,
No loveliness we see,
Our eye is on the royal throne,
Prepared for us and thee.”

Lord, increase the number of those who look for thee, and desire, and pray, and wait,
and watch through the dreary hours of the night for the morning which thy coming shall usher in!¹

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

¹Charles H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon’s Sermons: Volume 8*, electronic ed., Logos Library System; Spurgeon’s Sermons (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998).