

- I. Welcome & Review
 - A. Good morning! Ohayougozaimasu! Welcome to Calvary Chapel Iwakuni.
 1. *Welcome any new faces and those streaming online.*
 - B. Before we continue any further, let's go ahead and dismiss our elementary aged children to their Sunday School classrooms.
 1. *(2nd Service; Remember to dismiss the Bible English class.)*
 - C. This morning we're going to be continuing in our study of the book of Hebrews. So, if you have your Bible, why don't you go ahead and open it up and make your way to Hebrews chapter 9.
 1. Also, I want to remind you all that seeing as today is the first Sunday of the month, we also will be taking some time at the conclusion of our study to come to the Lord's table through communion.
 2. My hope is that our study in Hebrews 9 will really help set the stage for our time of communion as we partake of the bread and the cup and understand the significance of each of them and what they mean to us.
 - D. Our text this morning is going to be Hebrews chapter 9 vs. 11-28. And this is actually going to be part 2 of the study that we started last week which we entitled "**A Better Sanctuary**".
 1. Chapter 9 really is a compare and contrast of the two sanctuaries that we are associated with the two covenants; the old and the new.
 2. With the old covenant there was an earthly sanctuary; namely the Tabernacle and later the Temple. But for the new covenant there is a heavenly sanctuary.
 3. Last week, in looking at the first 10 verses of chapter 9 we focused in upon the earthly sanctuary and the ministry therein. And we noted a few reasons why the earthly sanctuary was inferior to the heavenly sanctuary.
 4. For those of you who may not have been with us, or maybe you need a little reminder we noted five different things about the earthly sanctuary that made it inferior.
 - a. **Number 1**, and this was a simple observation and plain to see, but the earthly sanctuary was inferior simply because it was only earthly. It was made here on earth, by men, with materials from this earth that are slowly decaying and breaking down. Ever since sin entered this world, everything in it has felt the effects of it; death entered in, decay, and deterioration are things everything on this earth faces.
 - b. **Number 2**, we noted how the earthly sanctuary was inferior because it was only symbolic. The author of Hebrews described the various furnishings involved in the ministry of the Tabernacle and stated how they were only symbolic of greater things, they were copies, or shadows of better things to come.
 - c. **Number 3**, we noted how the earthly sanctuary was inferior because it was only for the priests. The ministry that took place within the

Tabernacle only allowed the priests to come close to the Lord and His presence. It only allowed one person, the High Priest, to actually enter into the presence of the Lord within the Most Holy place and that was only on one day out of the year. The earthly sanctuary had no way of bringing the people closer to God, or into God's presence.

- d. **Number 4**, the earthly sanctuary was inferior because it was only temporary. While the first tabernacle stood it was a way for the Holy Spirit to show us how the way into the presence of God, into the Holy of Holies, into His throne room if you will, had not yet been revealed. That revelation came when Christ came and died upon the cross for us and with His death, the veil within the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom symbolizing for us how access into God's presence had finally been made available to those who place their faith in the completed work of Christ.
 - e. And then **number 5**, we noted from verses 9 & 10 how the earthly sanctuary was inferior because it only dealt with external matters. It was focused upon fleshly commandments about ceremonial cleansings, and foods and drinks. It lacked any power to change people's hearts on the inside.
5. Well, today, we're going to draw our attention upon the contrast to the earthly sanctuary. Today, we're going to learn about the heavenly sanctuary and the ministry that is involved therein and how it is superior to the earthly sanctuary.
 - a. Some of the points we make today, will basically be the opposite things we said about the earthly sanctuary.
 - b. After all, that is how the author presents his argument; it is a compare and contrast type of argument he uses to differentiate between the earthly and heavenly sanctuaries. So, it only makes sense that some of the things that made the earthly sanctuary inferior will play a part in showing how the heavenly sanctuary is superior.
 6. Our text again, will be Hebrews 9 vs 11 all the way down to the end of the chapter in verse 28. If you wouldn't mind rising to your feet in honor of the Lord and His Word, I'll go ahead and read through our text this morning and then pray, asking God's blessings upon our time together.
 7. Follow along in your Bible, as I read from mine. The author of Hebrews presents his contrast to the earthly sanctuary by highlighting the heavenly sanctuary beginning in verse 11 with the following... (R & P)
- II. Hebrews 9:11; Because it is in Heaven;
 - A. The first verse of our text starts off with the word "but"; it's a word of contrast. The author just got down speaking about the earthly sanctuary and some of its shortcomings, now He is going to draw our attention to the heavenly sanctuary and what makes it superior to that of the earthly sanctuary and the ministry that took place there.

B. Verse 11 states, "But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation."

1. The first thing we're going to note about the heavenly sanctuary and what makes it superior to that of the earthly sanctuary is basically the opposite of what we said about the earthly sanctuary. The earthly sanctuary was inferior because it was only earthly; it was of this earth, on this earth. But the heavenly sanctuary is superior **because it is in Heaven**.
2. The earthly sanctuary was actually built as a model of the heavenly sanctuary. God gave Moses the pattern to follow, a pattern of the heavenly sanctuary that Moses may make a copy, a replica, if you will, of God's heavenly sanctuary.
3. God gave Moses the design for the earthly sanctuary, but it was still made by man; it was still made with earthly resources.
 - a. In contrast, Hebrews 8 tells us that the heavenly sanctuary, the true tabernacle was erected by the Lord Himself and not man. **(Heb. 8:2)**
4. Because it is in heaven it is not under the curse of sin and death, it does not feel the effects of this earth upon it.
 - a. Nothing on this earth is meant to last forever. The things of earth are temporary, they don't last. They breakdown, they wear out, they fall apart, they die.
 - b. Our earthly possessions will grow old and fall apart. They won't satisfy like we initially hoped they would and eventually they're all going to burn. You can't take your earthly possessions with you to Heaven. There are going to be left here on earth where eventually they will be consumed by fire.
 - i. 2 Peter tells us "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up." **(2 Pt. 3:10)**
5. But, in contrast, things in heaven will last for eternity. Things in Heaven don't deteriorate, they don't diminish, they don't fall apart, or break down like things here on earth do.
 - a. Jesus said during His Sermon on the Mount, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." **(Mt. 6:19-21)**
 - b. Heaven and the things of heaven are eternal; they won't fade away, they won't fall apart, they will be around forever. And so, this makes the heavenly sanctuary infinitely better than the earthly sanctuary.

C. But that's just the first of many things that make the heavenly sanctuary superior to the earthly sanctuary, let's continue in our study and we'll note a few more. Take a look at verse 12 with me.

III. Hebrews 9:12; Because of the blood that was offered there

- A. We see very clearly here in verse 12 that the author is comparing the work of the High Priest within the earthly sanctuary and the work of Jesus Christ as the High Priest within the heavenly sanctuary. And it would seem that it is focusing upon the duties and responsibilities of the priests as it pertained to the Day of Atonement.
1. On the Day of Atonement, which was one of the Jewish festivals in the fall of each year, on the 10th day of the seventh month, the high priest would stand outside the tabernacle there at the bronze altar and first offer a bull as a sin offering for himself to make atonement for himself.
 2. Then he would proceed to take with him some of the blood of that bull offered upon the altar as a sin offering and then proceed into the Tabernacle.
 3. Once inside he would take a golden senser full of burning coals from the altar of incense that was within the Tabernacle and with a handful of incense enter into the Most Holy Place, or the Holy of Holies.
 4. He would place the incense upon the coals, and it would fill the Holy of Holies with smoke where the High Priest would then proceed to sprinkle with his finger the blood of the bull upon the mercy seat, thus making atonement for himself.
 5. After he was done sprinkling the blood of the bull, and making atonement for his own sins, the high priest would once again exit the Tabernacle and come before the altar with a goat. The goat was a sin offering that was offered up on behalf of the people.
 6. The high priest would actually have two goats, one would be sacrificed and the other let go as a scapegoat; set free within the surrounding wilderness. But that didn't happen until after the first goat was sacrificed.
 7. And just as the High Priest did with the blood of the bull, he would likewise take the blood of the goat, enter into the Tabernacle, and proceed to enter into the Holy of Holies and there sprinkle the blood of the goat upon the mercy seat as a means to atone for the sins of the people. And then afterward he would exit the Tabernacle, take the still living goat, lay his hands upon it confessing the sins of the people and then setting the living goat free in the wilderness. All this was done to provide atonement for sin.
 8. Now, that word atonement is an important one to realize and understand. It is the Hebrew word, "kaphar" which literally means to cover. The blood of the bull and the blood of the goat were used to cover up the sins of the people. That is what atonement means; it means to simply cover something.

B. But, when Jesus Christ, as our Great High Priest made a sacrifice for us, it was very much different.

1. There were similarities, that is for sure. Just as the OT priest offered his sacrifice outside the earthly sanctuary, outside the Tabernacle, so too, Jesus offered His sacrifice outside the heavenly sanctuary. His sacrifice took place at a place called Golgatha, the place of the skull.
2. But after offering up His own body upon the cross of Calvary, Jesus then proceeded to enter into the heavenly sanctuary, not with the blood of a bull and of a goat, like the OT priests, but with His own blood, He entered in.
3. And when He did He obtained eternal redemption for us. How? By not just making atonement for us, not just covering our sins, Jesus cleansed us from sin, completely removing the stain of them from us.
4. The scriptures speak about how we are washed in the blood of Christ.
 - a. Revelation states in reference to Christ, "To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood..." (**Rev. 1:5b**)
 - b. 1 John describes how the blood of Jesus Christ [God's] Son cleanses us from all sin. (**1 Jn. 1:7b**)
 - c. We have been washed in the blood of the Lamb and the result was not just a covering up of our sins, but a complete removal of sin.
 - d. Our sins have been cast as far as the east is from the west; completely cleansed and purged of sin all because of the blood that was offered there in the heavenly sanctuary.
5. What makes the heavenly sanctuary superior to the earthly sanctuary? **It's the blood that was offered there.** The blood of the earthly sanctuary only had the ability to cover up our sins, but the blood that was applied in the heavenly sanctuary has the power to cleanse us from sins, to completely remove our sins from us.
6. And note what the end of verse 12 states, He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.
 - a. The OT priests had to offer up the same sacrifices of bulls and goats each and every year. The blood they offered did not have the power to remove sins.
 - i. "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins" as stated in Hebrews 10:4. (**Heb. 10:4**)
 - ii. All it could do was put a covering upon them. And so each year, more sacrifices would need to be made, more sins had been committed, more sins needed to be covered up.
 - b. But Christ offered His blood once and for all. He doesn't need to offer up His blood over and over again to pay for the sins we have committed since coming to faith in Christ.
 - c. His sacrifice was efficient to cover all of our sins; past, present, and even future. His blood doesn't need to be spilled over and over

again, because His single sacrifice was enough to pay the price for every sin we will ever commit and has secured for us an eternal redemption.

- d. That's how powerful the blood of Christ is and that is what makes the heavenly sanctuary so superior to the earthly sanctuary; it's all in the power of the blood.

C. Let's continue in our study and take a look at verses 13-14.

IV. Hebrews 9:13-14; Because its ministry is internal

A. While verse 12 contrasted the blood of bulls and goats with the blood of Christ, here in verses 13 & 14 we see that the author is contrasting the external vs. the internal.

1. Last week we noted how the earthly sanctuary was inferior because it was only external.
2. Well, the converse of that is something that makes the heavenly sanctuary superior. The heavenly sanctuary is superior because **its ministry is an internal one**, changing us from the inside out.
3. The earthly sanctuary was focused on the external, the sprinkling of blood and the sprinkling of special holy water mixed with the ashes of a heifer. It was used to purify the flesh, the outside, the external.
4. But the blood of Christ has the ability to cleanse our conscience. It has the ability to change us from the inside out.

B. You see, no amount of religious works can cleanse the heart, or change the heart of man.

1. The sprinkling of blood, the sprinkling of holy water, or ceremonial cleansings and baptisms, following dietary restrictions; none of those things have any impact upon the inside.
2. They're only focused upon the external, the outside, making us ceremonially clean on the outside, all the while leaving us still plagued with sin on the inside.
3. The promise of the new covenant which was part of the heavenly sanctuary was that God would change things up, that He would put His Laws in our minds and write them upon our hearts. (**Heb. 8:10a**)
4. The ministry of the new covenant and the heavenly sanctuary is an internal ministry. The OT prophet Ezekiel also prophesied of the new covenant where God promised, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." (**Eze. 36:26**)
5. The Scriptures teach us that all who are in Christ are a new creation. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (**2 Co. 5:17**)
6. When we come to faith in Jesus Christ, He gives us a new heart. His Spirit comes and takes residence within us and He empowers us to start living a life that is completely different than what we once were.

7. By the grace of God, and the power of His Holy Spirit within us, we will no longer desire to serve the flesh, but we will yield ourselves to the work God desires to do in us and through us.
 8. We will have our consciences cleansed from dead works that we may serve the living God as it states at the end of verse 14.
 - a. That word serve is an interesting one. Its not the word that is used to refer to regular labor and service like that of a servant or slave, but rather it speaks of the kind of service offered by a priest, it speaks of our service as an act of worship.
 - b. And that is so important for us to note. When we get saved from dead works, it isn't that we stop doing religious works of service, it isn't that we stop serving God and honoring Him in our actions. But the reason why we do them is changed, the motivation behind them is different.
 - c. Under the old covenant and the earthly sanctuary works were required to maintain the law, to maintain some sort of right standing before the Lord, to procure blessings. God promised under the old covenant that if you kept His law there would be blessings, and if you didn't keep it there would be judgment, discipline, and cursing.
 - d. But with the new covenant, our works of service are not done to try and maintain our standing before the Lord, our position is secure.
 - e. Our standing before the Lord is solid and so our works aren't something we do to make God love us, our works are something we do because we love Him, they are things that we do as an act of worship to the Lord. As a way of showing our gratitude for the work He has done in us; a work that He has done from the inside out.
- C. Let's move on and note another reason why the heavenly sanctuary is better than the earthly sanctuary. Read verse 15 with me.
- V. Hebrews 9:15; Because it offers us eternal life
- A. Here the author once again brings up the old covenant, or the first covenant in comparison to the new covenant.
 - B. Jesus is the Mediator of the new covenant and through His death He has obtained for us an eternal redemption which results in the promise of an eternal inheritance.
 1. Last week we said the earthly sanctuary was inferior because it was only temporary. Here we see that what makes the heavenly sanctuary superior is that it is focused upon the eternal and specifically that it **promises us eternal life**; our eternal inheritance.
 2. The old covenant was based upon the blood of bulls and goats and the works of men. And unfortunately, the works of men often fell short. And so, the blessings that were promised for obedience often went unrealized.
 3. However, the new covenant isn't dependent upon me in the least bit. It is based upon the blood of Christ and His completed work upon the

- cross. The only part I have to play is to place my faith in His completed work and I will be promised eternal life with God in heaven.
- C. Looking back over verses 12-16 we see a basic explanation of the gospel message that comes from the heavenly sanctuary.
 1. In verse 12 the emphasis was upon the blood of Christ and it's ability to take our sins away.
 2. In verses 13 & 14 the emphasis was upon God's work of changing us from the inside out, giving us a new heart.
 3. And here in verse 15 the promise of eternal life is presented.
 4. When we place our hope and faith in Jesus Christ, His blood washes us and cleanses us from sin, He gives to us a new heart, molding and shaping us from the inside out and He promises us a place with Him in heaven for all of eternity. If that isn't the greatest deal ever, I don't know what is.
 - D. Back to our text. Read with me verses 16 & 17.
- VI. Hebrews 9:16-17; Because it brought forth the new covenant
- A. Here in these verses the author is still talking about the new covenant, but in the English it changes the words.
 1. The word in the original Greek is the word "diatheke" [dia-thay-kay]. Its translated as "covenant", as in the new covenant, in verse 15; but here in verses 16 & 17 it is translated as "testament", as in a "last will and testament"
 - a. Context dictates whether or not the word should be translated one way or the other. It is clear that in verse 15 the author was referring to the new covenant in contrast to the first covenant or old covenant.
 - b. And it is equally clear, based upon context, that the author is meaning to refer to a last will and testament in verses 16 & 17.
 - c. So even though it's the same word, context let's us know how to best translate it into the English language so that we may understand it for ourselves.
 - B. Now verses 16 & 17 are pretty straight forward. We know and understand that if someone writes out a last will and testament that it doesn't go into effect until the person who wrote it passes away.
 1. It doesn't matter what the terms of the will are, until that person dies, nothing will change, nothing will go into effect. You can plan everything out, and decide who gets every last bit of your earthly treasures and inheritance. But none of it will matter until you die.
 2. And the same was true regarding the new covenant. The terms of the New Covenant were established from the very beginning. God's plan all along, every since He first created this world, was to send His Son to die upon the cross for our sins.
 - a. Scripture describes Jesus as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (**Rev. 13:8b**)

- b. But even though that was God's plan from the get go, it doesn't matter and it doesn't take effect until Jesus dies. Jesus had to die. He had to go to the cross in order for the new covenant to take effect, in order for the new covenant to begin.
 - c. Without the death of Jesus Christ, the new covenant is powerless and meaningless. Jesus had to die in order for it take effect.
3. And so we see that the heavenly sanctuary is superior because it was through the ministry of the heavenly sanctuary that **the new covenant was established and put into effect**. When Jesus died upon the cross and then entered into the heavenly sanctuary, He obtained eternal redemption for us all and put into effect the put innew covenant.
 4. There was no other way to make this happen. This is how it had to be. As long as Jesus stayed alive, the new covenant would be powerless.
- C. Lets continue by looking at what the author writes for us in verses 18-23.
- VII. Hebrews 9:18-23; Because it was purified with the blood of the Son of God
- A. Here the author again draws a comparison between the old covenant and the new covenant detailing for us the purification rituals Moses did when establishing the old covenant.
1. The details of this are found in the book of Exodus. Moses after hearing from the Lord came down the mountain and communicated with the people all the words of the Lord that He had heard from the Lord. Moses had written them down in the "Book of the Covenant" and recited them to the people. And the people all agreed with the covenant.
 2. And then Moses proceeded to take the blood of oxen and sprinkle it upon the book and the people that were gathered together that day.
 3. Later after the Tabernacle was erected, He also sprinkled the Tabernacle and all of it's furnishings with blood.
- B. Now, some of you may be thinking, that's a lot of blood sprinkling and you may think it a bit excessive, or even a bit horrifying. But the point is made at the end of verse 22 "almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."
1. The idea of purification does not necessarily mean that something was polluted with sin and in need of purification. The furnishings of the OT were inanimate amoral objects; they didn't sin. The way this word is used symbolizes something becoming ceremonially clean and set apart for use.
 2. The word remission means forgiveness and is used when referring to a pardon as well. Without the shedding of blood, without the lose of life, there can be no forgiveness of sins.
 3. That is because God is a just God. The penalty for sin is death.
 4. Romans 6 clearly states, "for the wages of sin is death" (**Rom. 6:23a**)
 5. This was even portrayed when the Adam and Even blew it in the garden of Eden. After they had sinned and eaten from the tree God instructed them not to, God had to make coverings for them, meaning animal skins were made for them, a life was taken in order to cover up their sin.
6. God cannot simply look the other way when you sin and try and treat you like you never sinned a day in your life. When God's Law is broken, death is the penalty.
 7. In the old covenant that would mean going to the Tabernacle and presenting offerings and sacrifices before the Lord as a way to atone for your sins, to cover them up.
 8. Sin is serious. It is deadly. If undealt with it will destroy your very life, and often times the lives of those closest to you; your spouse, your family, your mom and dad, siblings, etc. And God shows us how serious a matter it is by prescribing death for all who break God's Law.
- C. In verse 23 draws the contrast. "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."
1. Do you see the logic the author uses here? If the earthly sanctuary was purified with the blood of bulls and goats, then the heavenly sanctuary must be purified as well, but with a better blood than that of bulls and goats because the heavenly sanctuary is better. And because it is better it demands a better blood sacrifice to purify it.
 2. Again, consider this word "purify" not like a cleansing from sin, after all there is no sin in heaven and there will be no need for a cleansing from sin. But there is a need to set it apart and purify it for use.
 3. And so instead of the blood of bulls and goats, once again Jesus is portrayed as having taken His own blood and purifying the heavenly sanctuary, preparing it for our use even now.
 4. We have opportunity today, right now even, to enter into the very throne room of God; to come boldly and obtain mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.
 5. And this is all possible because Jesus died, rose again, and ascended into heaven; where He has prepared the heavenly sanctuary for us.
 6. The reason that makes the heavenly sanctuary superior to that of the earthly sanctuary is because **it was purified with better blood**; stronger blood, the blood of God's very own Son.
- D. Take a look at verse 24 with me.
- VIII. Hebrews 9:24; Because
- A. The next reason why the heavenly sanctuary is superior is not as direct or obvious, but it nonetheless is there. The heavenly sanctuary is superior **because it has a better Mediator**.
1. Back in verse 15, the author of Hebrews mentioned Jesus as the Mediator of the new covenant. So we know that Jesus is identified as the Mediator of the New Covenant, but here in verse 24 we have an actual idea of what that looks like.

2. Christ has entered into heaven itself to appear in the presence of God for us. It's a simple statement but an extremely powerful one.
 - a. Why did Jesus have to die? Why did He have to shed His blood? Why did He have to purify the heavenly sanctuary with His blood? Well, it was all for us. He did it for you and for me.
 - b. And to think that Jesus would go to such great lengths to minister to someone like me (& someone like you), to stand before the Father as our Advocate, as our Mediator, our bridge between us and God, is amazing. I know that I don't deserve such treatment...and I'm pretty sure you don't either. And yet He still does it for you and I.
3. It was all for us. He did all that He did for us.
 - a. Romans 5:8 states, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (**Rom. 5:8**)
 - b. 1 Thessalonians reads "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him." (**1 Thes. 5:9-10**)
 - c. "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us." (**1 Jn. 3:16a**)
 - d. Ephesians 5 proclaims, "And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma." (**Eph. 5:2**)
 - e. Paul wrote to Titus explaining, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." (**Tit. 2:11-14**)
 - f. In Romans 8:34 states, "It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us." (**Rom. 8:34**)
4. Everything He did, He did for us.
 - a. He came to this earth for us. He lived a perfect sinless life for us.
 - b. He willingly took the pain and shame of a public scourging where His backside was pretty much reduced to hamburger meat for us.
 - c. He went to the cross for us. He bled and He died for us.
 - d. And He rose again victoriously for us. And ascended to the Father in heaven for us. He entered the heavenly sanctuary, into the Holy of Holies for us. He initiated the new covenant for us. And He currently stands before the Father for us. It was all for us! Let that sink in this morning, let that truth penetrate your heart and your mind. He did it all for you and He did it all for me. What an amazing Savior we

have, an Advocate and a Mediator pleading for us continually. It blows me away whenever I take the time to consider it.

- B. Well, let's get back to our text and wrap up our study so that we can transition to our time of communion. Read verses 25-28 with me.

IX. Hebrews 9:25-28; Because

- A. Here at the end of the chapter the author does some more compare and contrast between Jesus' ministry as our Great High Priest and the ministry of the Levitical priesthood of the OT.
 - B. The emphasis here is upon the completed work of Christ in comparison to the never ending work of the OT priest.
 1. The high priests of old had to offer up the blood of another every single year for himself and also the people on the Day of Atonement.
 2. Their work was never finished. They had to continually make sacrifices.
 3. But not so with Jesus. He is not like them. He has made one offering at the end of the ages, at the end of this particular stage of history, when it was time to do away with the old covenant and usher in the new. Jesus made one sacrifice that put away sin for good.
 - a. The word put away means to abolish or to annul something. Jesus Christ has abolished sin, annulling it through the sacrifice of His own self. Sin no longer has any dominion, it no longer has any power. Christ, through His work upon the cross and His victory over the grave has broken the chains of sin we were once bound by.
 4. And this is the final thing we will note about the superiority of the heavenly sanctuary and the ministry therein. The heavenly sanctuary is superior because **it abolishes sin and its claim upon us.**
 5. Because we have placed our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we need not worry about the penalty of sin when it comes to our eternal standing before the Lord.
 - a. As we noted back in Hebrews 8, as part of the new covenant, God has promised that our "sins and our lawless deeds He will remember no more." (**Heb. 8:12**)
 - b. He won't bring them up or recall them. They are forever dealt with because of what Christ did for each of us.
- C. Now, verses 27 & 28 of our text are the application point for us.
 1. It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. This is the general rule of thumb on how things work. You get one chance to get it right. During your life here on earth is your only opportunity to receive Christ's work of forgiveness. Once your life here on earth is done and you breath your last, your fate is sealed. There is no going back, there is no reset button, there are no redo's.
 2. Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of many, for our sins. And we must make a choice. Will we accept His work of grace and salvation, or will we reject it.

3. To those who eagerly wait for Him, He will appear a second time, or again. We'll see Him again, we'll all see Him again, whether we receive Him or not, we'll all see Him again.
 - a. God has highly exalted [Christ] and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." **(Phil. 2:9-11)**
 - b. Every knee will bow, every tongue will confess. But only those who do so on this side of eternity will be welcomed in to the glorious heavenly sanctuary He has prepared for us in heaven.
4. For those who eagerly wait for Him, He will appear a second time, He will appear again, apart from sin, for salvation. For those who have placed their faith in Christ, we will see Christ face to face some day, and we won't have to worry at all about our sin, He's dealt with it, He will simply be welcoming us in to our eternal salvation.
5. But again, this is only for those who eagerly wait for Him, implying a surrendered and yielded life to Christ as Lord and Savior.
6. For those who have not surrendered He will appear again, and He will deal with your sin, you will be judged for your sin and you will not be permitted to enter into heaven, but instead you will be cast down into hell for all eternity.
7. Hell is a place that God created for the devil and his minions. It isn't a place that was made for you or for me. But if you so choose to reject Christ, that is the choice you are making; you are rejecting the work of Christ He did for you and you are accepting the just punishment of your sins.
8. To me the choice is so simple. Only a fool would be so blind and so hard hearted to not accept this incredible gospel message.
9. I pray that all of you here this day have accepted God's gift of salvation offered through His Son and I pray that we all are eagerly awaiting the time we will come face to face with our Lord and Savior and be welcomed into our eternal salvation. It's going to be a glorious day, of this I am absolutely certain of. Let's pray.

X. Communion;

- A. Today, we are going to partake of communion. The worship team is going to come up and they are going to lead us in a time of worship.
- B. The ushers are going to distribute the communion elements. And you know, I feel as though I don't need to come back up and say anything else.
- C. God had us in a great portion of scripture here this morning.
 1. We understand that the new covenant has been established in His blood. We understand that His body was broken for us. And that is what communion is meant to remind us of.

2. The bread represents His body, broken for us. The cup represents the new covenant in His blood; a covenant that required Jesus to die in our place, for our sins, that the new covenant may be put into effect.
3. As the ushers pass out the communion elements, I want to encourage you to take just these next few moments to remember and to reflect upon what Christ has done for you, and what your response is to that.
4. And as the Lord leads, you go ahead and partake of the communion elements on your own, or with your spouse, or family, however the Lord leads.
5. After the worship ministry finishes the communion song, they'll invite us to partake if we haven't yet, and then have us rise to our feet for one final song together. Let's spend some time with the Lord.