

## DAY 26 THURSDAY

### HEBREWS 9:15-22    THANK YOU, JESUS

<sup>15</sup> For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

<sup>16</sup> In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, <sup>17</sup> because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.

<sup>18</sup> This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. <sup>19</sup> When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. <sup>20</sup> He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." <sup>21</sup> In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies.

<sup>Heb 9:22</sup> In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

The covenantal sacrifice ratified (made legally valid) the covenant and put it into play. Without the sacrifice the arrangement was just words without force. Without the illustration of consequences the true benefit of the covenant could not be truly realized. In other words, without a death the covenant could not be established.

In the covenant between God and Abram (Genesis 15:8-21), God had Abram cut the animals in half. To do so was to kill the animals, that is to shed their blood and life was thought to reside in the blood. Then God (in this case) took the covenant walk by which he swore that if the covenant was broken the consequence would be death. Forgiveness is based on satisfying the consequence of breaking the covenant, and so, dependent upon a death. The New Covenant in Christ reconciles sinners to God (the forgiveness of our trespass or breaking of the covenant). We are cleansed by the shedding of blood, that is, by Jesus' death.

In addition, through his death and resurrection, Jesus becomes constantly present to God and available to intercede for us. It was on the cross that Jesus' eternal priesthood began and it is through the resurrection and ascension that it continues today and for ever.

Jesus had to die for us to be reconciled to God. He is the only answer for our trespasses. Could there be any better news? By the way, when we write God our thank you note, it should be written in the language of obedience.

**Holy Spirit, grow my understanding so that I may know the truth about your saving grace. Help me to avoid thinking about Jesus' death on the cross as a completed event over 2000 years ago in the Middle East. Rather, create in me the awareness of the continuous favorable consequences for my life that were initiated by his death, resurrection and ascension. Also create in me a loving heart that is manifested through a life of obedience to God. Amen.**