

DAY 27 FRIDAY

HEBREWS 9:23-24 HOW CAN IT BE?

²³ *It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.* ²⁴ *For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.*

The story of the Gospel reads like a rendition of long past events. As we remember through our worship what God has done for us, we find ourselves focusing on the past. As we look through the finite lens of our temporal existence, we tend to look back on a divine task list on which all the boxes have been checked as completed. Incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, enthronement in heaven, are all checked off. Obviously, the throne room of God is eternal, but is Jesus' work on earth really done?

Jesus' work on earth is not done, it has only begun. Jesus told his Disciples that it was necessary for him to leave them in order for him to send them the Holy Spirit (John 16:7). Through the Holy Spirit he, as God, is present in the body of believers here on earth (John 14:15-17). Furthermore, the role of the Spirit is to convict us of both our sin and the truth of the Gospel (John 16:8;12).

But Jesus is also present to us from heaven, the presence of God. He has entered God's "rest," but like God that does not mean he is sleeping. After the work of creating, God rested from the work of creating, but not from working. The working of sustaining and later redeeming the creation continues. Likewise, Jesus finished the work of salvation when he entered God's rest, but the work of intercession on the behalf of believers continues without measurable end. Since we are sinners and we continue to sin, it is good news indeed that Jesus *now* appears *for us in God's presence*. As our need continues, so too do the mercy and love of God directed toward our eternal well being through Jesus Christ.

You are my hope Lord Christ. Through your eternal ministry I am daily cleansed of my sins when I repent and turn to you for forgiveness. Through you I need never despair, but always live in hope. May that hope overflow in my life and reach the secret places of despair in those around me. Amen.