

Heb. 9:11-28 – Is Anything Permanent? - Lesson Summary

You've probably heard the saying "diamonds are forever". Perhaps you've had experience with permanent markers. As a contractor I have used glues and sealants that are considered permanent. While all of these things suggest they will last forever, we know they will not. A diamond can be lost, the marker fades, and inevitably the sealant eventually fails. It's the nature of our creation. Things break. They are not dependable. They will not last. The same can be said when we find our hope in things of this world. The author of Hebrews is speaking to an audience facing intense persecution. They are beginning to doubt God's promises. They are beginning to wonder if they can place their full trust in Jesus and His work on the cross. Is God dependable? Is His relationship with His people permanent? Are His promises eternal?

The final verses of Hebrews 9 address these types of questions as they reveal **5 eternal realities** as a result of Christ. These verses reveal Christ's eternal redemption, eternal purpose, eternal inheritance, eternal sacrifice, and eternal salvation. All of these should be an encouragement to us in a world in which nothing lasts forever.

When the author speaks of the **eternal redemption** we find in Christ he references the old sacrificial system. The Israelites would have been used to making continual sacrifices for their sin. In order to find redemption, to be restored, blood was required to be shed. However, when Christ shed His blood He secured an eternal redemption for those who would place their trust in Him. The veil has been torn and we are given full access to the Father.

Perhaps one of the most encouraging verses in this passage is the second half of verse 14. The author claims that Christ died in order to free us from "dead works" in order that we would be able to serve the living God. Through Christ we find **eternal purpose!** We are invited into His work, empowered by His Spirit, and called to participate in serving the living God. There is no greater purpose for your life than to be set free to serve God with all your gifts, abilities, and experiences.

Through Christ we are also the recipients of an **eternal inheritance**. We have been adopted as His sons and daughters and can never be "kicked out" of His family. Christ will never leave us nor forsake us. Our inheritance is secured by His Spirit. Despite our continued struggle with sin, inability to perfectly serve Him, and our misguided worship, Christ remains faithful to us. Our identity has been permanently changed.

As the passage continues the author revisits the old sacrificial system. Not only has Christ provided eternal redemption but He was the **eternal sacrifice**. Nothing more needs to be brought to the alter. Jesus is, was, and will always be the sacrificial lamb. We don't have to add to His sacrifice. The Gospel reminds us that it is Jesus plus nothing. As the eternal sacrifice Jesus doesn't need our contributions. Even our greatest efforts to please God pale in comparison to the perfect sacrifice of Christ.

Finally, we see that through Christ we have received **eternal salvation**. Because Christ's sacrifice was eternally sufficient, those who profess Christ are eternally saved. We did nothing to earn our salvation and we can do nothing to lose it. We no longer need to continually make sacrifices, work harder, or know more. Instead, we can rest in God's faithfulness through Christ. We can abide in His steadfast love. We can trust in our salvation and grow in His likeness. And, we can hope. We can hope because Christ is eternal, He is dependable, and He alone will eternally satisfy our deepest longings and greatest need.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What does the world tell you about eternity? What does it claim can last forever? How does the Bible challenge these thoughts?
- 2) How does the passage we studied tonight encourage you in regard to your future? How does it challenge you?
- 3) Have you ever struggled with the idea that you "might lose your salvation"? What are some of the lies that Satan tells you to make you doubt God's forgiveness? What truths in this passage can you stand firmly upon in times of doubt?