

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

April 2014

## *Hebrews*

The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

### Lesson #12: The New Covenant and Christ's Death

#### INTRODUCTION

How are Old Testament "believers" saved since salvation only comes through Jesus Christ? Acts 4:12; 1 Pet 1:20

#### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

##### Read Hebrews 9:15-28

*Note: Recognizing the Jews' theological "blind spot" regarding the Messiah, the writer of Hebrews points out three reasons why the Messiah had to die. (Underlined below)*

1. If a covenant is similar to a will today, what is the significance of Christ's death?
2. What is the relationship between blood and death? Between blood and forgiveness? vs. 22  
Between Christ's blood and sin? Matt 26:28
3. What is the difference between spiritual and physical death?
4. What appointment do all men have to keep? vs. 27 Who determines the rules for judgment?  
What are men judged for? Who pays (atones) for the cost of *believers'* shortcomings (sins)? 2  
Cor 5:21 For *non-believers*? Lev 17:11

*Note: When the high priest walked out of the old sanctuary, the people breathed a sigh of relief because he was alive and the sacrifice had been accepted on their behalf. The Father was satisfied.*

5. How does Christ's appearance in the second coming compare to the high priest leaving the holy of holies? vs. 28
6. Why do some people try to worship the symbol (i.e. blood, cross, church) rather than Christ?

*Note: The Old Testament allowed a symbol for a symbol. A person too poor to bring a sacrificial animal could buy flour instead. (Lev 5:11)*

#### APPLICATION

What is your response to being aware of the cleansing blood of Christ?

***Forgiveness is a costly thing.*** Human forgiveness is costly. A son or a daughter may go wrong and a father or a mother may forgive; but that forgiveness brings tears, whiteness to the hair, lines to the face, a cutting anguish and then a long dull ache to the heart. It does not cost nothing. Divine forgiveness is costly. God is love but he is also holiness. He least of all can break the great moral laws on which the universe is built. Sin must have its punishment or the very structure of life disintegrates. And God alone can pay the terrible price that is necessary before men can be forgiven. Forgiveness is never a case of saying: "It's all right; it doesn't matter." It is the most costly thing in the world. Without the shedding of heart's blood there can be no forgiveness of sins. Nothing brings a man to his senses with such arresting violence as to see the effect of his sin on someone who loves him in this world or on the God who loves him forever, and to say to himself: "**It cost that to forgive my sin.**"<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Barclay, William, lecturer in the University of Glasgow (Hrsg.): *The Letter to the Hebrews*. Philadelphia : The Westminster Press, 2000, c1975 (The Daily Study Bible Series, Rev. Ed), S. 108