

Jesus – “The Better Way”

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New Life of the Shenandoah Valley

Better than what?

- When we talk about a better way, that implies that there is a worse way.
- A better or worse way to do what? What are we trying to accomplish?
- JESUS is the better way to _____, which was lost due to Adam and Eve's original sin in the Garden of Eden.
- We call Jesus the _____, which is better than the _____.
- Today we will compare the new and old covenants so you can decide for yourself if Jesus is truly _____.

Key Verses: The Better Way

“...the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs (referring to the Tabernacle priests) as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on _____ promises.” Heb. 8:6

“...to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a _____ word than the blood of Abel.” Heb. 12:24

The writer of Hebrews claims that _____

_____. Lets look at both, beginning with Abel.

The sacrifice of Abel – an offering of blood

- Adam and Eve had two sons – Cain and Abel. Both brought an offering to the Lord, but only one was accepted. (see Gen. 4:1-7)
- God always requires a _____ offering for sin.
- Recall that after Adam and Eve sinned God said that they would die. Only _____ can atone for sin. (Gen. 2:17)

An offering of blood

- After the flood, _____ came out of the ark and immediately _____.
(Gen. 8:20)
- The offering of a blood sacrifice continues with _____, who God tested by asking him to sacrifice his own son _____.
- Abraham passed the test, Isaac was spared, and _____ provided a lamb for the blood sacrifice.

An offering of blood

- The offering of blood continues in the Old Testament in the story of the Passover (Ex. 12). This was the night the LORD sent the destroyer to kill all the first born to force Pharaoh to let the Israelites to leave Egypt.
- Only the blood of a male lamb (Ex. 12:3-7), spread on the doorway of each house with a bunch of hyssop (Ex. 12:22), would keep the destroyer from entering the house. (See also Ps. 51:7)
- **Hyssop** – “a European mint cultivated as a remedy for bruises.” DictionaryToGo

An offering of blood

- The blood by itself did not protect the Israelites – they had to actively spread it around with the _____ in order to “activate” to protective power it offered. (See Heb. 9:19 & 22)
- All of these examples of blood sacrifices are a picture of the coming of Jesus, who God prophesied He would send in Genesis 3:15.
- Jesus’ blood works the same way. It has the power to cover our sins, but it does not work automatically – you have to ask for it *and* spread it around. We will come back to how Jesus’ blood is activated in a few minutes – but first, back to the Tabernacle...

The Tabernacle Ministry

- Recall that the writer of Hebrews also referred to the Tabernacle Ministry and said that Jesus' ministry was better (Heb. 8:6). The blood offering for the sins of the Israelites was formalized as an annual event, the _____, at the time of Moses' Tabernacle.
- Lets look at the Tabernacle Ministry. We find this in Leviticus, Chapter 16.

The Tabernacle Ministry

Lev. 16:2-16

“The LORD spoke to Moses...”tell your brother Aaron not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place... (a special place inside the Tabernacle, behind a curtain and containing the Ark which held the stone tablets), or else he will die...This is how Aaron is to enter... with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering ... he is to slaughter the bull for his own sin offering... He is to take some of the blood and with his finger sprinkle it ...

The Tabernacle Ministry

He shall then slaughter the goat ...and take its blood ...He shall sprinkle it ...In this way he will make atonement ... because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been ... This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month ... on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins.” **(Lev. 16:2-30)**

Comparing the Old and the New Covenants

Old Covenant

- Blood of animals
- A picture of the Savior
- Administered by priests
- Required annually for all
- Available once/year
- Activated by _____ or the priest
- _____ save us (Heb. 10:3-4 + 11)

New Covenant (Jesus)

- Jesus' own blood
- THE Savior
- Administered by God
- Required once for all
- Available continuously
- Activated by our _____ and confession
- _____ save us (Heb.10:12-14)

Can you see why Jesus is the Better Way?

Which covenant do you want to live
under?

Which covenant do you want to die
under?

How to ACTIVATE the New Covenant (the BETTER WAY)

- Believe in Jesus – make Him Lord of your life
- Confess ALL your sins and continue to confess – Jesus is not a once a year Savior!
- Repent from ALL ungodly ways
- Renounce evil ways – “without holiness no one will see the Lord.” Heb. 12:14
- Receive Christ’s forgiveness and Him to lead you (Col. 3:17 & 23)
- Testify (Rom. 10:9; Ps. 66:16; Rev. 12:11) If you deny Jesus, He will deny you! (Mt. 10:32-33)
- Get into an accountability relationship (LTG)

Application

- Time for reflection, listening prayer
- Speak to God
- Ask God to speak to you through the Holy Spirit
- Ask what is on His heart for you; if He convicts you of anything, put that under the Blood now
- Public Testimonies welcome (activate the Blood of Jesus with the hyssop of your testimony)
- Prayer counselors available in the back of the room if you have areas of unconfessed sin that the Holy Spirit is asking you to deal with right now
- Closing Prayer

