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A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Our modern society has attempted to thrown out guilt.
- Even some Christians have fallen into that trap.
- Bragging how they have come to feel good about themselves in spite of their failures.
- Is that the way to deal with guilt?

- And yet, in spite of our widespread efforts to suppress or deny guilt, **we can't quite shake it.**

- A **cartoon** hit the nail on the head.

It showed a psychologist saying to his patient,

**“Mr. Smith, I think I can explain your feelings of guilt.**

- **You're guilty!**”

- The Bible declares that all of us are guilty before the bench of God's holy justice.
- “**All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**”  
(**Rom. 3:23**).
- The Bible teaches that guilt is more than just a bad feeling.

- It is our moral failings that alienate us from God.
  - But, thankfully, the Bible also declares that God has provided a remedy for our guilt.

- The Hebrew Christians were tempted to leave the Christian faith **and return to Judaism.**
  - The Hebrew letter is showing them why that would be **spiritually fatal.**
- The old covenant under Moses was **inferior to the new covenant** that Jesus initiated.

- The Levitical priests under the old covenant were sinful, mortal men.

- Our text shows that the old covenant's sacrificial system was temporary and imperfect.

- It could not provide a clean conscience for the worshipers.

- God designed that old system to point ahead to a superior system.
- One that offered eternal redemption and a clean conscience.

- God's remedy for guilt is the blood of Christ.
- We will examine this under three points:
  - **# 1** The imperfection of the old sacrificial system (9:1-10);
  - **# 2** What Christ's sacrifice of Himself accomplished (9:11-14);
  - **# 3** And, the practical result, that we now can serve the living God (9:14).

God designed  
the old sacrificial system  
as a temporary,  
imperfect way of  
pointing ahead  
to Christ  
(**Hebrews 9:1-10**).

- God designed the earthly tabernacle as a picture of Christ. (**Hebrews 9:1-5**).
- The Bible only devotes two chapters to the story of creation, but it gives about 50 chapters to the tabernacle.
- It was the center of Jewish worship under the old covenant.

- The design of the tabernacle and its worship was not left up to human ideas, but God revealed everything in great detail to Moses on the mountain.  
(**Hebrews 8:5**)
  - The whole thing was an Old Testament portrait of Jesus Christ.

- Paul centers on the tabernacle because he wants to compare and contrast it with the true tabernacle in heaven.

- Where Jesus entered into the very presence of God.

• Inside the  
**Holy of Holies**  
**was the ark of the covenant.**

- It contained:
  - A golden jar of manna,
  - Aaron's rod that budded,
- And the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments.

- The covering of the ark was called the mercy seat, or (in Greek), the place of propitiation.

- The mercy seat,  
or (in Greek),  
the place of propitiation.
- Was overshadowed by  
two cherubim of glory,
- So called because it was there that the  
glory of God's presence  
was manifested  
(**Exodus 25:22**).
- The high priest sprinkled the blood  
from the sacrifices on this mercy seat.<sup>17</sup>

- Only the high priest could go into the Holy of Holies once a year, on the Day of Atonement (**Leviticus 16**).
- He would first offer a bull for his own sins.
  - He would enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood of the bull on the mercy seat and in front of it.

- The Hebrew author describes the familiar **tabernacle ritual**.
- God designed the ministry of the priests in the tabernacle **as a picture of the work of Christ**.  
**(Hebrews 9:6-10)**.

- The priest would enter the outer tabernacle to trim the lamps and to put fresh incense on the altar.

- Once a week they would replace the sacred loaves of bread.

- **The golden candlestick** was the only source of light in the holy place,
- **Symbolizing the truth** that the only light of the church **is the word of God.**

- Thus making the candlestick also **a symbol of the Bible.**
  - In Zechariah's vision the question regarding the meaning of the **seven golden candlesticks** evoked this response from the angel,
- "**This is the word of the Lord**";  
(**Zechariah 4:1-6**)

- **Table of Showbread**
- **Twelve loaves of bread**  
were kept fresh on the table.
  - Arranged in  
**two rows**,
  - Reminding one of the  
**two Israels**:
    - The **fleshly** Israel
    - The **spiritual** Israel.

- The golden altar
- Otherwise known as "altar of incense,"
- It should be understood as a type or symbol of the prayers of God's people (**Revelation 5:8**).

- Then he would go back out and slaughter one of two goats as a sin offering for the people and take this blood into the mercy seat.

- He would go back out and lay his hands on the living goat, confessing over it the sins of the people.
- They would lead this goat out into the wilderness and let it go.

- The author calls attention to the fact that the old system provided a way for forgiveness for “*the sins of the people committed in ignorance*” (**Hebrews 9:7**).
- The Law stipulated that there was no sacrifice for sins of defiance. (**Numbers 15:30-31**).

- There is a sense in which virtually all of our sins stem from defiance toward God.
- But the reference in Numbers seems to refer to outrageous, blasphemous behavior that represented revolt against God.

- In this sense, there is a parallel in **Hebrews 10:26-31**, where the author strongly warns his readers **against apostasy**, for which there is **no sacrifice.**

- The annual **Day of Atonement** would have underscored to Israel a number of vital spiritual truths.

- It portrayed the **absolute holiness of God** and how our sin separates us from entering His presence.

- **Thus, the curtain**  
separating  
**the Holy Place**  
and the  
**Holy of Holies.**
- It showed the  
**sin** and **defilement**  
of all of the people,  
including the high priest.

- It showed that no one dared to enter God's holy presence without the blood of an acceptable sacrifice.

- It showed that the people must approach God through the proper mediator, the high priest.

- It showed that if the proper sacrifice was offered, God would be propitiated or satisfied, so that He would not judge their sins.
- But, as glorious as all of this ritual was, it was inadequate, for two main reasons:

# # 1 The old system provided limited access to God.

- None of the people and not all of the priests could enter the Holy of Holies.

- Only the high priest and that only once a year, with blood.

**# 2** The old system provided limited results of the sacrifices.

- The bottom line is that these gifts and sacrifices could not

*“make the worshiper perfect in conscience”*  
(**Hebrews 9:9**).

- The author offers two reasons for this statement (Hebrews 9:10).

- **First**, they were **external regulations** for the body, but they could not deal adequately with the conscience.

- **Second**, they were **temporary**,

- **“imposed until a time of reformation,”** which refers to the time of Christ.  
(**Hebrews 9:10**)

The blood of Christ  
obtained eternal redemption  
and  
a clean conscience for us  
(**Hebrews 9:11-14**).

- Whereas the old system provided only limited access and limited results,

- Christ provides complete access and results.

- Christ didn't take the blood of goats and calves to sprinkle on the altar.

- He went there

*“through His own blood.”*

**(Hebrews 13:12)**

- Christ

**“entered the holy place  
once for all, having  
obtained eternal redemption.”  
(Hebrews 9:12)**

- Through His death,  
our guilt is atoned for  
once and for all,  
for all eternity!
- The penalty has been paid.

- The blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a red heifer  
“**sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh.**”  
**(Numbers 19:1-13)**
  - This was a ritual for purification, especially if someone had been defiled by **touching a dead body.**

- **If these rituals**  
could cleanse the flesh,  
“*how much more*  
*will the blood of Christ,*  
*who through the eternal Spirit*  
*offered Himself*  
*without blemish to God,*  
*cleanse your conscience*  
*from dead works*  
*to serve the living God?”*  
(**Hebrews 9:15**)

- Jesus Christ is the only one who could atone for man's sin, because He alone **was a man without blemish** in all that He did.
- Thus His blood can **act as the substitute** for the penalty that we deserve.

- Jesus' sacrifice was uniquely qualified to redeem His people, because He is not only a man, but also is eternal God (**Hebrews 7:3,16**).
- This unique sacrifice satisfied God in a way that the blood of bulls and goats never could.

- The Bible teaches that the conscience alone is not an infallible guide.

- Through repeated sin, the conscience can be defiled and seared.

(Titus 1:15;1 Timothy 4:2)

- For example, I read that Cambodian dictator **Pol Pot** murdered millions of his fellow people.
  - He ordered the murder of everyone **who wore eyeglasses,** among many other senseless killings.

- Historians say that his evil deeds were even greater than those of Hitler and Stalin.
- Yet just before he died in 1998, he told a reporter that he had a clear conscience!
  - It wasn't clear; it was seared!

- Part of God's work in regeneration is to bring His holy Law to bear on our hearts **so that we give up trying to justify ourselves.**

- So how can our guilt

- be removed

and our consciences  
be cleansed?

- Only through  
the sacrifice of

- an acceptable substitute.

- **1 Peter 3: 18**

***“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God....”***

- Our guilt is not removed by doing penance or good works.
- Our guilt is totally removed by God's free gift through the blood of Christ.

- **Romans 8:1**

***There is therefore now  
no condemnation  
to them which are  
in Christ Jesus,  
who walk not  
after the flesh,  
but after the Spirit.***

- The Jews knew what they did, when they transferred their sin to the head of their offering.
- So how do I transfer all my guilt to another?

- God has provided an Offering for me, that I may lay my sins on His head?

- God wills that I will not bear

my sins

one moment longer.

- **1 Peter 3:21**

The like figure where unto even **baptism** doth also now **save us** not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the **answer of a good conscience** toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

- **Mark 4:9**

He that hath  
ears to hear,  
let him hear.

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**

