

## REAL SALVATION

(Hebrews 8:6-9:28)

### DAY ONE READING AND QUESTIONS:

<sup>6</sup>But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

<sup>7</sup>For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. <sup>8</sup>But God found fault with the people and said:

“The time is coming, declares the Lord,  
when I will make a new covenant  
with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah.

<sup>9</sup>It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their forefathers  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,  
and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.

<sup>10</sup>This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel  
after that time, declares the Lord.  
I will put my laws in their minds

and write them on their hearts.

I will be their God,

and they will be my people.

<sup>11</sup>No longer will a man teach his neighbor,  
or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest.

<sup>12</sup>For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more.”

<sup>13</sup>By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

1. *What exactly is a covenant? How is a covenant different from similar ideas like contact, deal, or agreement?*
2. *What makes this new covenant better than the old one?*
3. *What will God do in this new covenant?*

### DAY TWO READING AND QUESTIONS:

<sup>1</sup>Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. <sup>2</sup>A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. <sup>3</sup>Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, <sup>4</sup>which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron’s staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. <sup>5</sup>Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

<sup>6</sup>When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. <sup>7</sup>But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. <sup>8</sup>The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. <sup>9</sup>This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. <sup>10</sup>They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

1. *What is the point of describing all the furniture of the tabernacle? Is this more than Bible trivia?*
2. *How was access to the Most Holy Place (the “inner room”) limited under the old covenant? How is this different under the new covenant?*
3. *Why were the gifts and sacrifices under the old covenant unable to cleanse the consciences of the worshiper? If they did not forgive sin, why did the people make those sacrifices?*

#### DAY THREE READING AND QUESTIONS:

<sup>11</sup>When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. <sup>12</sup>He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>The blood of goats and bulls and the

ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. <sup>14</sup>How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

<sup>15</sup>For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

<sup>16</sup>In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, <sup>17</sup>because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. <sup>18</sup>This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. <sup>19</sup>When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. <sup>20</sup>He said, “This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.” <sup>21</sup>In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. <sup>22</sup>In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

1. *What does the blood of Christ do for us?*
2. *How is our redemption an eternal redemption?*
3. *The word translated “will” here could also be translated “covenant.” How is the covenant of Jesus his Last Will and Testament?*

## DAY FOUR READING AND QUESTIONS:

<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. <sup>26</sup>Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup>Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

1. *Why is it significant that Jesus offered himself once?*
2. *In what sense will the second coming of Christ bring salvation? Are we not already saved?*
3. *Why do you think this passage mentions that we are destined to die? Is this an encouraging message?*

## DAY FIVE READING AND QUESTIONS:

Go back and read the entire passage.

1. *Why is blood so important in this passage? Why is biblical religion so bloody? What place does such violent language have in a peaceful religion like Christianity?*

2. *What is the significance of "once" or "once for all" in this passage?*
3. *What is the significance of "copy" in this passage? What is more real or genuine, an original or a copy?*

## MEDITATION ON HEBREWS 8:6-9:28

The genuine article is always more valuable than a copy. Whether paintings, baseball cards, or famous signatures, we want to know if what we have is real or a mere reproduction.

It's the same way with salvation. It's not as if God did not save his people in the Old Testament. He did. He led them out of Egypt, delivered them from their enemies, and gave them a system of sacrifices to forgive their sins. However, as wonderful as his covenant love was to them, it pales in comparison to his grace in Christ. Indeed, in light of what Jesus has done for us, their covenant was merely a copy, a shadow, or a reprint.

That's why the tabernacle furniture is important. Not as Bible trivia, but as a reminder that Christ is our High Priest in the true, heavenly tabernacle. His sacrifice (his own blood) is the real one. All the blood of bulls, sheep, and goats are mere imitations of that great sacrifice. Those sacrifices were offered daily. His is once for all. It is the genuine article that cleanses us completely.

This view of the real and the copy turns our usual way of thinking upside down. Most folks think the physical is real, but the spiritual is shadowy and unsubstantial. The Bible thinks the opposite. Yes the physical is real, but the spiritual is more real—more certain, more permanent, and more final.

Therefore we can put our complete trust in the salvation Jesus brings. It is real. It is genuine. God himself, by his oath and promise authenticates that salvation. Not only can we trust it, but we wait for

it. Waiting for the time when Jesus returns. Waiting for the real thing.

“Our Savior, give us faith to believe you are real. May we trust your salvation until that day when you return and we see you face to face.”