

Sermon on Hebrews 9: 15-18.27-28.

The grace of our Lord IX, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all
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For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant (Testament/diatheke of the Gospel), 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 (Law). In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same IX Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

1. Christ is the mediator of a new covenant (Testament/diatheke of the Gospel)
 - 1.1. that those who are called
 - 1.1.1. may receive the promised eternal inheritance
 - 1.2. now that he has died as a ransom
 - 1.2.1. to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant (Law).
2. In the case of a will,
 - 2.1. it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it,
 - 2.1.1. because a will is in force only when somebody has died;
 - 2.1.2. it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.
3. This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood.
 - 3.1. Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,
 - 3.1.1. so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many;
 - 3.1.2. and he will appear a second time,
 - 3.1.2.1. not to bear sin,
 - 3.1.2.2. but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

1. Christ has instituted a new Testament: Lent/Easter.

- 1.1. Goal and destination for mankind: Eternal inheritance (Creation & Salvation)
- 1.2. Malady: Sin, guilt and human delinquency
- 1.3. Exit from Paradise and God's presence:
- 1.4. New testament takes an old one for granted even if it is outdated and outlived its prime and time.
 - 1.4.1. 1st Covenant at Sinai: Do this and you will live!
 - 1.4.2. 2nd Covenant is the new Testament in IX blood: Jerusalem - Golgotha – Good Friday/Easter
- 1.5. Means: Ransom - suffering, death & resurrection
 - 1.5.1. Jonah is a ransom for those people in the storm on the sea. So he is thrown into the ocean so that the rest will go free.
 - 1.5.2. Simeon offers himself as ransom for his brother Benjamin, when he's found with that silver chalice of Joseph's.
 - 1.5.3. So – we were held captive by sin, death and devil – IX gives himself as ransom.

2. Will and testament

- 2.1. Personal stuff and property: As long as your alive things can change.
 - 2.1.1. You can win/lose: *Wie gewonnen, so zerronnen*. Easy come, easy go. Afrikaans: "*Erfgeld is swerfgeld!*" But even while you are still alive things can change dramatically.
 - 2.1.2. Think about the husband, who leaves all and everything to his wife & children, but then he gets older, sick and tired of his wife, divorces her and marries another one and now transfers all his belongings and inheritance to his new girlfriend – leaving the first one a widow, destitute and forsaken.
 - 2.1.3. So while you're alive the testament is still open. Only when your dead is it sealed and a done deal! When your dead, the distribution of your treasures and things is about to happen.
 - 2.1.4. Jesus instated and instituted a new testament: On the night when he was betrayed ...
 - 2.1.4.1. Death/Dying
 - 2.1.4.2. Cross – Temple – Ransom – Curtain tears from top to bottom. The way to God, heaven and eternal salvation is open, cleared and admission is free!

3. So Jesus died,

- 3.1. to underline the validity of his testament, his full ransom and vicarious sacrifice.
- 3.2. Old Testament had a variety of offerings –
 - 3.2.1. thanksgiving and remembrance and glorification too,
 - 3.2.2. but the ones concerning debt, forgiveness, ransom etc demanded the spilling of blood e.g. animals
 - 3.2.2.1. (more or less valuable: pigeons, lambs, oxen/bulls)
 - 3.2.2.2. Human sacrifice (Infanticide): Story of Abraham & Isaac.
- 3.3. IX sacrifice is also a blood sacrifice to take away the sins of the world: Once & for all!
 - 3.3.1. Pure & absolute & vicarious & efficient & sufficient & perfect.
 - 3.3.2. There's left nothing outstanding.
 - 3.3.3. Not gold or silver
 - 3.3.4. Precious blood of the innocent and most holy Lamb of God.
- 4. He will come again – a second time:
 - 4.1. Not to take away sins
 - 4.2. But to bring salvation
 - 4.2.1. To those, who are waiting for him.

The peace of our Lord be with you always + Amen.

Hymn: 431 Not all the blood of beasts...