

The Better Sanctuary
Hebrews 9:1-28
10-30-22

Sanctuaries are important because they allow us to commune with God.

I. THE OLD WAY

1. Earthly Sanctuary

"An earthly place of holiness"

Hebrews 9:1-5 – *"Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail."*

2. Repetitive Sacrifices

"Priests go regularly", "Once a year"

Hebrews 9:6-7 – *"When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. 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."*

3. External Purification

"Deal only with food and drink and various washings"

Hebrews 9:9-10 – *"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. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order."*

II. THE NEW WAY

1. Heavenly Sanctuary

"Not made with Hands"

Hebrews 9:11 – *"But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation."*

2. Once For All Sacrifice

“He entered once for all into the Holy Places”

Hebrews 9:12 – *“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, thus obtaining eternal redemption.”*

3. Internal Purification

“Purify our conscience from dead works”

Hebrews 9:13-14 – *“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. 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!”*

GROWING DEEPER THIS WEEK

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. What does the structure of the old tabernacle communicate about the character of God? What does it communicate about us?
3. What does it mean that Christ’s work on the cross eliminates the division between us and the Most Holy Place? Why does this matter for us as Christians?
4. What does it mean for your conscience to be purified “from dead works”?
5. The High Priest was a mediator between God and man. How does Christ’s role as mediator differ from our cultures understanding of a mediator? How is His role better?
6. How does knowing that Christ has established a new and better way to approach God encourage you in your Christian walk?

READ ISAIAH 59:1-15 together as a group

7. What does this passage say about our state as Humans? Why can’t we approach God in this state?
8. How does our human condition limit how we approach God?

NOW READ ISAIAH 59:15-20

9. Compare v.9 with v.16-17. What do we see in the LORD that is not evident in us?
10. How does knowing this encourage us that Christ is our mediator?