



DIGGING DEEPER

Hebrews 9:1 – 10:18 – a **better sacrifice**

Please take time to read the whole passage
– what was read in the service was abbreviated!

GETTING STARTED

The Old Covenant has already been called “obsolete” (8:31). Here it’s likened to “a shadow” (10:1). Think through what *positive* points a shadow can have, before moving onto discussing the *deficiencies* of shadows in comparison with “the realities themselves” (10:1)

The Old Covenant – shadows only (9:1-10)

- Are there some aspects of the Old Testament arrangements that particularly stick in your minds? What do they illuminate, and what do they obscure?
- In v5, the writer calls a halt on listing the Temple paraphernalia. How do we make sure that we don’t go overboard about the OT “shadows”, and neglect “the realities themselves” – all of which revolve around the person and work of Jesus?

The New Covenant – the reality (9:11 – 10:18)

- What strikes you about the descriptions “the time of the new order” (9:10) and “the culmination of the age” (9:26)?

- **A sacrifice that really works**

In what ways did the OT sacrificial system fall short ... and, for each of these, how is Jesus Christ a better sacrifice, priest, temple, etc

- **Cleansing for the conscience**

What do you make of this repeated mention of these *feelings* (9:9, 9:14, 10:2-3)? Is it possible that we major too much on the facts of how our salvation was achieved, and how it works, and downplay the emotions that accompany it?

You don't have to openly admit details in your groups, but ... is your conscience ever troubled? What do you do, if and when it is?

What do you understand by the phrase "acts that lead to death" (9:14)? So how should we direct our consciences *away from* such things?

Does your conscience sometimes particularly trouble you when we're about to celebrate the Lord's Supper? Should it? Do we need to be (or feel) particularly holy then?

- **A Saviour who is *for us***

The work of salvation, as the new song puts it, is for both aspects: *for Your glory and our good*. Do we sometimes need some reassurance that God *really loves and wants to save us*, even on our bad days? How does the fact that Jesus is "now to appear for us in God's presence" (9:24) help?

Read Romans 8:31-34, and see the continual thought of "for us" there, too. Take a while to let these words speak comfort to your souls, and perhaps respond together in prayer.