

Sermon series: *Reminders for a Hard Season*

6/4/23 “Good Things Now,” Hebrews 9:16-18, 23-28, NLT

**INTRODUCTION:** Who has been “tested” recently? Some feel like giving up... quitting Jesus, quit trying to live “the Christian life,” isolating, giving in to inner craving, suicide

**MAIN IDEA:** I need to depend on Jesus’ blood rather than what I can do. Why? Here are four reasons.

**I. First, because reliance on what I can do hurts me (8-10)**

Most Holy Place: only 1 person could enter 1 day a year

Holy Place: place of sacrifices, rituals, where others could go

**EX:** good works, trying to be “a good person,” solve problems

A. limits access to God’s Presence (8)

1. we can stay busy “doing”

2. doing isn’t entering

**EX:** ritual, sacrifices, busyness, being a good person

3. may depend on another to get to God

**NOTE:** Discipleship really is about helping another have his or her own relationship with God.

B. does not cleanse my conscience...self-justification

**Conscience (9, 14):** the aspect of the soul that distinguishes between right and wrong –*Zodhiates*;

**ILLUSTRATION:** Thurs. busy, didn’t pause to enter, snappy

**Transition:** By His own blood, Jesus entered the Most Holy Place.

**II. Second, because His blood gives me redemption (11-12)**

**EX:** bottle redemption...I get my nickel back

A. sets me free from sin, spiritual death & authority of devil

B. secures me forever (12)

1. my Creator bought me back to help me become  
who He made me to be

2. He’ll never abandon me

3. forever, as I walk in the light (1John 1:5-10, esp. 7)

**ILLUSTRATION:** set me free from porn, anger, fear of man, feeling inadequate...He’s continuing to free me

**III. Third, because His blood cleanses my conscience (13-15)**

**Cleanse:** to purify (ex: water with bacteria, UV light—“ideal for hospitals, schools, hotels”)

A. when feel guilty about old things, remember His blood...  
free from past, despite devil & others reminding me of it

B. I am justified... made right with God, declared not guilty

C. so I may worship the living God (13-14)

**Worship:** to serve (obey), to “worship”...by serving, singing to, praising, thanking, loving & loving others

1. I worship the living God, who is acting NOW

2. I worship in humility but confidence in Jesus

**ILLUSTRATION:** remember how I treated others...

**IV. Finally, because His blood covers me till He returns (27-28)**

**NOTE:** I was asked why we pray, “Come quickly, Lord Jesus” when so many need to be saved....

A. when He returns... (any moment!)

1. initially: new bodies, clock set, God saves souls

2. finally: 1,000-year reign begins

3. all suffering ends, eternity begins

B. if I die first—I will be judged—I am covered (27)

C. until my salvation is complete (28)

1. salvation more than forgiveness, includes new

body, eternity with Him

2. my enemies are vanquished... death, sin, devil

**ILLUSTRATION:** I don't fear death or devil, I long for His return

**CONCLUSION:** Revelation 12... devil brings terror to earth; we overcome by His blood & word of our testimony

**ALTAR:** Are you covered? Have you been entering? Self-reliant?