

Hebrews 9:11-28

Eternal Redemption

Since I have had kids I have noticed that everything has changed. Suddenly I care about insurance plans, school districts, I went out and did something that I used to make fun of other guys for doing, I bought a minivan. But man now that I have one those sliding doors and room for 8 with cargo, you can't beat it! I guess since I have started a family with my wife the more I see how precious life is and the more I want to pursue things that last for my children. I want them to have something that lasts. Can anyone else relate with me? Why is it that we all desire for what we do in this life to outlast us and outlive us? Why do we have this longing for eternity? Well the Bible tells us that God has put eternity into the hearts of each man (Eccl 3:11) and has also left man restless if they try to find anything eternal outside of God. Thankfully he has made a way for us to last for all eternity. He tell us to store up for ourselves things in heaven where things last for forever. (Matthew 6:20) The way that we last for all eternity is by trusting in him.

We are at the end of our Advent series tonight and as we leave I want to catch us up. The reason I want to catch us up is to show you the climax of the Bible. If I were to come to you and ask you to tell me what the Bible is about and you said Jesus you would be right. But what is it about Jesus that makes him and his story the whole climax of Scripture? Jesus has come to bring us into eternal fellowship with himself - eternal fellowship with a God who is all loving, all caring, all patient, and all kind.

Here is what we have learned over the course of these weeks that we have been together:

- Covenant with Creation - When God created he entered into a covenant relationship with his creation. When God created he created with purpose and that purpose is you and I being the benefactors of knowing him
- Covenant with Abraham
- Though we were created for fellowship with God things went terribly wrong when we chose to forfeit worshipping and obeying to rebelliously sinning against the life giving, life sustaining God. But no amount of sinning would keep God from seeing his purpose through. God tells us in the midst of mankind's sinning that he will redeem but how he redeems is specific. A seed will come from a woman who will trample the head of the serpent. God begins to reverse the curse through the

sons of Adam - Seth, Noah, and then Abraham. God says that through Abraham he will restore blessedness to the earth.

- Covenant with David
- The details of God's plan get even more specific as we see that the one coming will not only be the son of Abraham but he will be the son of David. The one coming will be a king but he won't be like David. Where David failed this one coming will remain faithful. Where David lost the throne this one's throne will be everlasting.
- New Covenant
- If you read the Bible closely you will quickly pick up on a pattern. The people in the Bible have a sin problem. They just can't seem to obey. They are held captive by sin. So God delivers a message to his people through his prophets - I will give you a new heart and cause you to obey and I will be your God and you will be my people. But how will God do this? What is his plan?
- Everlasting Covenant

If sin is the problem then there must be a remedy for sin. In the Bible the problem of sin is dealt with by the shedding of blood. Think with me. In the Garden of Eden, after Adam and Eve sinned, God covered their nakedness with the skin of an animal. Blood was spilt to cover their sins, blood was spilt to atone for the wrong that was done. When Abraham is going to worship, how does he worship? Sacrifice. What was the final event that saved the Israelites from death in Egypt? The shed blood of a lamb saved them from death.

So God established a way for sin to be death with - blood sacrifice. So the priesthood was established, the sacrificial was started, but it wasn't meant to last. The sacrificial system was meant to point people towards the final way that God would deal with sin - offering his one and only Son as the perfect Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

The law enslaves but Christ has come to save, and the way that he does so is by his own blood. Let me show you.

The people took advantage of the sacrificial system. So much so that God tells the people to stop sacrificing in Isaiah. And as soon as he tells them to stop sacrificing he assures them that though their sins be as scarlet they will be as white as snow. Ezekiel says the law is not good, not good in that it did not bring life (Ezekiel 20:25)

Then the New Testament opens with this tremendous exclamation that salvation is here. The people are full of hope and anticipation of salvation. So much so that some accuse a strange and eclectic itinerant preacher named John the Baptist as the Messiah. John denies it and sees one in the crowd coming towards him and as soon as he sees him he declares, Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Then, later on, as Jesus is facing his own sacrifice for our sins he gathers with those who are his closest followers and takes bread and breaks it, passes it around, and says, this is my body broken for you, eat it in remembrance of me. Then he takes crushed fruit of the vine and says, this cup is the blood of the new covenant poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins, drink it all of you. (Matthew 26:26-29)

What was Jesus doing? What is Christmas all about? Christmas is all about God fulfilling his purpose to save you and me; to save all who trust in him. And how does God do it - he send his Son, eternal God who is offspring of the Virgin's womb. We sing about it but have the words really sunk in to our hearts? "Mild he lays his glory by; Born that man no more may die; born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth."

Jesus has come to give us eternal redemption. Listen to Hebrews.

READ TEXT

This evening I want to give you just three truths to show you that Christmas is about Jesus giving us eternal redemption:

1. Jesus' Sacrifice Secures Eternal Redemption
2. Jesus' Sacrifice is Once For All
3. Jesus' Sacrifice Means Life For All Who Trust in Him