

Jesus our Mediator Hebrews 9:15-28

The writer is encouraging his friends not to turn back to Judaism because the temple worship was just a shadow, a copy of the reality which is Christ.

Whilst all the talk of blood and sacrifices and covenants seems alien to us, it is highly relevant, because what the writer is talking about is how we can be in relationship with God. That is what covenant is all about, and he tells us that Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant.

A mediator acts as a go-between, someone to bridge the gap between two parties whose relationship has broken down.

Receiving the Inheritance

In view of the fact that one day you will die and face judgment (v27), what inheritance would you want to receive from God, if you could? The writer has told us already that Christ offers us rest: rest for restless hearts, living in fear of death. Rest now and for eternity. Christ has come as our mediator to make it possible for us to receive that inheritance.

But the writer also says that for a will to take effect someone – the person who makes the will – has to die.

But why does Christ have to die for us to receive our inheritance? Why couldn't God just grant us rest and peace, without the need for Jesus' death?

Dying to Give

We all know that sin damages relationships, yet we think things should be different with our relationship with God. But sin does break that relationship, and it is that broken relationship that lies at the root of our fear of death: we are alienated from the giver of life.

In the ancient world, if you broke a covenant relationship, you paid with your life. In the Old Covenant the animal sacrifices were provided as a means of atoning for sin: the animal was a substitute for the sinner.

But animal sacrifices, or any other forms of religion, could never heal the breach in the relationship between us and God. Instead, because of his great love for us, God has made the ultimate sacrifice to restore our broken relationship with him. At the cross Christ took upon himself the curse and the punishment for our failure and sin. He has become the mediator, who brings us back to God and restores our relationship with him.

In becoming the ultimate sacrifice of atonement, Jesus 'put away sin' (9:26), He annuls it and cancels it. So there is nothing in your past, present or future that can keep you from knowing God's love and grace. Sin's power over you has been broken at the cross. He has done for you what you could never have done for yourself.