

THE CHRIST HAD TO DIE **(Hebrews 9:15-17)**

1. To be our Mediator (Hebrews 9:15).

- a. The mediator role mentioned here is different than in other texts.
 - i. Notice that dying was for the purpose of, which is the meaning of for this cause, being the mediator of the new testament.
 - ii. In other texts, Jesus is called a mediator in the sense of mediating between two parties and bringing them together, namely, God and mankind.
 - iii. This is to bring something, the new testament, into existence.
 - iv. He is the surety or security for the New Testament.
- b. Without Jesus dying on the cross, our writer is telling them, there would be no new covenant, or testament.
- c. They have already been shown that a new covenant was prophesied.
- d. All of God's prophecies had come true and the only way this one would come true is by means of the death of Jesus.
 - i. Again, the Jews couldn't believe in a Messiah that died.
 - ii. It went against everything they had been taught.
 - iii. However, if they believed in a new covenant being established, which they should have, they would understand that there had to be a death in order to bring about a new will, which is the meaning of the word testament.
- e. The Christ, Jesus, had to die in order to ensure for us the new covenant.

2. To redeem those under the Old Law (Hebrews 9:15).

- a. The bringing in of the new covenant was to redeem those who lived under the Old Law, or first will.
- b. The word redeem carries the idea of recalling captives from captivity through the payment of a ransom for them.
 - i. The meaning illustrates the situation of sinners being purchased out of sin.
 - ii. Again, our writer is pointing out how awful sin is.
 - iii. He is in a section where he has been writing about the blood of Christ.
 - iv. He has pointed out how powerful the blood is to purge the conscience of men from things that kill, sins.
- c. He now says that Jesus had to die in order to purchase those under the Old Law out of sin.
 - i. God had promised those that lived faithfully that they would receive the forgiveness of their sins.
 - ii. The only way this was possible was through the means of the blood of Christ, the Messiah.
- d. This was not something that the average Jew could ever stomach.
 - i. They did not grasp how bad sin was.
 - ii. Animal sacrifice, to them, was enough.
 - iii. God wanted them to understand the awfulness of sin in order to remain pure from it.
- e. The Christ, Jesus had to die in order to buy back from sin those under the Old Law who were faithful.

3.To allow us to obtain heaven (Hebrews 9:15).

- a.The Christ did not die just for those who lived under the first law or will.
- b.He also died for those who have been called.
 - i.God calls out to us through the blood of Christ, about which we read in the New Testament.
 - ii.It is a powerful call.
- c.God showed us how much He wants us by giving us His only begotten Son.
 - i.Is there a greater sacrifice that could be made than the giving of one's child?
 - ii.Idolatrous practices often called for the death of children to appease the false god.
 - iii.God sacrificed His Son to appease His own justice in order for us to have a way back to Him through Jesus.
- d.What we receive is the promise of eternal inheritance.
 - i.The word translated promise is a legal term.
 - ii.It denotes a summons or promise to undertake or give something.
 - iii.Every time but once it is used in scripture, it is used in reference to a promise of God.
 - iv.Whatever the thing is promised is always a gracious gift, not something earned by the one receiving it.
- e.The eternal inheritance is heaven.
 - i.The Jews viewed themselves as the children of God.
 - ii.In order to inherit something, one is to be a child of the one who's will is in force.
 - iii.This shows, those that answer the gospel call, no matter who they are, are God's children, because they are going to receive that eternal inheritance.
- f.The Christ, Jesus, had to die in order to obtain heaven.

4.To bring in the better covenant (Hebrews 9:16-17).

- a.Wherever there is a will, for it to be in force, it is necessary that the testator, the one to whom the will belongs, be dead.
 - i.There is no such thing as an inheritance from someone who is living in the legal sense of the term.
 - ii.If you receive something from someone before their death, it is a gift, not an inheritance.
- b.As long as the testator is alive that will has no force.
- c.The better, new covenant, or will, could not come into force as long as Jesus was alive.
 - i.He had to die in order for it to be in force.
 - ii.As long as Jesus lived, the first testament was still in place.
 - iii.This is why Jesus kept the law while He was on earth.
 - iv.He understood this and knew that He had to die, shed His blood, in order to bring in the new testament.
- d.The Christ, Jesus, had to die in order to bring in the new will.