

Hebrews 9:15-21

Facts about the Will and Covenant

vs.15- "for this cause"- this phrase links vs.14&15 together

(because He offered Himself and purged the conscience of man, He has become the Mediator)

Truth- the 1st covenant could never remove guilt or the penalty of sin and yet people were saved even before the 1st Advent

- they only received the promise of eternal inheritance through faith, but it was unfulfilled until the Cross- they were saved looking forward to the promise of His sacrificial death (These are the ones mentioned in Matt.27:51-53)

*God credited them for what Christ would do because of their obedience (4:3, I Pet.1:19-20) (In God's eyes, this was finished before the foundation of the world) His foreknowledge

Truth- the Old Testament sacrifices were never means of salvation- they were marks of faithful obedience and symbols of the Perfect Sacrifice to come

- "called"- (kaleo)- to be invited, or particularly, those who have responded to an invitation (Obedience is always the attribute of the response)

- "might receive"- this is future tense as he is referring to those who were looking toward it (vs.16-17)- "testament- (diatheke) a will in regards to a last will and testament

- these verses attest to the fact that a will cannot be enforced while the one that made the will is still alive (a death must happen before it can be put into force)

- "testator"- the person who creates or draws up the will

*what is mentioned here is the same as a will today- no one can receive any inheritance unless the testator dies

Truth- also, a will can be changed many times as long as its maker lives, but once the testator dies, what was said or wrote down goes into force

*the nature of Christ's death satisfies the requirements of both a will and a covenant

(Under the covenant, an appropriate sacrifice must be made, and His death set the will in force)

vs.18- "first testament"- since the writer is comparing Law and grace, he is referring to the Mosaic Law (Levitical)

- "dedicated"- (egkainizo) to initiate

- "blood"- in the Bible, blood is attributed to life (for blood to be offered, life had to be sacrificed)

*even the Mosaic Covenant began with a sacrifice (Ex.24:8)

vs.19- these verses describe the inauguration of the blood dedication of the people (Ex.24:1-8)

- "blood, scarlet wool, and hyssop"- these items were used during the Passover (Ex.12:22)

fore cleansing of lepers (Lev.14:4) and the Red Heifer ceremony (Num.19)

*hyssop is an aromatic shrub related to the mint family- branches were gathered and was dipped into the blood and water and used to sprinkle that which was deemed holy

- "book"- God's words spoken to Moses regarding the Law and covenant

*Moses sprinkled the book and the people as both were to be consecrated unto God

vs.20- "enjoined"- (entellomai) to order or command something to be done

*Remember- the Hebrews had agreed to this more than once (Ex.19:8, 24:3, 24:7)

*this verse shares similarity with the words of Christ in Matt.26:28

(The disciples were well aware of Moses' words he spoke then and fully understood Jesus)

*Jesus's words meant- #1- He would be sacrificed #2- His blood would ratify the New Covenant

vs.21- this event happened later as the Tabernacle had not been constructed when the people and book were sprinkled

- even though the Old Testament doesn't specifically record the sprinkling of the Tabernacle, Exodus 40:9 and Num.7:1 mentions Moses anointing and sanctifying it and all the vessels (God's people, God's Word, God's house, and all that are His are to be sanctified and holy)