

Better Promises

Hebrews 9:15-28

The Lord has given us a table at which to feast, not an altar on which a victim is to be offered; He has not consecrated priests to make sacrifice, but servants to distribute the sacred feast.

-John Calvin

- I. The Anticipation of the Old

II. The Anticipation of the New

Into the Bible

The author of Hebrews points out in verses 9 and 24 of this chapter that the Old Testament system of sacrifices was but a symbol of things to come—insufficient but pointing forward to the need for a Messiah to come. Under that system sacrificial offerings were frequent and repeated. Now under the new covenant we practice communion frequently and repeatedly. What are some similarities between these practices and what are some key differences in why and how we participate in communion?

Why are the sacrifices God mandated for sins under the old covenant so bloody (v.22, Leviticus 17:11)? How does this relate to Paul's statement in Romans 6:23? We think of blood as staining things not cleaning them, why do Christians claim to be washed by the blood of Christ?

Application

When Christ returns, he will come in judgment (2 Timothy 4:1, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 20:11-16). But the author of Hebrews points out why we can wait in confident anticipation of that judgment. What gives us hope and peace looking forward to his return?

For Families

Talk with your children about *why* Christ had to die for our sins.