

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
Paul Gunn, Pastor

Sermon Title: Two Things From Which No One Is Exempt, Hebrews 9:16-28
Date preached: May 24, 2015

INTRODUCTION: There is one universal law from which no one is exempt!

Today, we are going to examine this law and what it represents. There are two points to my message:

1. There is a universal law, from which no one is exempt!
2. There is one universal Savior from which no one is exempt!

First, THERE IS A UNIVERSAL LAW, FROM WHICH NO ONE IS EXEMPT.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 9:16-22 ¹⁶ *In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, ¹⁷ because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. ¹⁸ This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. ¹⁹ When Moses had proclaimed every command of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. ²⁰ He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." ²¹ In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. ²² In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

EXPLANATION: There is a law we cannot get around. We cannot pay our way around it. We cannot bargain our way out of it. It is the law. This law I am talking about is the most basic of all laws. It is a law which was not made by man. It was made by God and here it is: *Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

We can rationalize all we want. We can discuss until we lose our voices from discussing so long, but there is no getting around this most basic, foundational, and first law of God.

When Moses took the blood of the animals and sprinkled it on everything, it was a reminder that the sins of the people had a penalty, and that penalty had been paid for sin. Now you might think this was terribly harsh, but look at the mercy involved. People did not have to die for their sin. Animals died in their place.

So, the first covenant between God and people was put into effect with blood, even though as we know from the earlier messages from Hebrews, the first covenant was inadequate. This is because it was only a shadow of what was to come.

ILLUSTRATION: I have with me some U.S. Savings Bonds bought years ago by two people that are now in heaven. Aaron and Dorothy Phelps were members of the church I served in Texas twenty years ago. They were some of the best people I've ever known. Aaron Phelps was in his 80s, and I was in my 20s, but we were like brothers. When Susan and I started having children, we decided to name our oldest son Aaron after our good friend.

As a gift for my son's birth, Aaron and Dorothy sent these U.S. Savings Bonds.

They have matured, and soon we'll be cashing them in to help out with something specific for our son. I don't believe Aaron and Dorothy ever thought I'd be using these savings bonds as an illustration in a sermon, but here it goes. Now listen to this. These savings bonds are a promise of a future payout. Having the bonds are good (because they are a promise), but cashing them in at maturity is better!

EXPLANATION: Now, the old covenant was good, but the new covenant is better. The first covenant was put into effect with the blood sacrifices of animals. Really, it was merely a deposit, or a savings bond, a promise of maturing sometime in the future. The old covenant matured at the crucifixion and was exchanged for the new covenant!

Just as there is a universal law from which no one is exempt,

Second, THERE IS ONE UNIVERSAL SAVIOR FROM WHICH NO ONE IS EXEMPT!

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 9:23-28 ²³ *It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.* ²⁴ *For Christ did not enter a sanctuary*

made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.²⁵ Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own.²⁶ Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.²⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

EXPLANATION: In these verses, we see that the things in the tabernacle are copies of heavenly things, and perhaps we need a study of the tabernacle to provide deeper understand of these verses.

According to these scriptures, it was okay for these copies to be purified by the animal sacrifices. But, things in heaven must have better sacrifices.

Moses entered the sanctuary made with human hands that was a copy of heaven with sacrifices on behalf of the sins of people that were adequate for the time, but ultimately inadequate for eternity. And, then priests took over and did these rituals over and over.

Now listen to this, Jesus entered heaven, not a copy of heaven and not made with human hands, to appear on our behalf. He only appeared once because the sacrifice of his blood was adequate to pay for all the sins of mankind. Verse 28 says, "*The sins of many.*" It does not say, "*the sins of all.*" Why not? Because people who do not repent of sin and do not accept Jesus as the substitutionary atonement for their sins are not forgiven.

Verse 28 also tells us that Jesus is coming again, not as a sin bearer but as a bearer of salvation.

ILLUSTRATION: Let's go back to the savings bond. Even though we are living in the new covenant, the promise of Christ's return is like a savings bond waiting for maturity. Those who have been saved are waiting for salvation to be realized and culminated when Jesus returns.

APPLICATION: Now, do you think the people of the old covenant ever doubted there would be a Messiah? Maybe a few did, but overall, no. They were confident a Messiah would come someday. Now, as people of the new covenant, we should be even more confident Jesus will return someday, and then our salvation will be fully realized!

Now let's review:

- Old covenant, good; new covenant, better!
- Moses, good; Jesus, better!
- Many animal sacrifices good; Jesus' one time sacrifice, better!

Think about it today. We are children of the new covenant. We are living in new covenant times.

Listen to this scripture—

SCRIPTURE: I Peter 1:18-20 ¹⁸ *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, [in other words it could not be bought] ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. [Look at this: He was chosen before the creation of the world.]*

SCRIPTURE: For sake of those who were not here last week, let me repeat Revelation 13:8 *the Lamb of God was slain from the foundation of the world.*

Now, there are other scriptures which talk about what was decided and done before the foundation of the world.

EXPLANATION: The best way I can explain it is like this: Before the world was created, everything was all said and done. Jesus was already crucified, and God's grace prevailed throughout all of eternity, even though nothing had yet been created. But, then God, being the creative God he is, created something huge and beautiful. It was called earth. And, he put this interesting thing called time into motion. Then he created many things. Then he created people, the capstone of his creation.

And, he gave people a choice, but they made a bad choice...and God created a way for them to be forgiven because he loved them so much.

And, then after thousands of years passed, something happened in a way I cannot fully describe, because I cannot fully understand it. This Jesus was slain before the earth entered this dimension in which we live. He entered human time and human space, and he died on a manmade cross in human time and in human space, even though the Bible tells us Lamb of God was slain from the foundation of the earth.

Just think what it would be like if God had not taken on human flesh. We would have instruction telling us, before the world was created, the Lamb of God was slain for our sins and that's all we would have. We would be required to believe in something which happened before anything was created. And, I guess we could believe that, but God went a step further...

God, because he first loved us, brought it all down to earth. This did not happen in a galaxy far away. It happened right here. God allowed men and women to see Jesus—God himself—on the human level. He allowed men and women to see a Savior born in human flesh. He allowed men and women to watch the suffering Jesus and experience human pain.

And, he took men and women on a tour to face their ultimate fear: death. And, people watched with human eyes as his dead body was taken off of the cross and taken to a tomb. And, then God, because he first loved us, allowed men and women to see that death is nothing to fear...because of the Resurrection.

Now do you see why God took something which happened before the foundation of the earth and allowed it to happen inside human history? He did it so people could experience the crucifixion with their own eyes and their human emotions. He did it so it would be deeply personal to each one of us. He did it so we can relate to the supernatural in human terms, because that's all we know.

Again, I am not asked to believe only in the Lamb which was slain from the foundation of the earth, but to believe in the Jesus Christ who was both fully God and fully man. Jesus, who endured the pain and agony of the cross, rose again, appeared too many, ascended to heaven, and promises to return again to take us to be with him forever.

Why would I ever doubt such a Savior? I could not—because I, in my limited human way, have had a firsthand experience with this supernatural Savior.

And, now we come to a time of decision—

This Jesus, is he your Savior and Lord? If you believe something in something other than Jesus are you willing to put it aside and follow him? You may ask, “Are you telling me to disbelieve all I’ve ever believed and follow Jesus.” Yes, that’s what I am asking, because it’s what Jesus demands.

To preachers, teachers, students, and anyone else reading or using this message: I have posted this for all to use as you see fit. There is no need to cite me as the source. You are free to delete sections, add your own, or do whatever you want. There is no copyright. My request is that you do not copyright or sell my work. I am sharing my preaching notes in good faith with you because I know the challenges of putting together a lesson, especially when your week gets consumed with other things. Use it and enjoy!

I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

Find me at www.thbc.com Click on sermons or YouTube channel: Pastor Paul Gunn
Thanks to Judy Andrews and Nancy Claire Smith for their editing assistance.

Sincerely, Paul Gunn
Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
Nashville, Tennessee
USA