

SERMON OUTLINE

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

'Jesus: Simply the Best' - 13

Hebrews 9 v1 - 14

'Dealing with the problem of a guilty conscience'

Key Texts - v9 & v14

Context - See - v1a. The writer has been speaking about the wonder and glory of the new covenant in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. See - 8 v8b - 12. Here in this passage (9 v1 - 14) the writer is giving us a contrast between the first (the old) covenant and the new covenant. The reason for this (see - 8 v12) is that there were believers in the fellowship who just couldn't believe this covenantal promise of sons being remembered no more - their guilty consciences wouldn't let them believe it. And so the writer, therefore reminds them of the wonder and glory of the new covenant in the gospel of Jesus which alone is able to deal with a guilty conscience. He does this by contrasting the earthly tabernacle (v 1 - 10) with the heavenly tabernacle (v11 - 14).

1. THE EARTHLY TABERNACLE

(see diagram overleaf)

This diagram is not only a physical plan of the tabernacle - it's a spiritual plan of the gospel.

Key Point - The two rooms in the tabernacle were separated by a curtain, symbolising the sin that separates sinful man from a holy God. See - Is 59 v2.

Note - The ministry of the priests in the tabernacle was not enough to deal with the guilty conscience of the sinner. There were 3 reasons for this.....

A. IN THE MINISTRY OF THE TABERNACLE - ACCESS WAS RESTRICTED

See - v6 - 7a.

B. IN THE MINISTRY OF THE TABERNACLE - PARDON WAS LIMITED

See - v7.

C. IN THE MINISTRY OF THE TABERNACLE - CLEANSING WAS TEMPORARY

See - v8 - 10.

2. THE HEAVENLY TABERNACLE

This is Christmas! See - v11a - "When Christ came....." Christ came to do what no earthly priest could ever do - deal with sin, once and for all, and so bring rest and peace to the guilty conscience. See - v11 - 14a. This is.....

A. IN CHRIST THERE IS ACCESS

B. IN CHRIST THERE IS PARDON - "eternal redemption"

C. IN CHRIST THERE IS CLEANSING

Note - This cleansing is inward, not outward! See - v13. And it's something that we subjectively experience. See - v14a.

Note - This is practical Christianity! See - v14b.

