

the Royal

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9

Week 13: "Loyalty Part 3"

This week we completed the study of how to study Old Testament Law, and Pastor Miles showed us that there are (2) aspects of the Law:

1. The "letter of the law."
2. The "spirit of the law."

As a group we will look at Leviticus 17:11, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life." With this verse we will examine what the letter of the law is, or the strict observance of the law. And then we will look at the spirit of the law, which as Christians is the most important element we need to observe and study. The spirit of the law in Leviticus 17:11 is found descriptively in Hebrews 9:11-15, 10:1-18. We will narrow the focus of our study in the Hebrews passages just listed. Some questions to consider in leading the discussion should be:

1. What did the law in Leviticus 17:11 mean to the Israelites at that time?
2. How do the passages in Hebrews 9:11-15 and 10:1-18 require us to respond to the law in Leviticus?
3. Does our understanding of these passages reflect the spirit of the law? In other words how do we react to these truths of Scripture?

If you are unable to follow the entire study, the points listed above should be able to help you focus your study on a few key points. Enjoy the study and we pray that the Spirit will teach you and encourage everyone in the group to grow in their knowledge and love for Jesus.

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion

Opening:

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 12 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

Recap Week 12 Weekly Challenge:

- 1. Recite 1 Cor. 6:11.**
- 2. Discuss experiences practicing the Discipline of Confession.**

Small Group Sermon Discussion:

- 1. Review the rules of studying Old Testament Law as explained by Miles during the Sunday sermon.**

Sermon Notes ("Read" ONLY, does not contain "Reflect and Respond")

- 1. Identify which of the three relationships the law is giving the Israelites guidance on.**
 - A. Relationship with God
 - B. Relationship with fellow Israelites
 - C. Relationship with Gentiles
- 2. Identify which of the three categories of the law is being taught.**
 - A. Religious Rituals
 - B. Ethical
 - C. Civil

Discovery: Ask what attitude or behavior the laws were teaching the Israelites to be loyal to? Keep in mind, they were required to be loyal to the letter and Spirit of the Law. The letter of the law is the 'word for word' application. The Spirit of the Law represents the 'heart of God' behind the law.

- 2. Review Gal. 3:23-25; Rom. 5:18-21. Discuss the "Read, Reflect, and Respond".**

- 1. Read:** Old Testament law reveals sin, but Jesus satisfied the penalty of sin.
- 2. Reflect:** Your sin cannot be removed by any human effort.
- 3. Respond:** Stop trying to justify yourself and receive the righteousness that comes by faith in Jesus.

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Leviticus 17:11

Read Leviticus 17:11:

This passage clearly defines that the life of the flesh is in the blood. So in order to have proper atonement provided for us, blood needs to be shed. Animals were only a temporary sacrifice until Christ came to provide true sinless bloodshed for atonement of sins. Since this week we are examining the new covenant results that Jesus provided, we will examine Hebrews 9:11-15, 10:1-18, and what exactly Jesus did to fulfill Leviticus 17:11.

Hebrews 9:11-15

- ▶ He came and appeared as a High Priest (v. 11).
- ▶ He is the new and Holy Sanctuary, not made with human hands, like the tent of the ark (v. 11).
- ▶ He ushered in new things that the old couldn't provide, meaning that His sacrifice did what animal blood could never do; perfect atonement (v. 13).
- ▶ **The Goat:** Provided for the sacrificial offering of the people.
- ▶ **The Calf:** A man would sacrifice for himself and his household.
- ▶ **The Ashes of a Heifer:** The heifer was burned with cedar, wood, hyssop, and scarlet wool. The ashes are then mixed with water to symbolize cleansing. This is done for anyone who came in contact with a dead body, or even entering a tent where a dead body lay (cf. Rom. 7:24; Num. 19:1-22).
- ▶ But now Christ has provided the proper fulfillment to completely replace the necessary sacrifices listed above. The above sites a few of the necessary things the Christ (Messiah) had to fulfill. Christ fulfilled over 365 prophecies in the Old Testament.

Hebrews 10:1-18

- ▶ The law was only a shadow of what Christ came to do (v. 1).
- ▶ The sacrifices were to remind of sin yearly, and needed to be atoned for (v. 3).
- ▶ Verses 5-7 are a quote from King David prophesying about the necessity of the perfect redemption of sin in Psalm 40:6-8.
- ▶ The result, or subjected effect, of Christ's atonement on the cross is He was a single perfect offering for all who are being sanctified. Sanctification means to be cleansed, or to be set apart (See note on **Ashes of a Heifer** above).
- ▶ Read Leviticus 17:11 first, then read Hebrews 9:11-15, 10:1-18 as a group.

Reflect Leviticus 17:11:

1. Discuss the "letter of the law" as defined in Leviticus.

- ▶ The "letter of the law" is the strict rules that needed to be observed.

2. Discuss the "spirit of the law" as defined in Hebrews 9:11-15, 10:1-18.

- ▶ The spirit of the law is what the fulfillment of law that Christ completed means for the New Testament Church, and individual people.

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Leviticus 17:11

(continued)

Respond Leviticus 17:11:

1. Heb. 10:17 states, "I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more." Why as Christians do we have such a hard time to accept this truth?
2. Is there anything in your life that is hindering you from accepting this truth?

Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (July 26-August 1)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** "And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." **Hebrews 10:10 (ESV)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through www.studylight.org and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a "spiritual discipline" that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Service.**

With this discipline we want to encourage you as a group to get out into the community individually and corporately. The mission and vision of our Pastor is to be a "Do Something" church. We do not have to only do this quarterly as a congregation, but we have a responsibility to do this at our jobs, schools, marketplace, etc. Always sharing the gospel by words, and showing the gospel by actions and service is so important, and what a privilege we have that God allows us to serve in this capacity.

So within the next week or so, see where you and your groups can serve the community and minister the gospel to those that need to hear it.

When you do it we would love to hear about it. Log on to <http://www.therocksandiego.org/smallgroups/#home> and share your story of how the Lord used you to minister to the lost.