

# Hebrews 9:15-28: Did You Cash the Mega Millions Ticket God Gave You?

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## I. Introduction

Life is a long struggle. There are problems at home, problems in the playground, problems in high school, problems in college, problems in relationships, problems at work, problems about the future, and on and on. What if you knew that someone would always be there to clean up after every mistake? And what if they didn't just take care of the mistake, but the guilt and shame you felt? And what if someone could guarantee that at the end of it all, when all is said and done, you would end up victorious?

## II. Hebrews 9:15-28: Are You Still Sitting on the Winning Mega Millions Ticket God Gave You?

Under the Old Covenant there were many barriers in getting to God. Only one man out of the entire human race could enter God's presence and not to fellowship with God or to get help but to atone for his and the people's sins. This entire system was temporary until God replaced it with a better one, especially because it could not make anyone perfect in regard to sin. It could only clean the outside but not the guilty conscience inside. This is why Christ came to establish a New Covenant, one that could make the worshipper clean inside and out in order to serve the living God.

**9:15-22**, Jesus came to be our Mediator who reconciles us to God through the New Covenant. God wants us back with Him, but because of our sin, we can't go near Him until someone cleanses us completely. Therefore, Christ ratified the New Covenant with His blood in order to free us, to deliver us from our transgressions so that we could receive an eternal inheritance—not just heaven, but everything we have in Christ: freedom from our sins, no more death penalty hanging over us, we're now part of God's family with the ability to obey Him, Jesus is there to intercede and help us anytime we need it, and He gives us access to God's presence (2:11, 14-15, 18; 4:15-16; 5:9; 6:19-20; 7:25; 8:10-12; 9:12, 15).

Wills work this way, i.e., in order for the beneficiaries to get their inheritance, the one who wrote the will has to die. So Christ died to give us an eternal inheritance. In fact, that's how the first Covenant was ratified; it too was signed with blood: Exodus 24, after Moses read the entire Law to Israel and they agreed to obey it, he ratified the covenant with the blood of an animal, i.e., he sprinkled it on the covenant, the people, and the articles in the tabernacle (the Old Testament Scriptures don't mention the cleansing of the articles in the tabernacle, but the author of Hebrews does and so does Jewish historian Josephus in his *Antiquities of the Jews*). This ritual was done in order to ratify/sign the covenant and because these things had to be purified with blood for without the shedding of blood there is no purification, there is no remission (forgiveness, pardon) of sins—someone has to pay for the sins.

**9:23-28**, the items in the earthly tabernacle had to be purified with blood because they were made by sinful hands. But the items in the heavenly tabernacle required better blood to purify them. Why did the heavenly tabernacle need purifying? Because Satan defiled it: Satan was once the most beautiful and wisest angel that the Lord had made. He was the worship leader of heaven and the protector of God's throne until his heart was lifted up because of his beauty. At that moment he decided that he was going to be God (Isaiah 14:12-14) and he rebelled and persuaded a 1/3 of the angels (Revelation 12:4) to follow him, thus, defiling the heavenly tabernacle, Ezekiel 28:11-19. But Jesus' blood purified it.

And Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice also put away man's sin forever. This is man's only option because it's appointed for all men to die once, then comes the judgment. But for those who have accepted Jesus' gift of salvation, He becomes their substitute, the One who bears their sins. They will never face this judgment (John 5:24).

And one day Jesus will return, He will appear a second time but his time it will have nothing to do with sin—that has been paid in full. This time He will return to complete our salvation, i.e., He will establish His Kingdom and grant us a resurrection body like His (1 Corinthians 15:51-55). Thus, one day we will suffer physically no more. But as the author has revealed throughout his letter, Jesus' salvation is available to us now. We have access to His help, guidance and intercession now (2:18; 4:15-16; 7:25). To not utilize everything He's given us is like having the winning ticket to the Mega Million's lottery and never cashing it in.

**Jesus guarantees a bright future for you and He promises to be there every step of the way.**

One day Jesus is going to return. He will establish His Kingdom and you will get to reign with Him. Until then, it seems like we're stuck in this miserable life. We can't wait for His return so we can experience a life free from the heartache and disappointment of this one. But Jesus didn't just come to set everything right in the future. He came to give us an abundant life now, to free us from the things that keep stopping us. He came to give us the ability to know and obey God. To forever remove the guilt and shame attached to our sins. And every time we fail, every time we mess up, He promises to pick us up, dust us off, and set us on the right path again. And to give us peace of mind, He promises that when He returns He will set everything right so that after everything is said and done, we'll be OK.

### III. Conclusion

*And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. .... For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another -- He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*