

HEBREWS 9:22 CONCERNS THE REPLACEMENT OF THE OLD COVENANT WITH THE NEW COVENANT

Hebrews chapters 9 and 10 compare the Old Covenant (the Law of Moses) with the New Covenant (the Law of the Spirit of life).

The first covenant was put into effect with blood sprinkled on the articles of the Tabernacle and the people (Hebrews 9:18-21). The blood of the Old Covenant did not cover deliberate sin, only unintentional sin. Deliberate sin had to be cleansed by faith in God who forgives sin freely. The Law of the Spirit in Christ is greater than the Law of Moses because the first Covenant with its blood sacrifices of bulls and goats could never take away sin (Hebrews 10:3). Jesus sets aside the first covenant to establish the second covenant(10:9.) Believers have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (10:10). By one sacrifice Jesus has made perfect forever those who are being made holy (10:14).

The Law required that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no remission (Hebrews 9:22). Remission refers to release from the old covenant to the New.

Verse 22 is reminding us that the Old Covenant did not ever take away sin whereas in the New Covenant sin is removed. The death of sinless Jesus on the Cross condemns sin to the utmost and the resurrected Jesus has the right to remove sin from all creation. Sin is removed from the believer in Jesus through sanctification and physical death. Jesus saves the believer from the penalty of sin by making the believer sinless and righteous before entrance into heaven. Righteousness is credited to the believer at regeneration because God promises to complete His work in the believer. God freely chooses to not count sin against people. Unbelievers are provisionally forgiven of sin and believers are judicially forgiven of sin. The shed blood of Jesus (His death for sin) in verse 22 pertains to the New Covenant and sin removal. So “the remission” is primarily talking about the New Covenant and its sin removal and not about forgiveness of sin. Translators have added words to the text when they say “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. The correct meaning of the text is that without the shedding of blood there is no remission (deliverance from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant). We water down the Gospel when we make it all about forgiveness of sin rather than deliverance from sin. We water down the Gospel every time we say “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.”