

MAIN POINT

Jesus frees us from guilt and ritual and enables us to live in freedom before God.

INTRODUCTION

What's your favorite part of your daily routine? Why?

If you could eliminate one part of your daily routine, what would it be and why?

We accept routines as a part of life, but they can be restricting and tiresome. Some people become attached to rituals and resist change, even when change is positive. Ritualistic religion can become a routine where actions are done by rote and without consideration of their meaning. The readers of Hebrews came from a religion based on rituals. Christ provides freedom from rituals and offers a clear conscience that moves believers to serve Him with a pure heart.

DISCUSSION

> **READ HEBREWS 9:11-15 AND 10:11-18.**

How did Christ eliminate the need for the ritual of sacrifice? Why is this significant to believers?

How did the writer of Hebrews compare Jesus as High Priest to earthly priests?
What difference does this make?

How did Jesus's sacrifice compare to the old system? Why is it superior?

What are some things that people have done in efforts to make themselves right before God?

What about you? Are you ever tempted to try and make yourself right before God based on something you've done? Why do you think we have that tendency?

Why is a cleansed conscience important? How does the condition of your conscience affect the way you serve God?

How does the idea of Jesus being the Perfect Mediator impact your understanding of your need for Him?

Hebrews 10:16 tells us that God writes the laws of His New Covenant on the hearts and minds of His people. What does this mean, and how does it impact the way we respond to Him?

As a result of Jesus's sacrifice, we are forgiven when we trust Christ. How does God forgetting your sins (10:17) when you repent help you deal with guilt? How does it help you deal with sins committed against you?

APPLICATION

What religious attitudes or rituals do you depend on to keep you right with God? What prevents you from fully accepting Christ's sacrifice on your behalf?