



# Living From a Cleansed Conscience: Hebrews 9

by John Himmelberger

## Intro

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Hebrews 9 reveals that maturity is not simply knowing you are forgiven, but living with a conscience that has truly been cleansed. The old system required repeated sacrifices because it could never fully remove guilt. Jesus entered once and for all with His own blood, not to temporarily cover sin, but to completely cleanse the inner man. Mature faith stops living under hidden condemnation and begins living with confident access to God, trusting that the sacrifice of Christ was fully enough and eternally complete.

## My Intention and Assumptions

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I hope that your relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is strengthened through this teaching. My assumption is that you have read or are reading all 66 books of the Bible for context. This is meant to be salt and make you thirsty. You're welcome.

## About the Author

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John Himmelberger is a teacher, pastor, and lifelong learner. With decades of experience walking with Jesus and leading others into transformational truth, John brings a grounded yet radical perspective rooted in Scripture, personal growth, and kingdom living.

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# **Walking in Kingdom Maturity**

## **Hebrews 9 – Living From a Cleansed Conscience**

### **Intro – Bridge from Hebrews 8**

Last week in Hebrews 8, we established something critical.

The covenant changed.

Not improved.

Replaced.

The old covenant managed behavior from the outside.

The new covenant transforms identity from the inside.

God said:

“I will write My laws on their hearts...”

That means maturity is no longer about external pressure.

It is about internal transformation.

But Hebrews 8 leaves us with an important question:

How?

How does a holy God place righteousness inside broken people?

How does internal transformation actually happen?

How can someone be fully forgiven...

and still feel condemned?

Hebrews 9 answers that.

Because the issue was never just behavior.

It was conscience.

Not just what you did.

What still speaks to you after.

Hebrews 9 reveals this:

Jesus did not just come to forgive your sin.

He came to cleanse your conscience.

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## **Focus**

Hebrews 9 reveals that maturity is not living forgiven while still feeling condemned.

It is living with a conscience made clean by the finished work of Christ.

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## **Key Truth**

Maturity is not knowing you are forgiven.

It is living like your conscience has actually been cleansed.

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## **Teaching Flow**

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### **1. Earthly Copies vs Heavenly Reality (Hebrews 9:1–10)**

The chapter opens by describing the old tabernacle.

The outer court.

The inner room.

The lampstand.

The table.

The bread.

The veil.

The ark.

Everything had order.

Everything had symbolism.

Everything pointed somewhere.

But notice this:

It was a copy.

A shadow.

A temporary picture of a greater reality.

## **Truth**

The old system was never the destination.  
It was a visual aid pointing to Christ.

## **Deeper Insight**

People often become attached to the symbol  
and miss the substance.

Religion often falls in love with the structure  
instead of the reality it was meant to reveal.

## **Gold Nugget**

Maturity stops living in the shadow  
and steps into the substance.

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## **2. Repetition Reveals Incompletion (Hebrews 9:6–10)**

The priests entered constantly.

Daily.

Yearly.

Repeatedly.

Why?

Because it was never finished.

If it had worked fully...

it would not need repeating.

Repetition exposed limitation.

## **Truth**

Anything that must be endlessly repeated for acceptance  
reveals incompletion.

Deeper Insight

Many believers still live like old covenant priests.

Constant apology.  
Constant spiritual insecurity.  
Constant trying to get back to God.

Gold Nugget

If you live like access must be constantly re-earned,  
you are thinking old covenant.

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### **3. The Blood of Animals vs the Blood of Christ (Hebrews 9:11–14)**

Now everything shifts.

Christ enters.

Not an earthly tabernacle.

The true one.

Not with the blood of goats and calves.

With His own blood.

This is not symbolic improvement.

This is complete replacement.

#### **Truth**

Jesus did not improve sacrifice.

He became the final one.

#### **Deeper Insight**

Animal blood could cover externally.

Christ's blood transforms internally.

#### **Gold Nugget**

The cross was not God tolerating you.

It was God fully reconciling you.

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#### **4. Cleansing the Conscience (Hebrews 9:14)**

This is the center of the chapter.

“...cleanse your conscience from dead works...”

This is deeper than forgiveness.

This is internal freedom.

A conscience is your inner witness.

It is where accusation lives.

Shame lives.

Self-condemnation lives.

Many believers are forgiven in theology  
but condemned in experience.

#### **Truth**

Jesus did not just remove guilt before God.  
He removed the internal agreement with guilt.

#### **Deeper Insight**

Dead works are not just sinful behavior.

They are all the efforts used to try to feel worthy.

Performance.

Religious striving.

Self-punishment.

#### **Gold Nugget**

A dirty conscience keeps trying to pay for  
what Jesus already finished.

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## **5. Once For All (Hebrews 9:24–28)**

This phrase matters.

Once.

Not repeatedly.

Not annually.

Not when you fail again.

Once.

Forever.

Finished.

### **Truth**

Jesus is not re-sacrificing Himself every time you feel unworthy.

### **Deeper Insight**

Immaturity keeps returning to the altar.

Maturity lives from the altar.

### **Gold Nugget**

You cannot build confidence while secretly believing the sacrifice was insufficient.

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## **6. Confidence in True Access**

Because of this cleansing...

access changes.

Not hesitant.

Not fearful.

Not delayed.

Confident.

Not because you are impressive.

Because the blood worked.

## **Truth**

Confidence before God is not arrogance.  
It is agreement.

## **Deeper Insight**

Humility is not doubting your access.  
Humility is agreeing with what Jesus accomplished.

## **Gold Nugget**

False humility keeps distance.  
True humility draws near.

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## **7. Living Like the Sacrifice Actually Worked**

This is where Hebrews 9 becomes practical.

Do you live like you are forgiven?

Or like you are still on probation?

Do you pray like a son or daughter?

Or like someone trying to earn a meeting?

Do you recover quickly  
or spend days self-punishing?

## **Truth**

Your life reveals what your conscience believes.

## **Deeper Insight**

Many believers trust Jesus for eternity  
but not for Tuesday afternoon.

## **Gold Nugget**

Maturity is when your daily life agrees  
with your eternal position.

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## **What Hebrews 9 Is Really Doing**

Hebrews 6 anchored you.

Hebrews 7 secured your access.

Hebrews 8 changed the covenant.

Hebrews 9 cleanses the place condemnation hides.

The conscience.

### **Immature Life**

- Knows forgiveness intellectually
- Repeats dead works
- Relates through shame
- Approaches God cautiously
- Lives like acceptance is fragile

### **Mature Life**

- Lives from a cleansed conscience
- Trusts finished work
- Relates through confidence
- Draws near boldly
- Lives like reconciliation is complete

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### **Deep Activation**

Where do I still relate to God through shame?

What “dead works” do I use to try to feel worthy?

Do I believe forgiveness...  
or do I live from cleansing?

Where does my daily life reveal  
that I still think I’m on probation?

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## **Declaration**

My conscience has been cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

I do not live under accusation.

I do not perform for acceptance.

I live from reconciliation, not striving.

I draw near with confidence because the sacrifice was enough.

I am not spiritually dirty trying to become clean.

I have been made clean, and I live from that reality.

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## **Final Thought**

Hebrews 9 is not just telling you  
that your sins are forgiven.

It is telling you  
that your conscience can be free.

Not temporarily.

Completely.

(pause)

You are not standing outside the door  
hoping God will let you in.

The blood of Jesus did not just open the door.

It removed the need to stand there wondering.