

### **Connection to Hebrews 9:11-15**

Although the notion of *better* might be different for various individuals, many people desire a life that's better than the one they have. Yet, few are willing to sacrifice now to attain a better life later. Yet, the sacrifice of Jesus gives us a better life not only later, but now as well.

### **Introduction/Opening:**

Most humans are captivated by stories involving sacrifice. We are mesmerized by stories of:

- A parent who gives up his or her life to save the life of a child (children)
- A person who rescues a stranger from peril
- An organ or tissue donor
- Police, firefighter, or military personnel who give their lives to save another

Alternate: Share about someone in your community or congregation who fits one of the above categories.

A major reason this idea of sacrifice captivates us is that it captures the essence of what humans are capable of doing, fully evidenced by what Jesus has already done. Many people who do not "believe in" Jesus will applaud such sacrificial living toward others. Why? Because believing in Jesus provides an opportunity for life, where little hope was left.

### **Outline**

1. The Life gave His life as the Author of life. (Acts 3:15; Acts 2:36)  
Creation was spoken into existence except for mankind. Mankind was formed and given life by the very breath of God (Genesis 2:7). Yet, it was mankind that was responsible for killing the very source of its (and all) life.
2. The Life gave His life to conquer sin and death once and for all. (Hebrews 9:11-14)  
His life was given for the complete redemption and restoration of all Creation (Romans 8). The blood of the animals was offered to purify the flesh, but the blood of Jesus, as God's perfect lamb, was given as an eternal sacrifice to cleanse us completely for all time (Hebrews 9:11-14).
3. The Life gave His life so we might truly live. (Hebrews 9:14-15)  
We have been given life, a holy calling (2 Timothy 1:9), and restored to fellowship with God not to be timid and reserved, but to live our lives for Him because He died for us. (Galatians 2:20)

## **Conclusion**

In Genesis 9:3-5, God permitted Noah to eat of any living thing with the restriction that it must not be living (9:4). Eventually, the Lord would command Moses that the blood is not to be eaten with the flesh (Deuteronomy 12:23-34) because the life of every creature is in its blood (Leviticus 17:11a). But the rest of Leviticus 17:11 says that the blood is given to serve as an atonement for us on the altar.

As the high priest, Jesus makes the sacrifice for others. As the Lamb, He was the sacrifice. His life wasn't taken from Him; He offered it Himself. Sin demands a sacrifice. (Romans 5:8)

At the beginning of the message, it was shown how most humans love a good story about sacrifice. But many reject the story of the greatest sacrifice ever made. This story isn't about sacrifice made for someone else. The story of Jesus' sacrifice is about a sacrifice made for you.

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