

DEAD WORKS

Our lesson text opens with the words, “How much more,” used to continue the discussion on the superiority of the New Covenant blood of Christ to the Old Covenant blood of animals (Heb.9:11-15).

However, this time the discussion is directed towards the cleansing work of the blood of Christ upon the human soul – “How much more will the **blood of Christ** who through the eternal Spirit offered **Himself without blemish to God, cleanse** (katharizo/ f.a.ind 3ps) **your conscience from dead works to serve a living God.**” (Heb.9:14)

- What did Jesus offer to God for the blood of Christ to cleanse us? “_____ without _____ to God.”
- What is cleansed by blood of Christ? _____?
- What is the conscience cleansed **FROM** _____ **TO** _____?
- What does Jesus want us to offer to God on His behalf? (to latreuo/ p.a.infin/ zao/ p.a.ptc)

<p style="text-align: center;">This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of the Dead Works that needs to be cleansed for the Believer to serve a living God.</p>
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1. Pharisaical legalism is one example of dead works that must be cleansed from the conscience to serve a living God (Matt.15:1-9; Luke 11:37-54).

Tradition of Elders

(Matt.15:2) “Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

(Matt.15:3) And He answered and said to them, “Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?”

(Matt.15:6) he is not to honor his father or his mother.’ And *by this* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

Question (Matt.15:1-2) Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

Counter question (Matt.15:3) And He answered and said to them, “Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?”

Scriptures (Matt.15:4-9; Ex.20:12; 21:17; Isa.29:13)

DEAD WORKS LEGALISM

2. **Dead works legalism is the result of man's futile attempt to gain the approbation of God by ritual religious good. Jesus and Paul were both outspoken critics of dead works legalism.**

Controversy existed between the Antioch grace church and Jerusalem legalistic church. It was supposed to have been corrected at the First Church theology conference (Acts 15:1, 5-11).

Note the doctrinal principle of a **little leaven** of (1 Cor.5:6-8) and (Gal.5:7-11) in (Acts 15:19-21, 28-29; 21:21-24).

After the conference, Paul rebuked Peter for talking grace, but walking legalism (Gal.2:11-13). Paul saw it as an attack on the gospel of grace salvation (Gal.2:14-21).

“Dead works, therefore, became the vain effort to relieve a troubled conscience by legal obedience.”
(Hebrew Verse by Verse, pg.302)

3. **Dead works legalism attacks God's grace in the conscience of the believer.**

NOTE: The soul consists of self-consciousness; conscience, mentality, volition, and emotion.

Bible doctrine residing in the soul develops Divine norms and standards of Scriptural right vs. wrong, good vs. evil, moral vs. immoral, and spirituality vs. carnality, etc.

Dead works legalism substitutes God's grace gospel for a works gospel (Gal.1:6-8; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

“Dead works may be associated with good things but possesses no spiritual vitality.” (Hebrews by Thomas, pg.114)

4. **The Mosaic Law, not The Tradition of Elders was designed by God to teach mankind that they are helpless sinners in need of Jesus Christ to save them (Rom.3:10-24; Gal.3:10-11).**

The Mosaic Law was never designed as a means to serve a living God apart from faith in the gospel of Jesus (Gal.3:1-5; Matt.11:28-30).

NOTE: This lesson is to show the danger of false teachings upon the conscience of believers.

(Gal.3:24) “Therefore **the Law** has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.” [Shadow Christology]

(2 Cor.4:2b) “...By the **manifestation of truth** commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.” (2 Cor.4:1-4; 11:3-4)

(1 Tim.1:5) “But the **goal of our instruction** is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” (1 Tim.1:3-7; 4:1-3)

(1 Tim4:2) By means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their conscience as with a branding iron