

## Pause Group - Hebrews 9:15-28

Begin your time together by sharing highs and lows from the past week. Pray together with gratitude for the joys of the week in the lives of your group members and the world. Pray for those dealing with struggles. Pray for the world's struggles.

**Study Questions:** Address the questions your group desires

1. What stood out to you in the readings from the *Hebrews for Everyone* book this week? (pages 97 - 105)
2. Read Hebrews 9:15-22. In what ways, according to the writer of Hebrews, does the way a will works help us understand how a covenant works?
3. The idea of no pardon without bloodshed can seem primitive or barbaric. Yet our modern society tolerates, even fosters, so many things that previous generations, and other civilizations today, would consider barbaric.
  - The point of sacrifice within the OT system was a combination of at least 3 things: 1) humans offering to God something which represented their own true selves, 2) the outpouring of life to signify dealing with sin, and 3) the effects of both of these in the cleansing or purifying the worshiper. Now we go a stage further, even more mysteriously, into the heart of the second of these. Somehow, it seems, the blood of the sacrificial animals was pointing forward to a deeper truth still: that at the heart of the sacrificial system there lies the self-giving love of God.
  - What does Jesus' sacrifice reveal God's love to us?
4. Read Hebrew 9:23-28. Continuing the theme of what is now "better," what more does the writer of Hebrews have to say in verses 23-28 about why Jesus' sacrifice is superior to those of the old covenant?
5. The word in 9:26 that is translated at the "end" or "close" of the ages literally refers to something which joins on to something else, and so makes one or both of them complete. How do verses 26-28 tell us Christ's work is ultimately fulfilled?
6. If you thought you needed to marry your spouse every year, every month, or every week in order to be married, it would mean you hadn't really understood what the wedding ceremony was about in the first place. What does it tell us about Christ's sacrifice that it was something that only happened once for all?
7. What difference does his hope we have in Christ make to you now?
8. How does the complete sacrifice of Jesus strengthen your faith?

**Closing prayer – Lord's Prayer**