

Small Group Discussion Guide — Read Hebrews 9:23-28

- How does the cross deal with “the divine dilemma” that if God is holy and just, and if you and I are sinners under His righteous judgment, then what could compensate for all the debt that we have accrued because of our sin? How can God be both just and forgiving without compromising either divine attribute? Or, to ask it another way, how is it possible for God to be both just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus? (see also Romans 3:25-26)
- The main question that stands over vs. 23-28 is—*why is the sacrifice that Jesus has offered sufficiently ‘better’ than all those under the old covenant?* And Joshua pointed out *three* answers to that question. Do you remember what those reasons were? Which one stood out to you most and why?
- What was it that needed to be purified in heaven? How should that be a source of great comfort for us? How is it meant to be an encouragement as we think about both our past and present sins, and those moments in life when we feel so dirty and defiled by sin?
- Where do we see the finality of Jesus’ sacrifice in vs. 23-28? Where do we see the purpose for it? How did the observation of those *three* “appearances” in vs. 23-28 land on you? (vs. 24, 26, 28) What do each one of them mean? How are they meant to show the sufficiency of Christ’s atoning work?
- What is the analogy or illustration in vs. 27-28 meant to show us? Why the comparison between our death and judgment and Christ’s first and second coming? What does the author of Hebrews intend to emphasize with that comparison?
- Do you think much about your own death and judgment to come? And, in turn, do you think much about Christ’s second coming? Why or why not? Does it fill you with joy and longing or with dread and fear? How might our initial reaction be a good indication of how well we understand the gospel?
- What would it look like, practically, in your life if you were eagerly waiting for His return? How might your life look differently? What needs to change so that your “day-to-day” life would be more characterized by an eager longing with anticipation for his coming? What might be some ways you could grow in this?