

## Hebrews 9:23-28

*Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. 25 Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, 26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

I'm not an organizer. If you've been in my office, you know that I have a bunch of organizational stuff (filing cabinets, shelves, etc.), but unfortunately I don't utilize them as well as I should. It's my attempt at organization, but half-hearted at best. One thing I've learned the hard way, however, is that I need to save receipts. It's no fun having to dig through tons of stuff to find a receipt when a purchase goes bad way sooner than it should, or when you have to make use of a warranty. Do I have a fancy system? No, but at least most of my receipts end up in the same spot now.

Do you carry receipts with you? Most importantly, do you carry *the* receipt with you? What do I mean? Do you carry with you the proof of purchase of your eternal salvation? Your redemption has been paid in full. Heaven is yours. And there is proof of this. Do you carry it with you? Wouldn't it be a shame to lose track of it? Wouldn't you feel panicked if when the time came to present it you couldn't remember where you'd set it? Christ's Word and promise guarantee His gift to you. How attentively are you holding on to them?

Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. He was not offered many times, and need not be offered many times. It is finished, as He said on the cross. All that remains is for Him to return to claim His own, to save those who have been saved from this fallen world. You have been saved. You are not your own. You were bought at a price. Baptism has marked you as His own dear child. In the Sacrament of the Altar, you have received the proof of your redemption with His very body and blood. Your faith has already taken hold of Christ and all that is His is yours through that faith. Have you held on to that receipt, though? Have you taken care to make sure it isn't set aside or worn out?

Maybe you're like me. Maybe you're not an organizer. But there are some things you just have to make sure you keep at the ready and don't lose. Your faith in Christ, which apprehends His sacrifice for sin and awaits His return to save you, is one of those things. Organize your life around that task. Nothing could be more important, because, while salvation is yours as a gift (and your family's), and not as a reward, and while it is an accomplished fact, the price paid in full, that receipt is very important. You can't pay the price for sin. Jesus already has. You can, however, squander it or squirrel it away somewhere you will not easily again find it. Take care. Christ has placed heaven together with His very own person in the palms of your faith. Hang on. Keep that receipt in your pocket. Look at it, yes, even hear it and taste it, in Word and Sacrament. Amen.