

Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness.<sup>2</sup> For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place.<sup>3</sup> Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place,<sup>4</sup> having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.<sup>5</sup> Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

<sup>6</sup> These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties,<sup>7</sup> but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.<sup>8</sup> By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing<sup>9</sup> (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshipper,<sup>10</sup> but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.

<sup>11</sup> But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)<sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.<sup>13</sup> For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh,<sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

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? *After the talk today, there will be a short Q&A session, time permitting*

Next Week:

Join Billy McCurrie, ex-member of a Northern Irish paramilitary organisation, at an interview & talk presented by St Peter's Barge.

**FORMER GUNMAN**

THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2013  
12.05-12.45 p.m. at the Idea Store (Churchill Place)  
1.05-1.45 p.m. at St Peter's Barge (West India Quay)  
8 - 9 p.m. at St Peter's Barge (West India Quay)



Please note that there is no regular lunchtime talk next Wednesday, June 5.

# SPIRITUAL HEALTH

## 'Guilt'

### Hebrews 9:1-14

#### Restricted access (v1-10)

#### The problem of the troubled conscience

- unique layout (v1-5)

- unique access (v6-10)



#### Free access (v11-14)

#### The joy of a cleansed conscience

- what Christ has done (v11-12)

- what difference it makes (v13-14)



The Most Holy Place was a 15-foot (4.6-m) cube, containing only the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:10-22; 37:1-9). It was here that Yahweh would descend to meet with his people in a cloud theophany (divine appearance). The high priest could enter only once a year, on the Day of Atonement (see note on Heb. 9:7).

