

The Old Paths

Volume 20, Issue 13

May 26, 2013

“The Blood Of Christ”

Jarrod Jacobs

Our Lord shed His blood on the cross over 2000 years ago. Yet, it is still as powerful as ever. It has cleansing power, the likes of which has not been equaled by man. In fact in this study, we will see that while there is nothing man can do to cleanse himself from sin, Christ’s blood can cleanse man from every sin! Let us study about our Lord’s shed blood and its meaning and purpose in the lives of people today. Certainly this is a subject worthy of our study.

Christ’s Blood Makes The Forgiveness Of Sins Possible.

I am sure we are already aware of this fact, but it does good to consider some pertinent passages on the subject of forgiveness. First, Jesus said His blood would be “*poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins*” (Matt. 26:28). This happened at the cross. Can we think of anything more wonderful than forgiveness? Forgiveness of our sins is not possible in any other way except through the shed blood of Christ on the cross! This is truly a gift from God.

Read the apostle Paul’s words as he stated the importance of Christ and His shed blood. “*But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets*

bear witness to it -- the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Rom. 3:21-26).

Put simply, there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for “*all have sinned.*” This being true, our Lord justified all and became the “*propitiation*” (sin offering) for all mankind through the shedding of His blood. Therefore, as we believe in Jesus Christ, and do what He has said to do in order to be saved (repent of our sins and be baptized, Rom. 10:16; Acts 2:36-38), we can have forgiveness of sins because He shed His blood for us! What a wonderful thing for men to consider! Without the blood of Christ, there is no salvation. In addition to the statements in the book of Romans, study the books of Ephesians and Colossians. In those letters, the apostle Paul again made it clear that Christ’s blood brought about the forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14).

The apostle Peter wrote to the “*elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and*

Bithynia” and told them that they “*were ransomed ... not with perishable things such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish or spot*” (I Pet. 1:18-19). This same truth applies today. Our redemption did not come through physical power. We cannot “*earn*” our way into Heaven. Rather, Christ’s shed blood made it possible for us to one day see Heaven!

Another text worthy of our study is the apostle John’s words in the book of Revelation. This apostle was banished to the island of Patmos, and was allowed by Christ to pen the following: “*John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you, and peace, from him who is, and who was, and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his own blood*” (Rev. 1:4-5). Truly, we cannot say enough about what the blood of Christ means to every man and woman!

Christ’s Blood Purchased The Church.

We know that Christ promised to build His church in Matthew 16:18. Yet, in addition to this promise, Christ also paid the purchase-price for the church! The apostle Paul declares that Christ’s church was purchased when He shed His blood on the cross. This fact is recorded in the book of Acts when this dear brother met with the Ephesian elders at Miletus for the last time. He told them, “*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood*” (Acts 20:28). He later wrote a letter to the Ephesian Christians

and told them that Christ “loved the church, and gave himself up for her” (Eph. 5:25).

After learning this, how can anyone belittle the importance of the Lord’s church with a clear conscience? Jesus Christ thought the church was so important that He died and shed His blood to purchase her (Jn. 19:33-34)! If it was that important to Christ, it must be that important to me! If the Lord saw the church as a prized possession, I am not going to belittle her! Let us make sure that we hold the Lord’s church in high regard. Something that is this precious, this valuable, deserves our honor and our respect!

Seeing that these things are true, I see it as no coincidence that when one becomes a Christian, and is washed in the blood of the Lamb, that he is also added to the Lord’s church at the same time (Rev. 1:5; Acts 2:47)!

Christ’s Blood Can Be Counted Unholy.

In spite of what Christ has done for us, we see that there are some who would “profane” Christ’s blood (Heb. 10:29). Who are these people? They are the ones who would “go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth” (Heb. 10:26). Therefore, when one voluntarily forsakes God’s laws, whether it be in forsaking the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:25, this is in the context); in using filthy language (Eph. 5:4); in lascivious actions (Gal. 5:19-21); etc., then he is leaving the commands and precepts of God! As a result, he is guilty of profaning Christ’s holy and divine blood.

This is why we need to be reminded daily to stay faithful to the Lord God (Rev. 2:10). We need to

be “steadfast and unmovable” (I Cor. 15:58). We need to continue to “walk in the light, as he is in the light” (I Jn. 1:7). One way we do this is by remembering who we are, and remembering where we once were. The Ephesians were reminded of this when they were told they were once “dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1). At one time they were “separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12). Yet, it was the blood of Christ that brought them “near” to God (v. 13)!

Conclusion

Since we were once in the same position as the Ephesians, let us never consider Christ’s blood unholy or common through willful sin; but let us live according to the will of God as Christ did (Jn. 12:49-50) so that one day we can be with our Lord in Heaven for eternity! How wonderful is the power of the blood of Christ! Let us thank God for His wonderful sacrifice (I Cor. 15:57, II Cor. 2:14, 8:16, 9:15)!

Point To Ponder

“Most people know HOW to be silent. Few know WHEN!”
(Study: Prov. 10:19, 13:3, 17:28, 21:23)

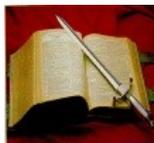
What We Know Is Right

Benjamin Franklin (1812-1878)

We know it is right to “Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly; and with all wisdom *teach* and *admonish* each other by *psalms* and *hymns* and *spiritual songs*; *singing* with gratitude in our hearts to the Lord” — to be “filled with the Spirit; *speaking* to one another in *psalms* and *hymns* and *spiritual songs*; *singing* and making melody in our hearts to the Lord.” This *can* be done, and *we know* it is right; but that a man can make melody in his heart to the Lord “with an organ,” a fiddle, banjo, clarinet, lute, fife, or jew’s-harp, we do not know, nor do we believe it. We want to do what is written, and enjoin it on others, to do it. What is not written we do not want to do. When the Lord so minutely describes *how* we are to do anything, we want to do it in that *way*. The *way* he prescribes will do the thing commanded; some other *way* might not do what is commanded at all.

(From: Book of Gems, p. 107)

Visit our Website:
<http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com>



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!

Come and meet with the church of Christ in Caneyville.

Location: 103 N. Main Street Caneyville, KY

Meeting Times:

- Sunday Bible Study ----- 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship ----- 10:45 a.m.
- Sunday Worship ----- 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study ----- 7:00 p.m.

Watch:

“The Ancient Landmark” Television Show airs on You Tube (www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994) and Insight Cable, channel 6

Listen:

“The Ancient Landmark” Radio program airs on WXMZ, 99.9 FM (10:30-11:00 am) and WLBQ 1570 AM (8:30-9:00 am) Monday-Friday. It is also broadcast online at: thez999.com and beechtreeneews.com
Preacher/Editor: Jarrod Jacobs **Phone: (270) 589-4167**