

## **The Blood of Jesus Christ**

The subject of the Blood of Jesus Christ has been much misunderstood by His church with lots of superstition replacing real Biblical truth. It is important then to look at the Bible and see what God Himself considers to be the truth about the precious blood of His Son and to understand why when someone truly repents of their sin, confessing it to God, they can immediately be cleansed from that sin and completely forgiven and justified before God forever however bad the sins they have committed have been.

It is clear God's whole purpose for the coming of the Lord Jesus was to give eternal life to as many as will believe on Him. So in our look at the Blood of Jesus Christ we must see how His blood works eternally. In Hebrews 10.4 we read that "The blood of bulls and goats can never take away sins, for in them there is a remembrance made of those sins every year". There needs to be therefore something eternal, everlasting, in the blood of Jesus in His dealing with sin for the results to last for ever, and in order for anyone coming to the Lord Jesus, before He returns, to know the effective cleansing power of His blood. John says I write unto you that you don't go on sinning (1 John 2.1). That should be the normal experience of someone who has known the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus; by their fruits you will know them.

In Hebrews 13.20 we read that the "God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ..... through the blood of the everlasting covenant". So here is a covenant, an arrangement, between God and man, which is everlasting and is based on the blood of the Lord Jesus. Jesus in John 6.54 says "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day". So we again see the blood of Jesus linked to eternal life. In Hebrews 9.12 we read that "Jesus entered by His own blood once into the Holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us" and in verse 14 of the same chapter "How much shall the blood of Christ who through the eternal spirit offered Himself to God purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God". So again the blood of Jesus Christ is linked to eternal life, eternal spirit, eternal redemption and the everlasting covenant.

In Leviticus 17.10-14 we read of God's instructions about blood, particularly that the life of the flesh is in the blood and God had given it upon the altar to make "Atonement for your soul". No one was to eat the blood for that very reason as, with the life in the blood, the shedding of that blood was to show that the life had been given. Hence the blood was shed and therefore the life of the beast was given to atone, or to cover up, the sin of the person/nation; for whosever the beast was slain.

So the life of Jesus was in His blood. It is with all of us, but if we look at where Jesus' life came from we see the secret of His blood. In John 5.26 Jesus Himself tells us that that "As the Father has life in Himself so He has given the Son to have life in Himself". The life in God the Father is, and must be, eternal life, it is the very life of God. So therefore must be the life

in His Son be eternal life. I John 5.11 tells us that “God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son”. Therefore the life in Jesus Christ must be eternal and that life must be in His blood.

The problem comes then that we tend to just look at the natural blood of the Lord Jesus. Revelation 1.5 speaks of Jesus loving us and washing us in His blood. That could not be His natural blood. Jesus had blood like anyone else and it worked like natural blood and that blood would have clotted quickly and anyway there are only about 8 pints so it would not have gone very far. Jesus was the son of Man as well as the Son of God and he truly laid down His life for us. His natural life was given and His natural blood was shed to show His life had been given, but at the same time Jesus offered Himself to God through the eternal spirit therefore His eternal life was offered up for us and in a way the eternal life which was in His eternal or spiritual blood was also given for us. It is this blood which washes away sin. It is spiritual because sin is a spiritual problem, it needed a spiritual solution. That is why the Lord can apply His blood to wash us clean; it is available in the spirit. The great wonder about the Lord Jesus is that He was the Word made flesh, a life giving Spirit and therefore able to offer Himself through the Spirit to God and, when things are in the Spirit they are not bound by normal natural laws but become operative in the power of God.

Sin had wrought death, eternal death in Adam and that death has passed onto all humans (Romans 5.12). That death separates humans from God and means that without salvation all would live for ever separated from God. Souls never die; they exist either in life or death. Life, eternal life, with God or death, eternal death, separated from God. Jesus came to bring life where there had been death and to do so He had to deal with the cause of that spiritual death; He had to deal with sin. 2 Corinthians 5.21 tells us that “He (God) made Him (the Lord Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God even in Him”. Jesus was made the very thing that brought death upon humans so that we might live through Him. Hallelujah.

Jesus on the night He was betrayed took bread and broke it. “Take eat this is my body given for you”. He also took the cup and said “This is the blood of the New Covenant/Testament which is shed for many for the remission of their sins”. There was a New Covenant to be established on the blood of Jesus. By the way, the wine in the cup was just a token of the blood to be shed as at that time Jesus own natural blood was still working in His natural body keeping Him naturally alive. In the Old Testament in Exodus 24.8 Moses says the blood he had sprinkled on the people was the blood of the covenant. It was the basis of, the reason, for the agreement between God and the people, so that “God would be their God and they should be His people”. But with the Lord Jesus here is a New Covenant based on His own blood and as we have seen, Hebrews 13 calls it an everlasting covenant. This covenant means that those who receive the Lord Jesus become the people of God and God becomes their God.

Hebrews 9 18-20 confirms that the first covenant was dedicated with blood and in verse 22 the confirmation that almost all things with the law are purged by blood and without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sins. In verses 16 & 17 is the confirmation that for a covenant to be in operation there must be the death of the testator. In other words for the covenant to work there must be a death and for the New Covenant to work there must be the death of the Lord Jesus as He Himself testifies that the covenant is in His own blood. Verse 15 and 16 in Hebrews 9 confirm this saying, that Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant (Testament). A mediator is one who goes between, who negotiates between two points of view. Jesus has gone between us and God as the "man Christ Jesus" (read 1 Timothy 2.5.) Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant that by means of (His) death, for the redemption of the transgressions (sins) under the first testament they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance (Hebrews 9.15). So again the death of the Lord Jesus deals with sin and brings in eternal inheritance. The offering up of the Lord Jesus through death on the cross through the eternal spirit brings in eternal life for all who will receive Him and gives them an eternal inheritance as sons of the living God. Jesus life thus given, replaces the death in those who believe on Him with life (Romans 5.21). It is just wonderful and should open our hearts to the great love of the Eternal God and allow us to understand His great purposes for us and the wisdom of the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament, under the old covenant, the priest went into the Holiest place once a year to make atonement for the sins of the people (Leviticus chapter 16). He did this with the blood of the bullock for himself and the goat for the people, killed at the brazen altar at the entry to the tabernacle of the congregation. The blood was then taken into the holiest place and spread before God on the mercy seat between to cherubim to make atonement for the sins of the people. The mercy seat was above the ark of the covenant in which were the tables of stone on which the law had been written. For the old covenant to work the people had to keep the law. They never did, so the blood spread on the mercy seat covers up the requirement of the law and instead pleads the mercy of God on the basis of the sacrifice made. Hebrews 9 23-26 tells us that the patterns of the things in heaven should be purified with these things but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices. The tabernacle of course was made after the pattern which Moses saw in the mountain. The tabernacle was a copy of the way things are in heaven so that the Lord's presence could abide above the mercy seat. When the tabernacle was finished the Glory of the Lord descended and filled the tabernacle, as it did also the temple which Solomon built years later.

However they were only figures/patterns/examples of the true; it was eternally necessary for someone to appear in heaven for us. This the Lord Jesus did after the sacrifice of Himself once for all to put away sin forever. The blood of Jesus was ministered for us in heaven itself, in the very presence of God. There it is effective, not just for the Jews once a year but for Jew and Gentile, whosoever will come to Jesus, the Bible tells us, for ever.

It is important to realise how powerful sin is and what damage it has caused on the earth. A New Heaven and a New Earth is required because of the corruption caused because of sin. Only the eternal life in the Father, given to the Son, laid down for us, is sufficient to deal with the eternal death caused by sin. That is why Jesus gave His life and shed His blood so that sin could be dealt with once for all, by the sacrifice of Himself. Hebrews 10.14 tells that by one offering the Lord Jesus has perfected for ever those who are sanctified. Sanctification means to be made holy, to be separated, to be “just for God”. It means to belong to God alone. That is why we are redeemed. Redemption is the “buying us back from sin and from satan” by the blood of Jesus. 1 Peter 1.17 and 18 tells us that we are redeemed not with silver and gold but with the precious blood of the Lamb of God, without spot or blemish. Those who receive the Lord Jesus belong to God, they are “just for Him”; He has paid the price for us. Those who belong to God belong to no one else and no one in this world or the next, has any right to them or any power over them.

Hebrews 10 tells us that it is by the will of God that we are sanctified by the offering of the body of the Lord Jesus once for all. The offering of Jesus’ body inevitably involved the shedding of His blood. Jesus of course laid down His life in the will of God. In John chapter 10 verses 17 & 18, Jesus tells us that He lays down His life that he might take it again. “No man takes it from me but I have power to lay it down of myself, I have power to lay it down and power to take it up again. This commandment have I received of my Father”. The Lord Jesus laid down His life Himself. It was not taken away from Him but it was of His own will. Luke 23.46 says “Father into thy hands I commend my spirit and having said thus he gave up the ghost”. Even in death the Lord Jesus was under the will of His Father and still with power over His own life. He could have called 10,000 angels but did not, so he might redeem us to God. Here is the power in His death; stronger than death. In John 19.34 we read the soldiers with a spear pierced His side and forthwith came out blood and water. Jesus’ blood was shed and yet blood and water flowed from His side to show us even in physical terms and as nearly as possible, that this blood had truly been offered through the eternal spirit. We therefore can understand why through this great one offering, by the will of God, and yet in the power of God that the life of the Son of God was given for us. Jesus blood was shed for many to redeem us from all our sin. Hallelujah

Colossians chapter 1 tells us “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled. In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight”

So Jesus makes peace between God and man. This is to reconcile man and God, but on God’s terms and not man’s. Jesus blood is the basis of such a reconciliation where everything which is in humans, which has alienated them in their minds by wicked works, is taken away and replaced by the life of Jesus. (The reconciliation took place in the body of the flesh of the Lord Jesus. It had nothing to do with the wooden cross and all to do with the

death of the Lord Jesus). Therefore whosoever will receive the Lord Jesus can be presented to God holy and without blame for what they have done and without the fear of being “told off” by God for their past sins. It is the same as we have looked at with in Hebrews 9.14 “having our consciences purged from dead works that we might serve the living God”.

Consciences are the places of knowing within our own souls. In John 8 we read of those who accused the woman taken in adultery of being convicted by their own consciences. It is the place where conviction of sin occurs but once the blood of Jesus has worked in the conscience and the dead works are removed the conscience is then aware of the Lord in His holiness and glory. This is the fulfilment of the New Covenant in Jesus’ blood, of the new and living way which the Lord Jesus has consecrated for us. By this we also enter into the Holy place and draw near to God with a heart sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. There is a presentation to God as holy, unblameable and unproveable in His sight. This is real peace, no fighting, no “arguments with God”, no enmity, no being God’s enemies anymore; but real peace, real reconciliation. Anyone truly shown such mercy and grace will surely submit to God and confess “Lord you love me, let my life be lived in you will. I have no arguments with you anymore”. This reconciliation is the basis of our fellowship with God. John says “truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 1 John 1.7 tells “If we walk in the light as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another (i.e. God and those who belong to Him and walk in the light) the blood of Jesus Christ his Son goes on keeping us clean from all sin”. It is the restoration of all that was lost when Adam sinned and yet so much more, in that we now have eternal life through our Lord Jesus and our fellowship with God is not on the earth as was Adam’s, but in heaven by the Holy Spirit as we are raised up together with Christ and seated together with Him in the heavenly places.

In Hebrews 12 we read “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaks better things than that of Abel”.

This is the confirmation. We are come, or we have come, to the heavenly Jerusalem. It is the place of the general assembly of the church of the first born; it is the place of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is where His church gathers in the Spirit, the gathering of the spirits of just men made perfect. They are those who have peace with God being justified by faith. Romans chapter 3 verse 26 tells us that God can be just and the justifier of all who believe on the Lord Jesus, as God has set Him (the Lord Jesus) forth to be the propitiation (place of mercy) for our sins. So just men have their spirits, made perfect as a result of the one offering of the Lord Jesus and yet we read “to Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant and the blood which speaks better things than that of Abel”. Jesus is there mediating for us with His blood in the presence of God the judge of all. Hebrews 7 tells us that the Lord Jesus our great High Priest is able to save us to the uttermost seeing he ever lives (it is that eternal life again) to make intercession for us.

The blood of Jesus is the foundation of it all. He is the propitiation for our sins, for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2.2). His blood is in heaven speaking to God on our behalf. It cries out for mercy and for forgiveness. It pleads reconciliation and righteousness. It is in heaven because that is where Jesus ministered His blood for us. Jesus Christ is our advocate and He pleads His own blood, the blood of the everlasting covenant for us and the Father cannot refuse Him, as God was in Christ Jesus reconciling the whole world unto Himself. Jesus declares God's righteousness for us at **this time**, so that God might be just and the justifier of all that believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

So we are washed from our sins in the blood of the Lord Jesus who loved us and has made us kings and priests to God (Revelation 1.5) so that we can serve God as his people in this world and that which is to come. "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen