

The Blood of Christ

7/21/2024

In last week's lesson we looked at Acts 20 where Paul makes the statement that he is innocent of the blood of all. For a better understanding of what Paul meant by this statement we looked at a few passages from Ezekiel and Leviticus. These passages of Scripture told us some of what makes people guilty of the blood of others. It also told us that life is in the blood.

The problem of sin has always plagued mankind. As early as Adam and Eve who were given one command to not eat of the tree. And, once they did sin entered the world. Then shortly after their own children sinned by killing one another. This sin was described in the following way - Genesis 4:10-11 *"The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand."*

Luke 11 and Matthew 23 record the words of Jesus spoken to the leaders of Israel many centuries after Abel's death this way - *"So you testify that you approve of what your ancestors did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. Because of this, God in his wisdom said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.' Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all."*

But they were not alone in their sin. For as Paul states in Romans chapter 3 - *"There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."*

And

Romans 6:23 tells us *"For the wages of sin is death"*

But thankfully this passage Romans 6:23 does not end with the word death, but continues with these words - *but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Our sins are washed away because of the perfect sacrifice of Christ, and not only our sins, but all those who faithfully obeyed under the old dispensations as we just read in Romans 3 above.

It is The Blood of Christ that cleanses us of our Sin.

Christ made peace between us and God through the blood he shed of the cross. It reconciles mankind to God. And the blood of Christ washes away those sins as we read in -

Colossians 1:15-20 *"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he*

*might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.***”

Now let us examine some other passages which tells us things about what His blood has done for us.

Ephesians 2:13-18 *“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near **by the blood of Christ.** For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”*

And

Revelation 1:4-6 *“John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who **is** the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us **and has freed us from our sins by his blood,** and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.”*

And

1st John 1:7 *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, **and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**”*

His blood was shed for the remission of sin - Matthew 26:26-28 - *“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. **This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.**”*

This plan of God is summed up in the following passage from Ephesians 1:3-10 - *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him **we have redemption through his blood,** the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.”*

And

His blood justifies.

Romans 4:25 *“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our **justification.**”*

Romans 5:9 *“**Since we have now been justified by his blood,** how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!”*

Often referred to as - Justified = Just as If I never sinned.

And

Jesus’ blood bought the church - Acts 20:28 *“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. **Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.**”*

And

The Blood of Christ Cleanses us at Baptism
When we are baptized we are baptized into Christ.

Acts 2:36-39 *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, **“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.** And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”*

Galatians 3:27 - **“for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”**

We are baptized into His death, burial, and resurrection - Romans 6:1-5 *“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.”*

And if we respond as Paul did when he was called as recorded in Acts 22:15-16 - *“You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”*, then we to can become a child of God. Keeping in mind that as we see here recorded in Acts 22 Paul, a penitent man, praying for three days. Yet, he still had to be baptized to wash away his sins. For as it says in Acts 2:38 - *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”*

Jesus the Christ having shed his blood on the cross is but part of God’s plan for the salvation of mankind. Peter addresses the another part in this next passage - **1st Peter 3:21-22** *“and*

*this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. **It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.***

And in Romans 6 Paul addresses our rising from Baptism. Baptism which symbolizes burial with Christ is to be followed by rising to walk in the newness of life.

Romans 6:4 - *“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**”*

And

The blood of Jesus will continue to cleanse those who walk in the light.

1st John 1:5-10 *“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. **But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.**”*

As a Christian, when we do sin, we make confession of sins, and He is faithful to forgive us our sins. His blood continually cleanses us of our sins.

The blood of Christ is the means of salvation if we are willing to come to him under the terms He set forth for forgiveness.

Scripture has much more to say about this subject than has been presented in today’s lesson. We have just scratched the surface of this subject. But hopefully there is enough here to help you realize if you have not responded to God’s call that you need to. We invite you to do that today. Then together we can spend a lifetime learning about the grace and Mercy of our creator.