

In recent years the power of the blood atonement as part of the Gospel message has been down played by several progressive denominations. They have gone so far as to remove many of the hymns from their hymnals which mention the blood.

The Wesleys founded the Methodist denomination. Out of 80 hymns the Wesleys wrote that were considered to be included in their hymnals, the word 'blood' appears 31 times. 25 of the hymns have a clear reference to the atonement; i.e.: 'His blood can make the vilest clean', 'There is a fountain filled with blood', 'What can wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus'. The Baptists and many other denominations use the Methodist's atonement hymns. Yet, a survey has shown that the Presbyterian (USA), Episcopal, Disciples, United Church of Canada, and United Church of Christ hymnals have now deleted songs about the blood atonement. Though many Methodists still sing these old hymns about the blood, the atonement is no longer preached from their pulpits. (Loren Davies).

Yet the Bible is clear that there is power in the blood and that nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can atone for our sins.

### **The Power of Salvation is the Blood of Christ**

The blood of the Son of God brings redemption. *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"* (Eph. 1:7 cf. Rom. 3:24,25; 1 Pet. 1:18,19). Redemption means "to loose,...of prisoners released by the payment of a ransom." It was also used of the price paid to buy a slave's freedom. Without the redeeming blood of the cross man is enslaved to sin (Rom. 6:17,18).

Remission of sin is found in the blood. Vine says remission is "a dismissal, release..." Christ had our debt of sin remitted by payment of His blood. *"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"* (Matt. 26:28). Remission is another way of saying that one is forgiven by the Christ *"in whom we have redemption*

*through His blood, the forgiveness of sins* (Col. 1:14).

To be justify is "to vindicate, to free from blame; declare guiltless; absolve" (Webster 766). God has justified man of his sins. The means of this justification is the blood of Christ. Paul wrote, *"much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him"* (Rom. 5:9). Man is guilty of sin (Ezek. 22:4; Rom. 5:8). He is under the sentence of death (Rom. 6:23). Justification frees man of condemnation (Rom. 8:33,34). We were acquitted of guilt by Christ's just offering of His blood for justice. Justification is an "acquittal by which God acquitted men of their guilt, on the conditions" (Vine, 614).

Sin separated man from God (Is. 59:1,2). Through sin man becomes a friend of the world and an enemy of God (Js. 4:3). He needs to find a way to be made friends with God once more. This is called "reconciliation" in the Bible (Eph. 2:13,16; Col. 1:20; Rom. 5:10). It means "to bring back to friendship after estrangement" (Funk & Wagnall's Standard Desk Dist., Vol. 2, p. 555). *"For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation"* (Rom. 5:10,1).

Sin makes many unclean and defiled before God. He needs to be sanctified that is to be made holy and clean unto God. Sanctification means "to separate or to set apart" according to Young's Analytical Concordance. Just as the tabernacle, utensils, and priest were made holy by animal blood we are made holy by Christ's blood. *"Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate"* (Heb. 13:12).

The blood of Christ is essential for washing away the sins of man. *"To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood"* (Rev. 1:5). This takes place at baptism (Acts 22:16).

According to the Hebrew writer the blood of Christ is necessary for man to have a good conscience before God. *"For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* (Heb. 9:13,14). Again this takes place at the point of water baptism (1 Pet. 3:21).

### **The Power to Purchase the Church Christ's Blood**

Paul told the elders of the church at Ephesus to *"take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood"* (Acts 20:28). Every man of the church as been brought with a price (1 Cor. 6:20). The church of Christ is composed of a bunch of people belonging to Christ. Therefore, the church has been purchased with the blood of Christ. All Christians are blood brothers in Christ's Church.

Many today want to have Christ without His church. They want a relationship with the Head without being a part of the body. They do not believe the church is essential to their salvation or their way to Heaven. Denominational preachers continue to tell their members that they can be saved without ever becoming a member of the church. If they are talking about a denomination (church) which is man-made and purchased by mere mortal men, then they are correct. But the church in the New Testament valuable because of its great price to purchase it. If one believes in the blood of Christ he must believe in His church. To make or be a part of a church not purchased by Christ's blood is to cheapen His blood. Christ only promised to purchase one church with His blood (Eph. 1:22,23; 4:4; cf. ). Many work hard trying to separate the church from salvation saying that the church has nothing to do with salvation. Trying to be saved without the church is trying to be saved without Christ's blood.

### **The Power of the Covenant is the Blood of Christ**

On the night in which Jesus was betrayed He was at the last supper with His disciples. He took the cup and said, *"for this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"* (Matt. 26:28). The New Covenant was ratified with the Blood of Christ as was the earlier covenants of God, such as, the Noahic covenant (Gen. 8:20), the Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 15), and the Mosaic covenant (Heb. 9:18-21; Ex. 24:8). Concerning the New Covenant the Hebrew writer adds *"now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant"* (Heb. 13:20).

To belittle the New Covenant is to belittle Christ's blood (Heb. 10:29). Some say it does not matter what doctrines one believe as long as he accepts the blood of Christ. If what one believes and

practices in religion is not in the covenant of Christ, if it is not authorized by Christ in the New Covenant, and it is not under the blood of Christ, it is therefore wrong. Trying to be saved apart from the teachings of the New Covenant is trying to be saved without the New Covenant. Trying to be saved without the New Covenant is trying to be saved apart from the blood of Christ.

**The Power of Continual Cleansing is the Blood of Christ**

Since the Bible does not teach “once saved, always saved” the Christian can so sin as to be lost in sin once more. If he repents and confesses his sin, God will forgive him. *“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin”* (1 Jn. 1:7). The problem: all men sin even Christians (1 John 1:8-10; Rom. 3:23). The solution: blood of Christ continually cleansing those who repent and confess their sins.

Blood has a continual cleansing ability in the body. Not only does blood provide oxygen and nutrients to body tissue, but it also cleans the tissue. Red blood cells absorb carbon dioxide, uraea, and uric acid from the body and take away these dangerous substances to places in the body where they can be disposed. Carbon dioxide is exhaled through the lungs and the other substances are filtered out through the kidneys. Without the cleansing action of the blood, our muscles would experience cramps that would incapacitate us. The white blood cells in our body help to destroy things foreign to our bodies that would injure us. In like manner the blood of Christ takes away sin, destroys things contrary to the life of the Christian, and bathes us in spiritual nutrients to take their place.

**Application of the Blood of Christ**

To be saved one must come into contact with the Blood of Christ. We cannot come in contact with His literal blood. His blood was shed in His death (Jn. 19:34). However, we can be baptized into His death to come in contact with His blood. Those who feel they do not have to be baptized into Christ’s death to be saved do not believe one must come in contact with the blood of Christ which was shed in His death in order for them to be saved. Consider the comparison between what the blood of Christ does and what water baptism does in the list that follows:

- Christ’s blood gives remission or forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:14). Baptism gives remission or forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).
- Christ’s blood purchased the church (Acts 20:28). Baptism purchased Christians adding them to the church (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13; Rev. 5:9).
- Christ’s blood washes away sin (Rev. 1:5; 7:14). Baptism washes away sin (Acts 22:16).
- Christ’s blood gives a good conscience (Heb. 9:13,14) Baptism gives a good conscience (1 Pet. 3:21).
- Christ’s blood provides sanctification (Heb. 13:12; 1 Pet. 1:2). Baptism provides sanctification (1 Cor. 6:11).
- Christ’s blood provides justification (Rom. 3:24,25; 5:9). Baptism provides justification (1 Cor. 6:11).
- Christ’s blood provides reconciliation to God (Eph. 2:13,16; Rom 5:10). Baptism provides reconciliation (Gal. 3:27).

Faithful Christians must believe in the blood, others do not. Those who reject the blood bought church of Christ do not respect the blood. Those who reject the blood inaugurated Covenant of Christ don’t believe in the Blood Those who teach once saved always saved reject His blood’s continual cleansing power. Those who reject baptism reject the saving power of His blood. Hence, they reject salvation. These need to be careful lest they have *“counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?”* (Heb. 10:29b).

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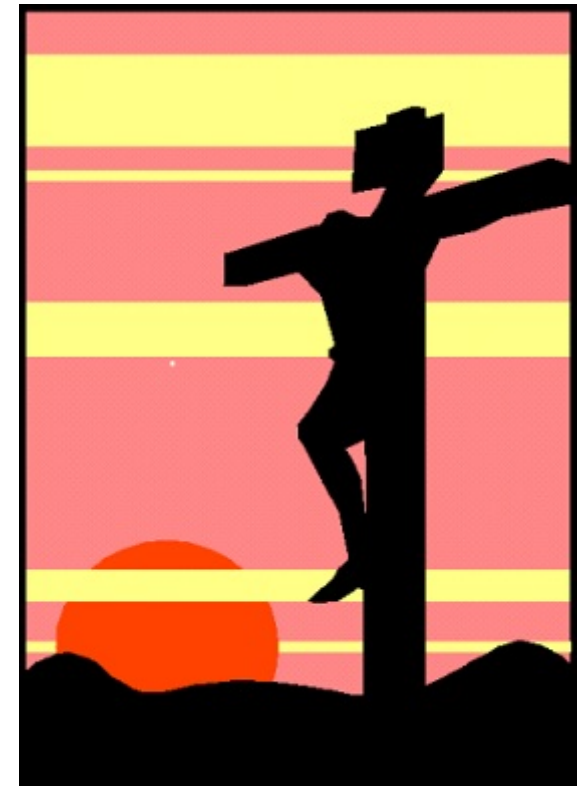
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**Service Times**

Sunday Bible Study.....9:30 am  
Sunday Worship Service.....10:30 am  
Sunday Worship Service.....5:00 pm  
Wednesday Bible Study.....7:30 pm

# There is Power in the Blood of the Cross



by Daniel R. Vess