

# The BEACON



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## ''Nothing but the Blood''

The above phrase is taken from the pen of Mr. Robert Lowry. He has written a hymn which bears this title, and which suggests that there is something special about the blood of Jesus. In the verses of this song, the following blessings are mentioned that deserve our careful meditation:

(1) sins are washed away; (2) one can be made whole again; (3) pardon is available; (4) our plea for cleansing is satisfied; (5) sins are atoned for; and, (6) anyone can be made whiter than snow.

Yet, how few have ever taken advantage of this provision made by the will of God and blood of Christ! Everybody has sinned, and were it not for the mercy of God, all would be without any hope of a family reunion with God. Though God was willing to make the provisions for the forgiveness of sins, certain conditions were demanded by Him and must be met before anyone can be saved. One condition was stated as follows: "Without the shedding of blood is no remission." (Heb. 9:22.) However, animal blood could not satisfy God. (Heb. 10:4.) Neither could the blood of sinful man atone for his own transgressions. Since that was the only blood on earth, man had to depend on God to provide the sacrifice and the blood for man. As a result of God's doing that, today we have the story of Christ—His life and His sacrifice on the hill of Calvary for our transgressions. In His death His blood was shed (John 19:34), and through His suffering God was satisfied to accept this sacrifice for the sins of the world. (Isa. 53:11.) Notice now what specific blessings God provided that are obtainable through nothing but the blood of Jesus.

### Remission of Sins

"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matt. 26:28.) "Remission" has the meaning of dismissal, release, sending forth, turning loose. Until sins are remitted, they are retained and in no way can they be sent forth from us except through the blood of Jesus. God's provision for freeing man from his bondage to Satan and sin finds its expression in nothing but the blood of Jesus.

### Justification

"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." (Rom. 5:9.) "Justification" means the act of pronouncing righteous or right; acquittal. Paul states that it is by His blood that we are acquitted. We are, or were, guilty of the crime of rebellion against God, but Christ paid the penalty for us and now we can be acquitted through His blood.

### Redemption

Speaking of Christ, Paul said, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins ..." (Eph. 1:7.) We have already noticed that it is through the blood that we have forgiveness of sins, now what additional thought is contained in the word redemption? The term is defined to mean, "a releasing upon payment of a ransom." We allowed ourselves to be "kidnapped" by Satan through sin, and since we could not escape by ourselves, the ransom was paid by Jesus, and the price was nothing short of His blood. Those who have obeyed the gospel are members of the Lord's church,

and Paul told the elders of Ephesus to "feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28.)

### **Made Nigh**

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." (Eph. 2:13.) The words "made nigh" mean "to become near." By noticing their past condition, it will be easy to determine what they are made nigh unto. Verse 12 says they were, (1) "without Christ", (2) "aliens from Israel," (3) "strangers from the covenants of promise," (4) "having no hope," (5) "without God." These are the things that they were separated from, and what they now have been made near unto, by the blood of Christ. In the Old Testament the Gentiles were in this condition, but now in Christ they have come unto God's Son, God's people (spiritual Israel or the church), God's law—the New Testament, God's promises—including the hope of heaven, and unto God Himself. Where is this provision found? In the blood of Christ.

### **Sanctification**

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." (Heb. 13:- 12.) To "sanctify" means to make, render, declare sacred or holy; to separate from things profane and to dedicate to God. This is the personal condition of every Christian that has obeyed from the heart, the gospel. Having been called through the gospel (2 Thess. 2:14) and forgiven of all trespasses, God has set us apart and has a right to expect us to do His work, and to stop serving Satan. The state of sanctification is not something that takes place some time after justification, redemption, etc., have been accomplished in our lives through the blood, but is accomplished at the same time, and by the same means. When we are redeemed, justified, forgiven our sins, we are sanctified or set apart to do God's work and to serve Him faithfully until death.

### **Clean Conscience**

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." (Heb. 9:14.) By the blood of animals the purification extended only to the cleansing of the flesh (verse 13), but through Christ the conscience is purged or cleansed. "Purge" means to cleanse, to make free from admixture. When all of one's sins are forgiven, it is at that time he has no guilt of conscience about anything. He has done wrong in the past but all that is behind him now; he is beginning a new life in Christ. Just because the conscience is clear, it does not necessarily follow that one is a Christian; but if one is a Christian, since he has contacted the blood of Christ, he has a clear conscience, because he knows his sins are forgiven.

### **Peace**

"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." (Col. 1:20.) "Peace" means harmonious relationship, and that relationship of harmony exists between Jew and Gentile (Eph. 2:14-15), if they are in Christ, and also between man and God. All this is made possible through the blood of Christ. When the blood of Christ is applied to your life you will have forgiveness or remission of sins; you will be acquitted and justified before God; at the same time you are redeemed (bought back) to God and made nigh unto Him; you will then give to the service of God a life that is sanctified or set apart to do His bidding; live in peace and harmony with God and man, and you can be none other than a happy person with a conscience that is clear of all defilement and admixture of guilt. Now, how do I benefit from the blood of Christ in all these ways? When is it applied to my life?

### **The Blood Applied**

Through the blood of Christ a way is provided for the salvation of the world. If it had been God's plan to save all men by the sacrifice of Christ alone, without any effort on the part of man, then salvation would be universal and no one would be lost. However, the word of God teaches contrary to this, since "wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." (Matt. 7:13.) How, then, is it going to be determined who is to benefit by the blood of

Christ? The Bible is very plain on this point, so our enquiry at this time is to find out when the blood is applied.

Paul wrote, "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." (Rom. 3:24-25.) Here the first line of division is drawn. Any person not believing in the power of the blood of Jesus and in the wisdom of God behind it cannot be saved. Now, what about those who do believe in the blood? Many teach that just by believing in the blood "alone" salvation is enjoyed. The Lord teaches differently. Faith is essential, but unless accompanied by obedience it is fruitless. (Matt. 7:21.) Then what must be done in addition to believing in the blood, before its benefits are applied to one's life?

Christ said, "This is my blood . . . which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matt. 26:28.)

Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized . . . for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38.)

In Eph. 1:7 we read, "We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." Having the forgiveness of sins is the same as being saved. Peter wrote, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us." (1 Pet. 3:21.) Again, Rev. 1:5, "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood" is referring to Christ. But Ananias commanded Saul, saying, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16.)

Another way of showing from the Bible that the blood of Christ is applied to one's life at baptism is from John 19:34 and Romans 6:1-5. John, referring to Christ on the cross, said, "But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: but one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water." It was in the death of Christ that He shed His blood. That was the important thing about His death. Many times in the New Testament reference is made to the death of Christ as providing the blessings that are in other scriptures stated as being found in the blood. An excellent example of this is Heb. 9:12-15. In verse 12 the writer says, "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once unto the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." According to this verse it was through His blood that redemption was obtained. However notice verse 15, "And for this cause he is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressors that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." Here, it was through His death that redemption was obtained. Redemption is through the death and blood of Christ, for it was in His death that His blood was shed. (John 19:34.) Notice how Paul says we get into or contact the death of Christ: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." (Rom. 6:3-5.) Read these verses again and notice the following thoughts: (1) Baptism is the means by which we get into Christ. (2) Baptism is the way we get into His death, where His blood was shed. (3) Baptism is a burial, not a sprinkling or pouring. (4) Unless we are planted together in the likeness of His death, which Paul has already stated as being accomplished in baptism, we will not be free from our service to sin, since we are still in our sins. (Verses 6-18.) Do you want the blessings that God has provided for us in and through Christ and His blood? Do you want the remission of your sins, and to be justified in the sight of the Almighty God of the universe? Would you like to be made nigh unto Him, and have the "peace that passeth understanding"? Would you like to have a clear conscience and know you are a child of God? Christ died that you might have all of these blessings and many more, but His conditions must be met. He has asked that we have faith in His blood and that we be baptized into His death where this cleansing power can remove every guilt from our lives. Do not be led part of the way, and then fail to be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins. I hope this has been sufficiently clear so that you might see and understand from the Bible what the blood of Christ can mean to YOU. (Apostolic Doctrine Jan. 1960 by Norman Midgette)

## **GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MANKIND**

God's Grace- Ephesians 2:8

Christ's Blood- Romans 5:9

The Gospel by the Holy Spirit – 2 Peter 1:21; Romans 1:16

Sinner's Faith- Acts 16:31

Sinner's Repentance- Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Sinner's Confession- Romans 10:10

Sinner's Baptism- 1 Peter 3:21

Christian's Work- James 2:24

Christian's Hope- Romans 8:24

Christian's Endurance- Revelation 2:10

The question is not, which one of these will save;  
Through ALL these combined we have assurance of salvation.

**Do not delay**

**Your soul is important to us .**

**If you would like to set up a study, or if we can help you in any way,  
please contact us..**

**Remember to tune in to**

## **The Word and The Sword**

**every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
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