

Subject: Redeemed by the Blood of Christ

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:18-21

Oswald Chambers said: "All heaven is interested in the cross of Christ, all hell is terribly afraid of it, while men are the only beings who more or less ignore its meaning."

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS PRECIOUS

The word "precious" means valuable, of great price, or costly. The Bible speaks of precious faith and precious promises. It speaks of Christ as the precious corner stone. **1 Peter 2:7a** *Unto you therefore which believe he is precious:* Everything about our Savior is precious. Here in verse 19, it speaks of "the precious blood of Christ."

All blood is precious. From the beginning, God taught man that the blood was precious. When Cain killed his brother Abel, God said, **Genesis 4:10** *And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.* God told Noah not to eat the blood of animals, and if someone took another person's life, he would forfeit his own life. **Genesis 9:3-6** *Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.* The blood of an innocent animal was valuable. The blood of a human being was more valuable, but far more valuable and precious is the blood of Christ.

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS PERFECT

1 Peter 1:19 *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:* Jesus was the only perfect person. He was perfectly holy and without sin. He never said a sinful word, had a sinful thought, or did a sinful deed. His blood was not tainted with human sin or depravity. He was "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners."

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS THE PAYMENT FOR OUR SINS

1 Peter 1:18 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers.*

God told His people Israel that the blood on the altar was absolutely essential to atone for sin. **Leviticus 17:11** *For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*

Ephesians 1:7 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*

Hebrews 9:12 *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

In Bible times there were millions of slaves. A slave could be redeemed or set free by the payment of money. But no amount of money can set a lost sinner free from the bondage of sin. To "redeem" means to buy back someone from bondage by the payment of a price. It

means to set a person free by paying a ransom price. The price paid was the shed blood of Christ. We are redeemed from the bondage of sin, and we are redeemed from the burden of the Law. Every person is guilty of breaking God's Law, the Ten Commandments. Only the blood of Jesus can satisfy the Law's demands for righteousness.

1 Corinthians 6:20 *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS GOD'S PLAN FOR THE AGES

1 Peter 1:20 *Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,* God had a plan to save the world even before it was created. Calvary was not an accident, but a divine appointment for Jesus. Calvary is not an emergency plan. It is part of God's eternal plan. In the Bible you will find several threads running through it: the black thread of sin, the golden thread of God's glory, and the scarlet thread of blood redemption. All through the Bible God is showing us His plan to deal with man's sin by the shedding of innocent blood. When Adam and Eve first sinned in the Garden of Eden, they tried to hide their sin and shame with fig leaves, but God clothed them with animal skins, and blood had to be shed. When Abel worshiped God he shed the innocent blood of an animal. When God told Israel to keep the Passover, they put the blood of an innocent lamb on the doorposts. When the high priest made atonement for all the people of Israel, he entered into the Holy of Holies with shed blood. For hundreds of years animal sacrifices were made to cover the sins of the people, but Jesus came to take away our sins.

John 1:29 *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.* In the Book of Revelation, Jesus is called "the Lamb" more than any other name. The theme song of heaven is **Revelation 5:12** *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.*

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS GOD'S PROVISION FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 3:24 *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.* **Romans 5:9** *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.* His blood is the only thing that can satisfy the righteous demands of God. When Jesus died on the cross, He cried out, "It is finished." That means the debt is paid in full. God can now forgive sins because the penalty for sin has been paid. **Hebrews 9:22** *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.* There is no salvation unless the punishment for sin has been fully paid. God must punish sin. How can God be holy and declare that the sinner is righteous at the same time? Only by the blood of Jesus. I may resolve to live a better life. I may feel sorry for my sin. I may promise God that I will do better in the future. I may be baptized. I may take communion. I may pray hours at a time. I may worship and sing God's praises. But I can never be right with God without the blood of Jesus Christ.

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS GOD'S POWER FOR CLEANSING

Revelation 1:5b *Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.* His blood has the power to keep on cleansing us from all sin. Sin leaves a stain on our soul. Only Jesus' blood

can wash it away. The great hymn *Rock of Ages* has these words: "Let the water and the blood from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure."

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS GOD'S PROTECTION FROM JUDGMENT

You remember when God told Moses and His people that He would send the destroying angel through the country of Egypt, but He said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." We are protected in Christ. ***Romans 8:1*** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.* The blood was shed at Calvary and applied in salvation when we repent of sin and receive Christ as Lord and Savior. As long as God sees the blood, He will not bring judgment upon us. We don't see the blood, but God sees it. R. A. Torrey said, "The blood of Christ makes us safe. The Word of God makes us sure."

We have tried to explore the precious blood of Jesus as it is in Scripture. The most precious thing about the blood of Christ is that it meets our greatest need. Suppose a man is dying from hunger and thirst in the desert and he finds a bag. He opens the bag and inside there are stacks of \$100 bills. But think how much better it would be to open the bag and find some food and water. That's worth far more than money because that's what he needs most.

Spurgeon said: "If you were (bought by the precious blood of Christ), it is the grand fact of your life; it is the greatest fact that ever will occur to you! Let it operate upon you, let it dominate your entire nature, let it govern your body, your soul, your spirit, and from this day let it be said of you not only that you are a man, a man of good morals and respectable conduct, but this, above all things: that you are a man filled with love to Him who bought you, a man who lives for Christ, and knows no other passion."