

## INTRODUCTION

Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh! Although He is the Son of God, He came here to earth not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many! By that ransom paid in His own blood, the gospel of forgiveness of sins is now proclaimed to the world. Repent of your sins, turning away from them, to follow Jesus Christ, and be forgiven by God for all you have done wrong. Believe in Him, as He has died for our sins, but is now risen from the dead, and is reigning in heaven over all things. By that faith, you will have eternal life. He promised that He is coming back again, on a day we do not expect, to save all who are His disciples, and to judge the world in righteousness.

Until He comes back, there is danger ahead! He has warned us that some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons. When you hear people teaching that Christians must not get married, or commanding that Christians must abstain from foods, you are hearing doctrine that comes from hypocritical liars who can say such things because their consciences are seared or burned.

This loving warning from our Lord Jesus Christ tells us how we know that such doctrine is deceitful, by explaining the truth regarding the eating of food. Last time, we worked to master the truth stated in 1 Timothy 4:4 “every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused...” We saw how that statement agrees with what God told the whole human race through Adam and Noah; how it agrees with what the Lord told the whole church through Peter in the vision of the sheet full of animals; how it agrees with what the Holy Spirit says to the churches through Paul’s letters of Romans and 1 Corinthians.

But as we read together, “every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused,” you may have questions, such as:

What about the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

What about blood, and meat with the blood in it?

What about foods that the Law of Moses said were unclean, like pork?

What about foods with leaven or yeast in them, and the feast of unleavened bread?

What about foods sacrificed to idols?

Doesn’t the Bible say not to eat those things?

How, then, can it be deceitful doctrine to command people to abstain from eating those things?

As I mentioned last week, there are two things I can tell you up front about all of those questions:

1. Nothing the Bible teaches about any of those questions actually conflicts with the truth that “every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused,”
2. The truth that “every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused,” is foundational to understanding what the Bible says about those questions.

Because this is such an important point, to help us know when the doctrine we’re hearing is deceitful, I plan to address some of those questions, in order that our consciences may be strong, that we not be led astray by anything false, that we stand fast in the faith we have in Jesus Christ, according to the truth.

So, today, I pose one of those questions, and show you answers from the scriptures.

Here is the question for today, phrased in several different ways:

-If it is deceptive doctrine to command that people abstain from certain foods, because “every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused,” what about blood, and meat with the blood in it?

-Doesn't the Bible say we shouldn't eat blood, or meat with the blood in it?

-Is it a mark of false doctrine for people to command we not eat blood?

-Is it okay to eat blood?

-In short, “what about blood?”

TEXT

1 Timothy 4:1-5

BODY

- I. God Explicitly Prohibited The Whole Human Race from Eating Blood - Genesis 9:3-4  
Genesis 9:3-4 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. (4) But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.
  - A. God gave us the flesh of His animals for our food
  - B. But as He did so, He immediately made clear the distinction between the flesh, which He has given us to eat, and the blood, which He has not given us to eat
  - C. God explicitly commanded us to abstain from eating the blood
  - D. Because this command was spoken by God to Noah, it applies to our whole race: everyone everywhere from then on.
  - E. Note that God refers to the blood of the creature as its life

God explicitly prohibited the whole human race from eating blood

- II. God Explicitly Prohibited the Whole Church from Eating Blood - Acts 15:22-29
- A. Note that this doctrine is from the Holy Spirit (Acts 15:28)
  - B. Note that this doctrine is from the whole church at Jerusalem
    - 1. unanimously
      - a) Acts 15: 23 The apostles, the elders, and the brethren
      - b) Acts 15:25 assembled with one accord
    - 2. by name
      - a) Acts 15:7 Peter
      - b) Acts 15:13 James
      - c) Acts 15:22 Paul, Barnabas, Judas, Silas
  - C. There are two ways of eating blood that the Holy Spirit by the apostles here commands us to abstain from - Acts 15:29
    - 1. from blood (itself)
    - 2. from things strangled
      - a) meaning the meat of animals that have been killed by strangulation, specifically to keep the blood in the meat, so the blood can be eaten with the flesh
      - b) note that the prohibition is not because of something about the flesh, the meat, but because of the blood
  - D. The doctrine of the apostles here is that Christians abstain not from foods, but from blood
    - 1. G567 *apechomai*
    - 2. this is the same word we have in 1 Tim 4:3
    - 3. Paul wrote that the command to abstain from foods is an example of deceitful doctrine
    - 4. he cannot possibly mean that the command given here by the Holy Spirit, and by the apostles, including himself, amounts to the same thing as that
    - 5. in 1 Timothy 4, the apostle is warning against those who command that people abstain from foods or meats; he does not speak against those who command that people abstain from blood; in fact, Paul himself, unanimously with Peter and James and others, commanded that people abstain from blood

God explicitly prohibited the whole human race from eating blood

God explicitly prohibited the whole church from eating blood

### III. God Has Explained To Us the Extent of Our Responsibility Not To Eat Blood

#### A. Lev 17:10-16

1. Lev 17:10a both for Israelites and for strangers
2. Lev 17:10b God will deal severely with anyone who eats blood
  - a) I will set my face against that person who eats blood
  - b) I will cut him off from among his people
3. Lev 17:11a the first reason given is the same as God stated to Noah
  - a) for the life of the flesh is in the blood
  - b) that shows this is not merely a ceremonial law for Israel
  - c) instead, the basic command is the same as God commanded our whole race
4. Lev 17:11b the second reason given is a wonderful truth about atonement
  - a) God has given blood to Israel, by which atonement can be made for the soul

GOSPEL: I hope you grasp the good news here! God tells Israel that He has given blood to them to make atonement for the soul!

-the soul that sins deserves to die, meaning the everlasting fiery torment of the lake of fire

-but God has given blood to make atonement for the soul

-so, blood, in effect, covers the guilt of our sin, so that God blesses us with eternal life instead of cursing us with eternal death

-what we learn in the New Testament scriptures is that the blood of bulls and goats, which God gave man to make atonement for the soul, really only *symbolizes* atonement for the soul

-but there is blood that truly atones for sin, that truly covers the stain of our guilt; or, expressed another way, truly washes us clean from our sins

-that blood is the blood of Jesus Christ! God gave us the blood of His own Son, Jesus Christ, truly to atone for our sins

-so, the good news is that everyone who repents, believing in Jesus Christ, is forgiven his sins and granted eternal life

-any here still in your sins, still bearing the load of the guilt, still subject to the wrath of God, repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins; believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved!

-we now have to return to the flow of the argument we were following

5. Lev 17:13-14 in the case of a man who kills an animal to eat it, he is responsible to pour out its blood and cover it with dust; if he does not, but eats the blood, he shall be cut off
6. Lev 17:15-16 but in the case of a man who eats something already dead, he shall be merely ceremonially unclean; all he needs to do is wash his clothes and bathe
7. so, it is a severe transgression of God's law for all mankind if a man who slaughters an animal does not drain the blood from it before eating it, because he would be eating the life, the blood, along with the flesh;
8. but it is merely a matter of ceremony for a man to eat flesh with the blood in it, if it already were dead
9. we rightly can infer that, outside of the Old Covenant, a man lawfully could eat something with the blood in it, as long as he was not doing so intentionally to eat the blood

- B. 1 Corinthians 10:25-27 Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; (26) for "THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL ITS FULLNESS."  
(27) If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake.
1. we know that the apostle Paul was one of those who agreed with Peter and James that the Holy Spirit tells all Christians to abstain from blood and from things strangled
  2. but here Paul writes that we may eat whatever is sold in the meat market, or whatever is served to us at someone else's house, without even asking a question for conscience's sake
  3. there is no conflict between those two things, when you rightly consider the extent of a person's responsibility for not eating blood
    - a) if a person slaughters an animal himself, he is responsible to drain the blood out; he is sinning if he keeps the blood in the meat to eat the blood with the flesh
    - b) but if a person eats what someone else has slaughtered, he is not responsible for draining out the blood; he is not culpable or blameable for the sin of eating the blood with the flesh
  4. this agrees with what we observe in the Old Covenant law we just read, Lev 17
  5. this agrees with what the Lord Jesus said, that it is not what goes into a man's mouth that defiles the man

## CONCLUSION

God explicitly prohibited the whole human race from eating blood

God explicitly prohibited the whole church from eating blood

God has explained to us the extent of our responsibility not to eat blood

So, we see that the instruction from our Lord Jesus Christ, that the Holy Spirit says to the churches through the letter from Paul, is perfectly in keeping with the command that we abstain from eating blood. It is true doctrine, spoken by the best Bible teachers, including Peter and Paul, to command that we abstain from blood. But it is false doctrine, spoken by hypocritical liars, to command that we abstain from foods or meats.

Rejoice, disciples of Jesus Christ! Enjoy the liberty given to you by your Master.

You are under no obligation to obey anyone who commands you not to eat certain foods!

Nor are you under any obligation to obey anyone who commands you to obey any ceremonies from the Old Covenant.

Nor are you under any obligation to obey any commandments made up by men rather than given by God Himself.

If you want to get married, and you have opportunity to marry someone who is in the Lord, rejoice in God's gift, give thanks, and get married!

If you want to eat something sold in the market, or served to you by someone else, don't even raise a question of whether or not it is right. Just receive it with thanksgiving and eat it!

But beware those who command you otherwise, that you not give heed to false doctrine that would lead you to depart from the faith.

Jeremiah - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer: Psalm 20:7

Thad - Scripture Reading - 1 Samuel 14:1-34

Chris Jeff - Congregational Prayer

Journey - Prelude "Trust and Obey"

Rita - Trinity 683 "Praise Him! Praise Him!"

Rita - Trinity 736 "Jehovah Hear Thee"

Haven - Trinity 690 - "Jesus Paid It All"

1689.7.1 ...which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.

Genesis 6:17-22

Genesis 17:1-7

Genesis 19:3-8

Jeremiah 31:31-34

You see that God's voluntary condescension is by His making covenants.

We know there is a covenant where that term is expressly used.

In the Puritan theological tradition, the understanding that God deals with us by covenants is used as a system for understanding His dealings with us even when the term covenant is not expressly stated in the Bible. Thus, the system is often called, "Covenant Theology."

The Bible says that as we come into this world, we are under the power of darkness.

1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, (19) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

GEN, KJV vain conversation

ESV futile ways

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Colossians 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, (14) in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

redemption

RWP: a release on payment of a ransom for slave or debtor

When God spoke to Noah after the great flood, and gave us the flesh of His animals for us to eat, for our food, He made a distinction between the flesh and the blood. God gave us the

Blood is something different from flesh and from bones.

We may not do as we please with blood.

Romans 3:21-26 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, (22) even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all



and on all who believe. For there is no difference; (23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (24) being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (25) whom God set forth as a propitiation by His **blood**, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, (26) to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 5:8-9 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, having now been justified by His **blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

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

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the **blood** of Christ.

Colossians 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, (14) in whom we have redemption through His **blood**, the forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 9:11-12 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. (12) Not with the **blood** of goats and calves, but with His own **blood** He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, (19) but with the precious **blood** of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your **blood** Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

## 1 Samuel 14:1-34

Acts 15:22-31 NKJV Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. 23 They wrote this letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. 24 Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law"--to whom we gave no such commandment-- 25 it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: 29 that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell. 30 So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. 31 When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement.

Note that in the incident of the Israelite men killing and eating the meat with the blood still in it, they were culpable because they were doing it themselves.

That is how the law reads: the person who does the killing is responsible to pour out the blood, and must not eat it.

A person who finds meat already dead may eat the meat, and becomes only ceremonially unclean.

Leviticus 17:10-16 NKJV 10 'And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.' 12 Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.' 13 "Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with dust; 14 for it is the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.' 15 "And every person who eats what died naturally or what was torn by beasts, whether he is a native of your own country or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. Then he shall be clean. 16 But if he does not wash them or bathe his body, then he shall bear his guilt."

