

**Lighthouse Bible Church**

**August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Romans 5: 6 - 11** *Scripture Reading Colossians 1: 19 - 23*

**‘The Love and Blood of the Gospel’**

**Stand – Read – Pray**

I would like to take a break from the book of John this week to focus specifically on the Lord’s table, our communion time together, and the importance that it has to us today as it relates to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are told in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11: 24 – 25** that as we partake of the bread, representing His body, and the cup, representing His blood, we are to **do this in remembrance of Me**, Jesus and Paul said.

One of the things that we are called to remember is that the body and blood of Jesus Christ is central to the gospel message. Jesus giving His body, Jesus shedding His blood for the atonement of our sins.

That is the gospel message and it is a message of love and blood, it is a message of sacrifice and violence, and it is a message that is **the power of God unto salvation** as **Romans 1: 16** says, it is the message that is **able to make one wise unto salvation** as **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3: 15** says.

**John 3: 16** says that **God so LOVED the world that He GAVE His only Son..** how was that love expressed, in the giving of His Son to a violent bloody death, as the punishment for OUR sins. **Isaiah 53: 5** says ‘He was wounded for our transgressions...

**1<sup>st</sup> John 1: 7** says **the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin.** There is a violence and bloodiness to the gospel of forgiveness that we don't often consider.

Jesus Himself said in **Matthew 26: 28**, as He was instituting the Lord's table, communion with His disciples, **for this is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins.** **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 2** says that it is the **sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ** that sets us apart.

In **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5: 7** it says that **Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.** And of course, that was when a family would take a lamb without spot or blemish and keep it for 4 days and then kill it and shed its blood. Then John comes along in **John 1: 29** and says **behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.** And **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 18 – 19** says that **we were redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

So when we talk about the gospel and the fact that Jesus died for our sins, we are talking about an incredible act of love that lead to a very violent death on our behalf. *We live in a very sterile environment today. Not like in Bible times.*

And it is a message that is foolishness to many, even today. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1: 18** says **for the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.** The message of the cross is a message of love and a message of blood and violence and to an unbelieving world, that is foolishness.

But by that very love and blood of the gospel, God reveals His absolute holiness and righteousness and at the same time He reveals our absolute defiling sin and our inability to escape its consequences.

That is why some people find the sacrificial, atoning, violent, bloody death of Jesus so revolting, because in part, it is a death that we deserve. In light of the cross, we cannot hide from our own filth and defilement and sin that caused God's wrath to be poured out on His own Son, in our place.

And when we come to Christ in salvation and experience the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, that ought to cause our hearts to truly remember what Christ did and why He did it, as we approach this table.

Think about it this way; would you not be righteously angry at someone who would murder your father or mother or brother or sister or children or wife or husband. How much more righteously angry should we be against our sin that murdered Jesus.

How much greater should our love and remembrance be for Him whom the scriptures say we are to love more than father or mother, brother or sister, son or daughter. We should be disgusted by Jesus' death because it is a vivid reminder of the ugly truth about all of us.

But at the same time the love and blood of the gospel message is one of beauty and hope and forgiveness. Jesus went to the cross and suffered and bled and died a violent death. But the beauty of that is that He did that for us and on our behalf.

**Hebrews 9: 26 – 28 says He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself ... so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time apart from sin for salvation.**

**Hebrews 9: 22** says **that without the shedding there is no forgiveness..** If Christ did not shed His blood in a violent death then you could not receive forgiveness. All of the animal sacrifices, the Passover, all the lambs, bulls, goats would not be pointing to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus.

In the gospel of Jesus Christ there is truly a revulsion as well as a beauty. The revulsion is my own sins and the beauty is His love and blood shed for my sins.

That is why **Romans 5: 8** says that **God demonstrated His own love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him**

So as we approach this table we see just how important His body and blood are, as the scriptures make very clear.

**Ephesians 2: 13** says **that we have been brought near to God by the blood of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10: 19 adds we have boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus...We have nearness and access to God**

**Ephesians 1: 7 & Colossians 1: 14 say that we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...**

**Hebrews 13: 12** says that **we are sanctified, or set apart, by the blood of Jesus Christ who suffered outside the gate.**

**1<sup>st</sup> John 1: 7** says **the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. Revelation 1: 5 adds to Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood..**

Jesus told His disciples in **Matthew 26: 28** **this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many FOR the forgiveness of sins.**

**Acts 20: 28 says Shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**

So when we come to the table and we are commanded to eat this bread and drink this cup, we do so remembering His great love in giving of Himself for us and the violent shedding of His blood so that we can proclaim His death until He comes back.

So we are going to approach the table now and as we do I invite you to turn to **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11: 23**

That is what we are doing, we are doing this ‘in remembrance of Him’ and what He has done for us in:

Bringing us near to God

Being redeemed by His blood

Having all of our sin forgiven because of His shed blood

Sanctifying us or setting us apart for holiness and ‘R’ by His blood

Cleansing and washing us from all of our sin

Purchasing the church He formed and is the head of with His shed blood

And as we approach this table we do so with self-examination because we don’t want to approach it in an unworthy manner. Look at **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11: 27 – 32**

And our self-examination starts with an examination of our spiritual condition before God. This table is for believers only, because we are called to remember what He has done for US, who are believers.

Just because someone is in church or even attends regularly does not necessarily mean they are born again believers and for them to partake of this table is to partake of judgment. So one has to stop and exam themselves if they have truly put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

If you are here and you have been born again by the Spirit of God then you are encouraged to partake of this table as a way of remembering, personally, what Christ has done for you.

You are also encouraged to self-examination before you partake, however, as well. And if there is any unconfessed sin in your heart and life, if you have anything against your brother or sister, then you need to confess your sin because He is faithful and just to forgive you of your sin and to cleans you from all unrighteousness.

So let's take just a few moments of silent self-examination and confession to cleanse and purify our hearts so that there is nothing between you and Christ as you come to this table.

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Introduction:

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11: 24 – 25

The Love and Blood of the Gospel

Romans 1: 16, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3: 15, John 3: 16

1<sup>st</sup> John 1: 7, Matthew 26: 28, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 2

Christ, the Passover Lamb

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5: 7, John 1: 29, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 18 – 19

The Foolishness of the Cross

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1: 18

The Beauty of the Cross

Hebrews 9: 26 – 28, Hebrews 9: 22, Romans 5: 8

The Importance of His Body and Blood

Being brought near to God

Ephesians 2: 13, Hebrews 10: 19

Redemption and Forgiveness

Ephesians 1: 7, Colossians 1: 14, Mt. 26: 28

Sanctified to Holiness and Righteousness

Hebrews 13: 12

Cleansing from sin

1<sup>st</sup> John 1: 7, Revelation 1: 5

Purchased the church of God with

Acts 20: 28

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