

Precious Blood

The Precious Blood of Christ

By Dr. Dan W. Cozart

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Bible Text: 1 Peter 1:18-19

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Victory Baptist Church

9601 Blue Ridge Ext.

Kansas City, MO 64134

Website: www.victorybaptist.us

Online Sermons: www.sermonaudio.com/victorybaptist

Turn with me tonight to the book of 1 Peter Chapter 1, verses 18-19.

“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; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

Notice, there is a comparison here between corruptible things and that which is incorruptible. He states, “You know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things,” and he gives examples of corruptible things, “as silver and gold.” Now, they are corruptible but they are not the only things that are corruptible. They are just two things that he mentions and then he compares that with that which is incorruptible, “but with the precious blood of Christ.” We have not been atoned for and our sins have not been forgiven based on that which is corruptible but based upon that which is incorruptible. The blood of Jesus Christ is incorruptible and as the writer says, “it is precious.” One of the reasons why it is precious is because it is incorruptible.

Now, there are many things in the Bible which are said to be precious and this is my text“but with the precious blood of Christ”. Many things in the Bible which are said to be precious: The Word of God is precious: in 1 Samuel 3:1, “And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days.” In that context, it means it was scarce in those days because there was no open vision but nonetheless, the Word of God is said to be precious.

The promises of God are precious. In 2 Peter 1:4, “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises.” The promises that God makes to us in his Word are precious.

The faith of Christ is precious: 2 Peter 1:1, “Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith.” All men do not have faith, not precious faith, not saving faith. We have obtained it by the grace of God and it is called precious faith with us through the righteousness of God in our Savior Jesus Christ.

The thoughts of God are precious: Psalm 139:17, "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!"

The New Jerusalem foundation; those stones are declared to be precious. Irregardless of your millennial position, you have to agree that the foundations of the New Jerusalem are declared to be precious indeed. Revelation 21:19, "And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones."

The death of the saints is precious: Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

The Lord, himself, is precious for in 1 Peter 2:4, 6 and 7 emphasizes that. Verse 4 declares the Messiah as being "chosen of God, and precious." Verse 6 says he is "the chief cornerstone, elect, and precious." And in verse 7 emphatically says, "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious."

And our text tonight speaks of the blood of Christ as being precious: "the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." What does the term "precious" mean? The Hebrew word means "a distinguished thing." Not a common run-of-the-mill thing, but a very unique and distinguished thing. It is excellent. That which is prized. That which is valuable. It is to be held in esteem. The Greek word, timios, means "it is very expensive; costly; dear; it is rare; it is to be held in honor; it is beloved and it is of great value."

What is it that makes the blood of Christ precious? There are certain things which determine value, whether it be jewels, automobiles, recordings or houses. When certain criteria are met, such things are deemed precious. The same criteria can be used in reference to the preciousness of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I submit to you tonight first of all that the blood of Christ is the scarlet thread which holds the Word of God together. You encounter it as you open up the beginning parts of the Bible and you're still in the blood of Christ as you continue throughout the book of Revelation. It is that scarlet thread which holds the Word of God together.

There are many preachers who will not speak of the blood of Christ. They say it is too alarming; it puts people on edge. That term "blood" it just has a bad connotation to it. Sad to say, many churches have removed the blood from their hymn books. A bloodless gospel is being set forth today. Without the blood of Jesus Christ, you have no Christ. Without the blood of Christ, you have no gospel. And without the blood of Christ, you have no Bible. Blood was involved in the very first recorded act of God's grace in clothing Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. When they had sinned against God and they realized they were naked, they sought to manufacture their own self-righteousness in the form of fig leaves and the Lord God comes onto the scene and the fig leaves are totally insufficient and God slays an animal and takes the coats of skins from that animal, that bloody animal, and he covers Adam and Eve as a type of the coming Lord Jesus Christ that would be presented in the New Testament.

Blood was involved in the very act of worship by Abel before he was murdered by Cain. A sacrifice was made, a lamb was taken apart, that is, literally, split open and that animal was offered by Abel to the Lord and God accepted that animal sacrifice, that blood sacrifice. Cain was a farmer. He was more interested in agriculture and he wanted to bring the best possible fruit from the garden that he could bring and he brought the best. I believe he thought it was the best; it was the best he had and God rejected it because God was interested in blood as it relates to our redemption.

Blood was required of the High Priest before he could enter into the Holy of Holies. He was told exactly when, what day and what circumstances would be involved when he was to go into the Holy of Holies and present the sacrifice and the blood. He was told how to bathe himself; he was told the garments to put on; and also in Leviticus and Hebrews, as well, it said, "but not without blood." He could go in any time he wanted to, but unless he went in with the blood, God would have struck him dead. God was setting forth this preciousness and the essentiality of blood.

Blood was the only thing that caused the death angel to pass by Israel when God told Moses and Moses told the people to kill an animal and take the blood and put it on the door lintel and on the door post. It wasn't enough that they should just have it in a container, it must be shed, it must be spilt, it must be splattered and exposed. And when the death angel passed through, salvation was given to the Israelites because of the application of the blood.

All of this blood-letting was a type of the blood of Jesus Christ. The blood of Christ was set forth in Gethsemane, even when our Lord prayed all night, the pores of his skin instead of emitting sweat, they poured forth sweat drops of blood. At Golgotha when they tied him to the hitching rail and scourged his back, again the blood was shed. And what should we say of Golgotha, the place of the skull, where our Lord bled on that cross? The blood was exposed and the blood was freely given.

The blood is the theme of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the gospels. You have no gospel without the blood. You cannot believe the Bible, what it says about Matthew or the gospel writers if you don't believe the blood because they preach the blood.

The blood closes out the Bible with a heavenly anthem about the blood of Christ. Revelation 5:9, "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."

His blood is precious. It holds your Bible together from Genesis to Revelation. The blood is precious because it is His blood. It is His blood! He is not taking the blood of someone else, He is giving His blood. It is His blood and that is what makes it precious. Everything about Jesus Christ is precious. If you disagree with that statement and want to be wrong for the rest of your life, you name one thing about the Lord Jesus that wasn't precious. Everything about him was precious. Peter said, "He is precious."

Would you open your Bible a moment to Song of Solomon, chapter 5, and here we have a description, I believe, of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In verse 9, “What is thy beloved more than another beloved, O thou fairest among women? What is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou dost so charge us?” And she begins to answer, “My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand. His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy, and black as a raven. His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set. His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh. His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires. His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely.” That means he is wholly lovely. He is wholly lovely. Everything there is about him is lovely and that includes his blood. His precious blood is lovely as well.

The element of necessity or essentiality makes the blood of Christ precious. Oxygen is most precious to one who has emphysema. To one who does not and one that has no problems with his lungs, the taking in of air, the expelling of air, probably does it over and over and over again, only the Lord knows how many times we breathe in and out every day and we usually take it all for granted. But one with emphysema does not take it for granted. Oxygen becomes most precious, most precious because if you do not breathe, you die and it is a life and death matter. You may not have this particular possession or that particular possession but you have to have oxygen and oxygen becomes very, very precious. On a sunken submarine, the occupants were told to take only half breaths if they wanted to live until help arrived. They knew how long it would take for the rescue; they knew how long they could breathe and they said, “If you’ll just take short breaths, you can increase your life.” All of a sudden, they began to realize how precious oxygen is. It is essential.

The blood of Christ is also precious because it is essential. It is not optional. It is not what you think about it or what the Methodists think about it, or what the Presbyterians think about it, or what the Baptists think about it. It is a matter of fact: blood is essential. If it is the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, I would say here tonight that the blood of Christ is essential for salvation. There cannot be any such thing as the salvation of a lost sinner apart from the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says in Hebrews 9:22, “without shedding of blood there is no remission.” The Greek certainly does present a world of explanation on that verse. It says “without the shedding of blood there can be no remission,” and it means exactly what it says and it says exactly what it means.

The antidote for a certain poison is precious. There are some reptiles, or some serpents on this earth that are so poisonous and so deadly that if they bite an individual, that victim could die within 60 seconds after the bite. And the only thing that can save his life is the antidote for it; that is which becomes a very precious commodity. He would give anything in the world and he would pay any amount of money, he wouldn’t quarrel over it if he could get the antidote for it. “There is no other name under heaven given among men whereby you must be saved.”

A single exit in a burning building becomes most precious in time of a fire. Let me, very briefly, give you this scenario: if you walked into a parade of homes, into a home that is being demonstrated for its architectural design and the people that are in there are going, “ooh” and “ah” because they like the way the beams are and they love the carpet and they love this and they love that. All of a sudden fire breaks out and they forget about the beams and they forget about the carpet and they forget about the windows and they forget about the furniture. The one thing they are interested in is that door that says “exit.” And it becomes the most important thing in the world, it becomes precious.

Our Lord said, “I am the way,” not a way, “I am the way, the truth and the life and no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” And in John 8:24 he said, “If you believe not that I am he, you shall die in your sins.” Dear ones, let me emphasize this tonight: there are not many Saviors, there is only one and that’s the Lord Jesus Christ. There are many religions tonight, but there’s only one Savior and that’s Christ Jesus and whether you live in the United States of America or whether you live in Africa, every man must come to know this Lord Jesus Christ if they’re ever to be saved and he made it all so by the shedding of his precious blood. It’s what the Scripture teaches, it’s called “precious blood.”

Again, the blood of Christ is precious because it is always effectual when applied. It always gets the job done when it is applied. I’m so glad that Christ did not waste his blood on the cross. There are some who believe he did. They are just really backed up into a corner because there is no other answer for that. If Jesus Christ died for every individual alive, he died for them, he was the substitute for them, he made atonement for them. My dear friends, if they are not saved and we know that not everybody is going to be saved, there was a waste of his blood on Calvary at the cross. But when it is applied, everyone for whom he died will be saved. There is no waste to it. Hebrews 10:12 and 14 says, “But this man,” and he was man but he was also God, he was the God/man, “this man after he suffered one sacrifice for sins forever sat down on the right hand of God... For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.”

The blood of Christ is precious because of its intrinsic worth. A diamond is precious but not a television set. A television set has no intrinsic value, it has no intrinsic worth but a diamond has intrinsic worth. It can be declared precious. I believe we, and I’m treading on thin ice I realize that, I believe we must be careful in depreciating the literal blood of Christ as merely common blood and of no more importance than any other human blood. This would place Christ’s blood on the same level as Mohammed, who had blood, as Judas, who had blood, or anybody else. As a human, they too had blood. Our text in 1 Peter lays down Christ’s blood with silver and gold. Isn’t it strange that both silver and gold have intrinsic value and his blood is placed into that category of having intrinsic value.

I’ll not take the time to have you turn to it, but in Acts 20:28 it speaks about the church being bought with the blood of God; God’s blood. God is Spirit and as Spirit, in his essence, God doesn’t have flesh, God doesn’t have a body, God doesn’t have blood. So, in essence, it refers to the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ who was God in the flesh and

since God is Spirit and does not possess flesh and blood, it must refer to the Son whose blood is called “the blood of God.” No other person in the world has ever been called having the blood of God, God’s blood. It is precious. His blood was pure. His blood was harmless. His blood was without pollution. His blood was without disease. It was intrinsically precious.

A leading Bible teacher today, and you can hear him on many, many radio stations and see him on many television stations as well, and I have the greatest respect for him in his approach to the Bible being literally the Word of God, sheds light on this subject of the blood of Christ and he says whenever it talks about the blood of Christ, it is always talking about the death of Christ. And this man probably has forgotten more than I’ll ever learn, but I am at this point in my life and in my study of God’s Word, that I say if it means death, the Bible says “death.” If it means blood, the Bible says “blood.” You can have blood without death and you can have death without blood. Never fall into that trap of just simply saying that the blood is just common like anybody else’s blood. Be careful. Now, be careful not only when you say that but be prepared to explain what you mean when you say that. There is something about the blood of Jesus Christ that God calls it precious, indeed the precious blood of Christ.

The blood of Christ is precious because it cannot be substituted. There are no generics. Have you ever heard this said before: “Well, when I get a prescription, I always want my doctor to give me a generic because it is the same thing as a regular but you get it a little cheaper.” Well, I have a doctor too and he’s a pretty wise old man, he’s probably 90-95 years old, he’s Jewish. So, what are you doing with a Jewish doctor? Well, he’s one of God’s people. I felt like I was in good hands if I was with a Jewish doctor. But anyway, I asked him one day, I said, “Tell me something. Is the generic the same thing as the other?” He said, “Absolutely not.” He said, “Law permits generics to be produced, sometimes as much as 15% less potent as the real thing.” I’m saying unto you that there are no generics with the gospel. The gospel cannot be cheapened. It cannot be made a little lighter. It can be changed so that it’s easier for people to swallow without being offended. The blood of Christ is precious because it cannot be substituted. There is no competition with it. Never has been, never will be.

The blood of Christ cannot be substituted with animal blood. The Old Testament is filled with it. Thousands and thousands and thousands of animals, day after day, year after year, were offered but not one drop of animal blood could ever take away sin. According to Hebrews 10:4, all of this acted only as a type. It was a covering of sin until one day John the Baptist said, “Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” And it was when Christ shed his blood, he is the antitype of all of those Old Testament types. The blood of Christ cannot be substituted with animal blood.

The blood of Christ cannot be substituted with human blood whether by an unbeliever or a believer. Remember, there were two others that died the same day Christ died at Golgotha. One man died in sin, but the other man, I believe, was regenerated by the Holy Spirit of God and he said, “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”

There were three who died but neither of those other two could have ever redeemed man by shedding their blood and they did shed their blood.

The blood of Christ cannot be substituted with sacramental blood and this will be addressed a little later on in the conference. The Catholics claim that wine becomes the literal blood of Christ at the eucharist. But, my dear friends, it could never atone for sin, it could never atone for sin. Only the blood of Christ can effectually atone for the sinner.

In Hebrews 9:11-12, the Bible says, “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 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.” He obtained it. It was effectual. How was it effectual and why was it effectual? He obtained it with his blood and that blood, Peter says, is precious blood, the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no salvation from sin in any other because his blood is precious.

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.