

# Cleansing Blood

*The Precious Blood of Christ*

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**Bible Text:** 1 John 1:6-9; Revelation 1:4-5

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## **Victory Baptist Church**

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Please turn to two references this morning: 1 John, chapter 1, and also the book of Revelation, chapter 1. In the first epistle of John, chapter 1, verse 6-9,

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 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. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Keep a marker there, if you would, and let me read from Revelation 1, verses 4 and 5,

“John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”

Please compare 1 John 1:7 with Revelation 1:5. In 1 John 1:7, “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,” and then, of course, in Revelation 1:5, “unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.” It is the Apostle John who gives us both of these statements. He tells us in his first epistle, the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin. Now, that means precisely and exactly what it says; it doesn't need a whole lot of interpretation. Also, true with Revelation, he then tells them under him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

There are many unique and essential elements in the blood of Jesus Christ. One of the most important is that the blood of Jesus Christ is a spiritual detergent against sin. When applied, it washes, it cleanses, it purifies and it removes all sin. Now, the blood of Christ is essential for the sinner in his relationship with God. It is impossible for a sinner to have

a personal, loving relationship with God Almighty apart from the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is in Psalm 24 a question raised, verse 3-4, “who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in his holy place?” What a question to ponder. Who is it today that qualifies to leave this earth and go yonder and stand in the hill of the Lord, in the very presence of God? Who could qualify for that? Well, he gives us the answer: “He that hath clean hands.” Do you have clean hands? “He that has a pure heart.” Do you have a pure heart? “Who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.” So, not many people are qualified to stand in the presence of the Lord. They have to be made to be qualified. They are not in their own natural state qualified because of dirty hands and a dirty heart.

Revelation 21:27, ...“there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth,” that is, entering into the presence of the Lord in heaven, “there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.” Just as the blood is essential for the sinner in his relationship with God, the blood is also essential for the saint in his fellowship with God. The Scripture is clear here in John: “If we say we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth. 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,” continually, “cleanseth us from all sin.”

David cried out in the 51<sup>st</sup> Psalm. He knew the Lord but he had a real bad situation going. His fellowship with God was broken. “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions,” and then, “Wash me.” I need a bath; I need to be cleansed; I need to be washed. “Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.”

Now, let's observe this morning: The Nature of Sin. If there be no sin, there is no need for cleansing. As a boy, my mother, I don't think ever read that or ever heard that because she said on Saturday morning, “You're going to take a bath whether you need it or not.” I didn't think I needed it because I hadn't been playing out in the dirt but, dear friends, there is no need for cleansing if there is no dirt. If there is no sin, there is no need for cleansing.

Romans 3 makes it clear that the whole world stands guilty before God because “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” That same chapter says “there is none righteous, no not one.” Man is a sinner by birth, he is a sinner by choice, he is a sinner by practice, thus all men everywhere stand in need of cleansing. Every person you've ever met stands in need of cleansing. The Pope of Rome stands in need of cleansing. The virgin Mary stands in need of cleansing. Mother Theresa stood in need of cleansing. Every human being on the face of this globe stands in need of cleansing. Sin is exceeding sinful. Exceeding sinful. Romans 7:12-13, “Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto

me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.” That sin might become exceeding sinful.

Sin is more than a mistake. It is more than a “my bad.” Sometimes I am taken back by some of the expressions. Several years ago it was, “Sorry about that. Sorry about that.” It didn’t make any difference what you did, all you had to do was say, “Well, I’m sorry about that.” And that has now degenerated into, “That’s my bad. That’s my bad. That’s my mistake.” Can you see two men went up to the temple to pray, one a publican, one a Pharisee. The Pharisee prayed with himself and said, “Lord, I thank you I’m as good as you are and getting better every day,” whereas the publican said, “Dear Lord, my bad. Dear Lord, sorry about that. God be merciful unto me a sinner.”

Sin is more than a mistake or a “my bad.” It is more than an error in judgment. It is more than a psychological quirk. Sin is more than a personality flaw. Sin is more than an intellectual addiction, more than a weakness of character and it’s more than a wrong choice. Moreover, sin is rebellion against God. It is transgression. It is unrighteousness. It is filth. It is scum. It is sewage. It is pollution. It is depravity. It is disease. It is Satanic perversion. Sin is a blotch. It is a blight. It is a scab. It is a stain. It’s always black and ugly and dirty and polluted. It is hideous. It is fatal. It is, humanly speaking, utterly incurable and unremovable. It will curse. It will separate. It will damn the sinner to hell throughout eternity.

If the Bible teaches anything, it teaches this about the nature of sin, so much that perhaps one of the wisest men who ever lived, Solomon, said in Proverbs 14:9, “Fools make a mock at sin.” I was talking to a man one day and he said, “Well,” really he was a wretched individual, the closest thing, probably, to an atheist I’ve seen, he said, “I just guess I’m one of those old sinners, ha, ha.” And I thought, “My, my, fools make a mock at sin.”

The nature of sin is a very terrible thing and we’re all victims of it. Sin is universal in its scope. The human race has been dying off since Adam’s day. Why is that so? Because the Lord said to Adam, “In the day you eat the fruit thereof, though shalt surely die.” He died spiritual the same day he ate the fruit thereof and a good time later, or maybe hundreds of years when he was 900, he died physically and people have been dying ever since. We live in a day of medical technology; we live in a day of medical research; we have better equipped physicians and surgeons and doctors today than any generation before ours and yet, my dear friends, people continue to die. “It’s appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment.”

Sin is universal in scope. Ecclesiastes 7:20 says, “there is not a just man upon the face of the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.” Sin not only is universal in scope, it’s fatal. It is fatal. The Bible says in Romans 6:23, “the wages of sin is death.” Ezekiel 18:4 says, “the soul that sinneth, shall surely die.”

Now, we have a need for cleansing and we have a need for blood cleansing for it is only the blood of Jesus Christ that can cleanse us from our sins. Human detergents cannot wash away sin. If you shop in grocery stores for laundry products, once in a while you're going to see it stand out more than any other commodity, it's called Shout It Out. Shout It Out. The Pentecostals claim to cast out demons but they've never been able to cast out sin. Their emphasis is on the shouting, the emotion and get all wrapped up in this thing but the sin still remains.

Wash it with water, is the theme of the Campbelites. You have to be baptized in order to be saved. Our sins are not purged by the water in the baptistry. They are purged by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not one sin has ever been cleansed with water. Pontius Pilate tried to wash away the stain of sin with water and as one preacher said, he believed that he was still in hell, if he could get a little water, still trying to wash away the sin of rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is the "soap" of reformation. I call that Mr. Clean. If Shout It Out doesn't work, buy some Mr. Clean. These are New Year's resolutions and every January people say, "Well, I'm going to make a list of resolutions," and usually by the very next day, we've broken the very resolutions we've made. May I remind you that resolutions are not retroactive. It doesn't start and go back and cover everything that has been done. We're not saved by resolutions. There is the solvent of humanism, "Man is not really all that bad. What he needs is an attitude adjustment." There is the Clorox of religion. It may make you look good on the outside but inside the pollution remains and the stain remains.

Sin reacts only to the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to repeat that: sin reacts only to the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The text says, "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." That's not just all kinds of sin, it is all sins, all put together. Sins of the past, sins of the present and sins of the future are completely covered and washed away by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ toward that believing sinner that trusts Christ as Savior.

Sin reacts only to the blood of Christ. Revelation 1:5 again says, "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood." Do you know that the old hymn writers spoke of this spiritual detergent. My heart breaks with the direction that many churches are going today with the mega-churches and the changes that are taking place. They are dropping the name of Baptist from their church. We have the idea that if we can do that, you can get more people to come and it just goes on and on and on and it's affecting even the song service. We don't have song services anymore. We have a rock band and everybody is standing up and waving their arms. My soul thrills to hear in this Bible conference the old-time hymns of the faith:

"Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?  
Lay aside the garments that are stained with sin,  
And be washed in the blood of the Lamb."  
There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean,  
Oh be washed in the blood of the Lamb."

Robert Lowery, in his song, Nothing But the Blood.

“What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

And what about William Cooper? By the way, they said he was crazy.

“There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel’s veins,  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.”

And then,

“Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.”

Now, The Nature of Blood Cleansing: cleanseth is katharizo in the Greek; our English word is catharsis. It is used medically as a cleansing agency as in regurgitation or as a purgative. The whole purpose of a catharsis is to purge the system of impurities and to clean it out and sometimes it takes a little while to do that. Now, Brother Roloff in days gone by (he is with the Lord now) said that people get a little sick at their stomach and then they have to have a release for that, and the first thing they want to do is go get something to stop the release. He said, “What you need is a thorough cleansing, a thorough catharsis.” People have a runny nose, what do you want to do? He said, they go out and get some medicine to stop the runny nose. He said, “Honey, let it run. It’s getting all the impurities out of the system”.

So, The Nature of Blood Cleansing: He cleanseth us. It is an emptying, humanly speaking, of foreign bodies within the human system. It is a purging and a cleansing of the spiritual impurities in our soul. The blood of Christ possesses a cleansing element. It does what no other agent can do. The Scriptural type of cleansing I believe, and it’s already been referred to in the conference, was presented in the Levitical priesthood system in the Old Testament. On the Day of Atonement, which only came once a year, but on that Day of Atonement the High Priest would enter into the tabernacle and he would proceed to the Holy of Holies where he would sprinkle the blood of a bull on the Mercy Seat for his own sins. Then he would go out and get the blood of a goat and sprinkle the blood of the goat on the Mercy Seat for the people.

I don’t know whether I was reading it from Gill, it sounds maybe like Gill would say something like this, but whoever it was, someone had raised the question: why did the priest have to have a larger sacrifice? He had to have a bull; he had to have a bullock

whereas the other folk in the congregation, all they needed was a goat. He said, "Because the preacher's sins are twice as bad as the people in the congregation."

Nonetheless, he'd do the same thing with the blood of a goat for the sins of the people. This acted as a postponement of judgment for another 365 days. And then they had to go back and do the same thing over. It acted only as a covering until the Messiah arrived at which time Christ would shed his blood as the Lamb of God. Not only to cover sin, but to actually take it away.

In the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews, we don't have time to go into detail with it, but you need to read it because the earlier verses, beginning with verse 1 down through verse 10 explains the very thing I'm talking about, that is, the priest offering on the Day of Atonement. But he comes down to verse 11, "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."

The Scriptural illustration of cleansing, I believe, is set forth as clear in Luke 5 as in any other place I know in the Scripture. In Luke 5, let me read you just a few verses there, "And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." There were some who came to Christ and they asked and requested healing. This man does not request healing, he requests cleansing. "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean. And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean."

We don't have the time to go into a detail on this but leprosy is a picture of sin. A leper could never be healed. He must be cleansed. Sin cannot be healed. It cannot be healed with medicine. It cannot be healed with therapy. It cannot be healed with reformation. It cannot be healed with good manners or expensive clothing. It must be cleansed. A man can be healed of a headache, he can be healed of a broken bone, he can be healed of high blood pressure, he can be healed of a digestive disorder, he can be healed of a blood clot, he can be healed of a heart attack, a mental disorder and pneumonia but he cannot be healed of sin. He must be cleansed because sin is a stain that will not go away apart from the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The stain of sin must be removed. The stain of sin must be removed.

In one of Shakespeare's writings, and in one of the many stories that he wrote carries this particular line: "Out damned spot! Out, I say!" And it has to do with the crime that had been perpetrated; a sin that had been committed and it just would not go away. It ate like a rat day and night. The stain was there. It was trying to be ignored and it was still there. It was trying to be forgotten, but it was still there. And every day the guilt of it was increasing more and more and more, and in the verse it says, "Out damned spot!" Sin is a damned spot. Out, I say!

The stain of sin has to be removed,..... has to be removed. There is one agent and only one agent that can do that and that is the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. What can wash away my sins.... ..nothing but the blood of Christ. And when the Lord saves a sinner, he forgives him of all that he's ever done in the past, all that he'll ever do in the present or all that he'll ever do in the future. He forgives him of all sin, past, present and future.

Let me ask you a question. I've never done this before; this is a trial run of justice: What is the worst thing you have done since the Lord saved you? Now, come on, work with me on this. What's the worst thing you have done since the Lord saved you? Now, don't cheat. Think about that for a moment. Let your mind wander back. What is the worst thing you've done since the Lord saved you? Do you know what? It's under the blood. You know, we have a difficult time forgiving ourselves. Christ has forgiven us of all sins, past, present and future. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from our sin.

Please let me close with the words of a song. I would love to sing them for you but if I did, we would empty the auditorium.

“Dark the stain that soiled man’s nature  
Long the distance that he fell  
Far removed from hope and heaven  
Into deep despair and hell

But there was a fountain opened  
And the blood of God’s own Son  
Purifies the soul and reaches  
Deeper than the stain has gone

Conscious of the deep pollution  
Sinners wander in the night  
Though they hear the Shepherd calling  
They still fear to face the Light

This the blessed consolation  
That can melt the heart of stone  
That sweet balm of Gilead reaches  
Deeper than the stain has gone

When with holy choirs we’re standing  
In the presence of the King  
And our souls are lost in wonder  
While the white robed choirs sing

Then we’ll praise the name of Jesus  
With the millions around the throne  
Praise Him for the Power that reaches  
Deeper than the stain has gone

Praise the Lord for full salvation  
God still reigns upon His throne  
And I know the blood still reaches  
Deeper than the stain has gone.”