

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST the master-key
(COLOSSIANS I : 20)

Every New Testament preacher, and all New Testament writings, make reference to the blood of Christ. The theme is a scarlet thread running through the entire length of evangelical theology. Early in the sacred writings God revealed that the life was in the blood (Gen. 9:4), and in the New Testament the blood of Christ is synonymous with the life of Christ. Consequently the shed blood of Christ refers to His sinless life outpoured at Calvary. Whatever liberal theology might maintain, one fact is indisputable: that the apostles and leaders of the New Testament Church believed that man's salvation was procured through the sacrifice of Christ.

The Blood of Christ Made Peace for Sinners

"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself . . ." (Col. 1: 20). Man was at war with God ; a state of open rebellion existed in the human soul. When divine justice demanded retribution, the Lord Jesus voluntarily identified Himself with the guilty people, and accepted the full responsibility of their sins. He carried their guilt to Calvary, and thereby secured an armistice. Thus the righteousness of God was vindicated, and a way was opened whereby the state of war might be terminated.

The Blood of Christ Brings People into a New Fellowship

"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Ephes. 2:12,13).

Through the reconciling work of Christ, a new harmony was created. Man-made barriers and racial discrimination were superseded by the Christian Church. Masters and slaves sat together at the Lord's table as brethren. The peace secured at the cross became experimental in the souls of men, when the message of redemption reached out to the far country to bring aliens into the serenity of a new fellowship.

The Blood of Christ Cleanseth From Sin

" 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" (I John I : 7). Entrance into the fellowship of the Church does not guarantee immunity from sin. The Christian life means conflict and ceaseless watchfulness against the powers of evil. John stresses the fact that the death of Christ meets the needs of people for all time.

"The precious blood of Christ goes on cleansing, us from sin."

The Blood of Christ Enables Man to Enter the Presence of God

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us . . ." (Heb. 10: 19, 20). The epistle to the Hebrews provides striking contrasts between the old and new covenants. Formerly one man, the high priest, drew near to God on the day of atonement. Other people were excluded from the place of communion. The Saviour introduced a "better covenant," for through His death all men may enter into the presence of God, and find grace to help in time of need. Here is a progression of thought. Every man brought from the far country to enjoy the fellowship of

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saints, is not only assured of perpetual cleansing ; he is provided with the master-key which unlocks every problem.

The Blood of Christ Overcomes Satan

" And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven ... the accuser of our brethren is cast down. . . . And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony ; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice ye heavens . . ." (Rev. 12: 10-12). Here is a great mystery ; here is glorious truth. The power of the precious blood of Christ is the greatest weapon ever used in holy warfare. Defeat is impossible when the hand of prayer wields it correctly.

The Blood of Christ Provides the Theme of Eternal Songs

" And they sung a new song, saying ... Thou hast redeemed us to God by thy blood . . . and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands . . ." (Rev. 5: 9-12). Probably many of the memories of earth will disappear amid eternal splendor ; but the Cross will never be forgotten.

Precious, precious blood of Jesus,
Shed on Calvary;
Shed for rebels, shed for sinners,
Shed for me.

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