

The Blood of Christ

*...you were redeemed...with precious blood...
1 Peter 1:18-19*

1. The blood of Christ solves three basic problems

(a) Toward God—Separation

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have become a separation Between you and your God, And your sins have hidden *His* face From you...

Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have become near in the blood of Christ.

(b) Within ourselves—Guilt

Hebrews 9:14

How much more will the blood of Christ... purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 10:19

Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the *Holy of Holies* in the blood of Jesus,

(c) From Satan—Accusation

Revelation 12:10b-11a

...the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb...

2. The way to apply the blood—Confessing our sins

1 John 1:7b, 9

...the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin... If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Blood of Christ

The blood of Christ solves three basic problems

In our human life, we need certain basic items such as water, oxygen, food, clothing, and shelter. Our spiritual life, just like our physical life, requires certain basic elements. These are essential. Without them, you will find it difficult to survive as a Christian in a world that does not know Christ. One of these basic elements is the blood of Christ.

Why do you need the blood of Christ? Because, essentially, fallen man has three basic problems. Even as a Christian, you still carry around the fallen human life. So day after day, you may still be plagued with these three problems.

These three problems involve three parties: God, yourself, and Satan. Toward God, you often sense separation. Within yourself, you often sense guilt. And from Satan, you often sense accusation. These three—separation from God, feelings of guilt, and accusation from Satan—can be three big problems in your Christian life. How can these be overcome? Only by the blood of Christ.

Toward God—Separation

Sin always results in separation from God. Even as a Christian you may experience this. After committing some little sin, you sense a great gulf between you and God. Because God is righteous, He cannot tolerate sins. This is what the prophet Isaiah said: “But your iniquities have become a separation / Between you and your God, / And your sins have hidden His face / From you so that He does not hear” (Isa. 59:2).

There is only one thing in the entire universe that can take away sins—the precious blood of Christ. No amount of prayer, no amount of weeping, no ritual, no penance, no promise to do better, no guilty feeling, no period of waiting—no, nothing but the precious blood of Christ—can remove sins. Hebrews 9:22 says that “without shedding of blood is no forgiveness.”

What then should you do when you have sinned and feel far from God? You should

simply confess that sin to God and believe that the blood of Jesus has taken that sin away. First John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” When you confess your sins, immediately all distance between you and God is gone.

Once a year, on the day of atonement, the high priest went alone into the Holy of Holies to sprinkle the blood on the expiation cover of the ark (Lev. 16:11-17). No one was allowed to watch. This is a shadow of Christ who, after His resurrection, went into the heavenly tabernacle and sprinkled His own blood before God as the propitiation for your sins (Heb. 9:12). No one today can look into heaven and see that blood. Yet it is there. It

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is there speaking for you (Heb. 12:24) and satisfying God on your behalf. Even though you cannot see the blood, you can believe in its effectiveness. This blood solves your problem toward God.

If God esteems the blood of Christ sufficient to remove your sins, can you do the same? Or do you require some good feeling besides? Can your requirement be higher than God's? No, you must simply confess, “O God, thank You that the blood of Christ has taken away all my sins. If You are happy with the blood, then I am happy also.”

Within ourselves—Guilt

Sins offend God on the one hand and defile us on the other. What is guilt? Guilt is the stain of sins on your conscience.

Your conscience needs the precious blood of Christ. Hebrews 9:14 says, “How much more will the blood of Christ...purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” The blood of Christ is powerful enough to purge, or cleanse, your conscience from every guilty stain.

Christ died nearly two thousand years ago. His blood has already been shed and is available twenty-four hours a day to cleanse your conscience. Whenever you sin, there is no need to wait. Waiting does not improve the power of the blood. The blood is all-powerful. Wherever you are, any time of day,

Key Verses

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

Hebrews 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,

Revelation 12:11a And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb...

1 John 1:7, 9 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

if you sense guilt in your conscience, just claim the precious blood. “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven;... / Blessed is the man to whom / Jehovah does not impute iniquity” (Psa. 32:1-2). Through the precious blood of Christ, the problem of guilt is solved.

From Satan—Accusation

However, sometimes after you confess and apply the blood you may continue to have some bad feeling within. Does this indicate that your sin is not forgiven? Or that the blood of Christ does not work? Or that something further is needed? You must answer, “Absolutely not!” Where, then, do these bad feelings come from after you have confessed and applied the blood? Their source is God’s enemy, Satan.

Satan is the “devil,” which in the original language of the Bible means “accuser.” So Revelation 12:10 refers to him as “the accuser of our brothers,...who accuses them before our God day and night.” Satan, God’s enemy, spends most of his time day and night accusing God’s people. This is his job.

Nothing cripples a Christian spiritually more than accusation. Whenever you listen to Satan’s accusation, you are powerless. It is as if all the strength is drained from your spirit. A Christian under accusation finds it hard to fellowship with others and even harder to pray. He feels as though he cannot approach God.

This is the enemy’s subtlety. He never appears in a red suit with a pitchfork crying, “I am the devil! Now I am going to condemn you!” He is more clever than that. He accuses you inwardly and even tricks you into thinking that his accusations are God’s speaking. How can you distinguish between God’s true enlightening in your conscience and Satan’s accusation? Sometimes it is difficult, but there are three ways:

First, God’s light supplies you, whereas Satan’s accusation drains you. When God speaks concerning your sins, you may feel very exposed and wounded. Nevertheless, you are also supplied and encouraged to draw close to God and apply the precious blood of Christ. Satan’s accusations, on the other hand, are totally negative. The more you listen, the harder it is to pray. You feel empty and discouraged.

Second, God’s speaking is always specific, whereas Satan’s condemnation is quite often (though not always) general. Sometimes you may be tricked into thinking that you are just tired, or that you have had a rough day. Other times, you may just have a general impression that you are not right with God. But when you search your conscience, you find no specific sin that would cause you to be separated from God. When God speaks, He is specific and positive. But when Satan speaks, he is often general and negative.

Third, any uneasy feeling which remains after you confess and claim the blood is of Satan. There is never a need to confess and claim the blood again. God’s demand is at once satisfied by the blood. But Satan is never satisfied. He would like to see you confess again and again. When you confess and claim the cleansing of the blood, God is instantly satisfied. Any further voice is Satan’s.

If you confess your sin and claim the precious blood, yet some uneasiness continues to tug at you within, you should stop praying immediately. Do not confess anymore. Rather, turn to the source of the accusation and say something like this: “Satan, I have confessed my sin to God. He has forgiven my sin, and the blood of Jesus Christ has cleansed me from it. This uneasiness that I sense right now is not from God; it is from you, and I reject it! Satan, now you must look at the blood of Christ.” When you use the

blood in this way, Satan is defeated and he knows it. Revelation 12:10-11 says, “The accuser of our brothers has been cast down....And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony.” The word of your testimony is just your declaration that the blood of Jesus Christ has cleansed you from every sin and that this blood has defeated Satan.

The way to apply the blood— confessing our sins

This is so easy to experience. Whenever you sin and sense guilt within, you may simply open to God and pray something like this: “O God, forgive me for what I did today. Thank You, Lord, on the cross You died for me and paid for this sin that I have committed. Lord, I believe that this sin has been forgiven by You. Right now I claim Your precious blood to cleanse my conscience from any stain of guilt.” Remember 1 John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” And as Psalm 103:12 says, “As far as the east is from the west, / So far has He removed our transgressions from us.” Who can say how far east is from west? In the same way, when you confess your sins, God removes them infinitely far away from you. They are not associated with you anymore. Because of this, you may have rest in your conscience.

When God forgives, He forgets. Do not think that after God has forgiven your sins, He may one day come back and remind you of them again. No, when it comes to your forgiven sins, God has a very short memory. Sometimes you may have a better memory than God. Can God really forget? This is what Jeremiah 31:34 says: “I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” If God forgets your sins, you may forget them also. Don’t remind God of something He has already forgotten.

By the power of the precious blood of Christ, it is possible for a Christian to live moment by moment in God’s presence. Whenever any little sin would come to frustrate your fellowship with God, you may instantly confess and claim the Lord’s prevailing blood. Immediately the fellowship is restored. Why should you waste time? The blood of Christ is available moment by moment, day after day. You can never exhaust the cleansing power of the blood of Christ. His blood is not only able to cleanse every past sin, but also every sin that you could ever commit.

Assignment

Practice speaking about the effectiveness of the blood of Christ toward the three problems confronting everyone who sins with someone in your small group. Then, speak it to a friend not in your small group.

Prayer Assignment

Set aside a time alone this week to be with the Lord to confess any sins, opening to His shining, and be thoroughly cleansed before Him. Doing this in a definite way will preserve you from any condemnation of Satan.

Additional Daily Verses

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Ephesians 2:13	Hebrews 9:14	Hebrews 10:19	Proverbs 28:13	Revelation 12:10-11	1 John 1:7, 9	Psalm 103:12

Weekly Memorization Verses

Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have become near in the blood of Christ.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.