

Blood In The Scheme Of Redemption

Introduction. After Adam and Eve sinned they sewed together fig leaves to make a covering for themselves. Apparently this was inadequate, so the Lord made garments of skin to clothe them. This implies that blood was shed in order to provide a covering for man (Genesis 3:7, 21). Blood makes atonement by reason of the life in the blood (Leviticus 17:11). God appointed blood for the altar to be the medium of atonement for the souls of men (Exodus 24:8; Leviticus 16:18-19).

God promised atonement for sin and cleansing by the blood of a guiltless substitute. How logical it was for the New Testament to take this concept to its ultimate fulfillment and extension. Many fail to understand the emphasis which the New Testament places on the blood of Christ. Because of this tremendous importance and the ease at which misunderstandings and false doctrines develop, we will contemplate the role of blood in the scheme of redemption.

I. ***The Blood Of The Covenant***

- A. The new covenant is dedicated with the blood of Christ (Hebrews 9:18-26). The blood of animals could not take away sins (Hebrews 10:4). Christ offered Himself once and then entered a holy place (heaven) to appear before God for us.
- B. This new covenant is a different covenant; it is written in the mind and on the heart. Under it sins are remembered no more (Hebrews 8:6-13).
- C. The blood of the new covenant is for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28).
 - 1. This blood covers the faithful before the cross (Hebrews 9:15; 11:39-40; 12:23).
 - 2. This blood will cover the sins of all until the judgment (Hebrews 9:26; 10:10).
- D. Stated another way, this covenant is an eternal one (Hebrews 13:20-21). It will never be superseded or replaced.

II. ***How Does One Come Into Covenant Relationship?***

- A. A comparison of the covenants.
 - 1. Under the old covenant one was physically born into covenant relationship. On the eighth day the males were circumcised as a sign; they were taught later (Leviticus 12:3; Deuteronomy 6:7-9).
 - 2. Under the new covenant one must hear, learn and come (John 6:44-45). They enter into a covenant relationship by spiritual birth (John 3:3, 5).

- B. One reaches the blood of Christ when one is born again.
 - 1. One must draw near with a true heart, having the heart sprinkled or purged from an evil conscience and having the body washed with pure water (Hebrews 10:22; 9:14).
 - 2. This means when one is baptized in water, the Lord cleanses him by sprinkling His blood (spiritually) upon the heart (cf. Hebrews 12:24; 1 Peter 1:2)..
- C. Therefore, covenant people have been sprinkled with blood.
 - 1. Old covenant people were sprinkled with the blood of animals.
 - 2. New covenant people have been sprinkled with the blood of Christ.

III. ***How Does One Come Into Contact With The Blood Of Christ?***

- A. The blood of Jesus was shed "for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28).
 - 1. One contacts the blood of Christ when one reaches the death of Christ.
 - 2. One reaches the death of Christ when in baptism (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12).
- B. A believer must repent and be baptized "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).
 - 1. Without shedding of blood there could be no forgiveness of sins.
 - 2. Without repentance and baptism there could be no remission or forgiveness of sins.
- C. These facts are further illustrated in two ways.
 - 1. Baptism releases from sin (Revelation 1:5; Acts 22:16).
 - 2. Baptism sprinkles and purges our conscience (Hebrews 9:14; 10:22; 1 Peter 3:21).

IV. ***What The Blood Of Christ Does For Us***

- A. Christ is set forth as a propitiation for our sins (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2).
 - 1. The same Greek word is translated "mercy seat" in Hebrews 9:5. The mercy seat was the lid or covering of the ark of the covenant.
 - 2. On the day of atonement blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat (Leviticus 16:14).
- B. The blood of Christ redeems us (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19).
 - 1. Several Greek words are used for "redemption" in the New Testament.
 - 2. They all carry the idea of releasing or deliverance from bondage upon payment of a ransom (cf. Matthew 20:28).
- C. The blood of Christ justifies us (Romans 5:9-10).
- D. The blood of Christ sanctifies us (Hebrews 13:12).
- E. The blood of Christ cleanses us (1 John 1:7).

- F. We are made nigh by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).
- G. The blood of Christ reconciles us to God (Colossians 1:20).
- H. The church was purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).
 1. God made the church peculiarly His own through the blood of Christ.
 2. The kingdom is composed of blood-purchased individuals (Revelation 5:9-10).

V. ***Our Communion With The Blood Of Christ***

- A. In the cup of the Lord's supper we have communion (share, participate or have fellowship) in the blood of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16). This is one of the main reasons why it is important for the Christian to partake of the Lord's supper with regularity.
- B. The blood of Christ made the new covenant possible and we are reminded of this when we partake of it (Matthew 26:28; 1 Corinthians 11:25).
- C. In the Old Testament passages the word "blood" is used to signify the juice of grapes (Genesis 49:11; Deuteronomy 32:14).
 1. It seems most fitting that Jesus should use this element to represent His blood.
 2. Wine was used in the drink offerings of the Old Testament (Exodus 29:40; Leviticus 23:13), and was kept in the temple for sacrificial purposes (1 Chronicles 9:29).
- D. To partake of the Lord's supper in an unworthy manner is to be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).
 1. An "unworthy" manner means a careless manner. Today, one can be guilty of partaking of the Lord's supper in an unworthy manner when he fails to give it the respect which it deserves.
 2. The one who partakes the Lord's supper unworthily has sinned against, not mere unleavened bread and fruit of the vine, but against the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion. Old Testament priests were consecrated by blood (Exodus 29:19-21). Every Christian is a priest who has been consecrated by the blood of Christ (1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:5-6; 5:9-10). These truths should indicate why so much emphasis is placed upon the individual action of Christians in the New Testament.

The Christian who turns his back on the Lord regards the blood of the covenant as something unclean (Hebrews 10:29). The Christian who fails to grow as he should has forgotten that he was purified from sin (2 Peter 1:9). How will you treat this blood that was shed for us? Will you treat it with its due respect by proper obedience?