

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 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 Old Covenant people were sprinkled with the blood of animals (Exodus 24:6-8; Leviticus 16:18-19). The New Covenant is dedicated with the blood of Christ because the blood of animals cannot take away sins (Hebrews 9:18-26; 10:4).
- B. His blood covers the faithful before the cross (Hebrews 9:15; 11:39-40; 12:23), and it covers the sins of all until the judgment (Hebrews 9:26; 10:10). Under it sins are remembered no more (Hebrews 8:6-13).
- C. Entering into a covenant relationship.
 1. Under the Old Covenant physical birth determined covenant relationship. Males were circumcised as a sign and were taught later (Leviticus 12:3; Deuteronomy 6:7-9).
 2. The death of Christ did away with the Old Covenant (Ephesians 2:14-16). The New Covenant is an eternal one (Hebrews 13:20-21). It will never be replaced.
 3. The New Covenant is written in the mind and on the heart. Under it one must hear, learn, and come (John 6:44-45).

II. ***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, and one reaches the death of Christ in baptism (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12). This is also referred to as being "born again" (John 3:3, 5; Titus 3:5).
 2. 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 9:14; 10:22; 1 Peter 3:21; cf. Ephesians 5:25-26).

- a) In the Old Testament, purification was by water (Exodus 30:17-21; Numbers 19:16-19).
 - b) The spiritual need to be forgiven of sins was represented by physical cleansing (Isaiah 1:15-16; Psalm 51:2, 7-10).
3. This means that 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). This, in turn, releases us from sin (Revelation 1:5; Acts 22:16).
- 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.

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

- A. The blood of Christ is our propitiation (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2).
 1. The same Greek word is translated "mercy seat" in Hebrews 9:5.
 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 "redeem," "redeeming," or "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; Mark 10:45; 1 Timothy 2:6).
- 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. The blood of Christ brings us near to God (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. The kingdom is composed of blood-purchased individuals (Revelation 5:9-10).
 2. Because of His blood, Christians are God's own special possession (1 Peter 2:9).

IV. ***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. 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).
 - 2. Since blood was necessary to institute the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34), it was fitting for the "fruit of the vine" to be a symbol of His blood (Matthew 26:29; cf. Isaiah 42:6; 49:8).
- 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. This is serious, for it involves "damnation" to the one who does not properly discern.

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 you? Will you treat it with its due respect by proper obedience?