

Are You Washed In The Blood?

by Casey Head

It might be tempting for some Christians to be ashamed of their faith, because after all, it is a “bloody religion.” Our faith in God is based upon the bloody sacrifice of Jesus on the cross at Calvary, which to some is a powerless and weak attempt at salvation. But we must learn to appreciate the precious blood of Christ, for it saves, justifies, and redeems us from sin.

In Matthew 26:28, as Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper before being betrayed and led to the cross, He said, “For this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” While His disciples may have been unnecessarily unaware of what was about to happen, Jesus KNEW that He was about to undergo the most painful and embarrassing experience of His life. His blood would be spilled and ripped cruelly from His outstretched body. Why would He allow this to happen? So that there could be remission of sins. It was the only way for true redemption to be offered to man.

We also find in Acts 20:28 that He shed His blood for the church. This does not mean that His sacrifice only benefitted a select few (as the doctrine of Predestination would set forth), but rather that He shed His blood so that the church could be established, so that salvation could be made available to all who might receive it. The church contains the saved (Acts 2:47), and we are reconciled to God by His blood *in the church* (Ephesians 2:13-22). It should be clear to us all that the blood of Jesus has made salvation possible.

To further this point, let us consider several passages in the New Testament that prove the necessity of the blood. Paul says in Romans 5:9, “Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” Not only are we justified by the blood, but verse ten says that we are reconciled by His death. Ephesians 1:7 makes a similar point, “In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Redemption and forgiveness of sins are made possible by Jesus’ precious blood. Finally, the apostle Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:18-19, “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” The blood here is referred to as being “precious,” and it is shown to be so much more valuable than silver and gold. Why is it that some people are ashamed of the blood of Jesus? It justifies, reconciles, redeems and forgives us.

A point is made in 1 Peter 1:19 that we need to further establish. Peter refers to Jesus as a “lamb.” This has reference to the Old Testament when the people of God were commanded to make animal sacrifices to receive atonement. From the very beginning, we find Abel, the son of Adam and Eve sacrificing the “firstlings of his flock and the fat thereof” (Genesis 4:4). Even the patriarchs made animal sacrifices, and we find God commanding animal sacrifices in the law of Moses (Leviticus 1-7). While these sacrifices of the old law didn’t provide *true* atonement (Hebrews 10:4), they had to be made, for as the Hebrew writer states, “Almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.” Jesus came as the lamb of God (John 1:29) to take away the sins of the world.

Now that we’ve shown the significance of the blood of Christ, we want to ask you the question, are you washed in the blood? Has the blood been applied to your life? Have you been saved, justified, redeemed and forgiven by the precious blood of Christ? As we see in 1 Corinthians 5:7, “For even Christ our *passover* is sacrificed for us.” God told the Israelites when they were in the land of Egypt as He instituted the Passover, “When I see the blood, I will pass over you” (Exodus 12:13). Will God pass over you or will you be struck by His judgement?

Friend, if you have not been baptized for the remission of your sins, into the death of Christ where His precious blood was shed (Romans 6:3-5), then you are lost in sin. We hope that you will see the need to be saved, to be washed in the blood of Christ before it is everlasting too late. If there is anything we can do to assist you, please don’t hesitate to let us know.