

Blood By The Book!

The Blood (Part 1)

The Purpose of This Series: This series is to provide a greater understanding of the broader picture of the Biblical concept of The Blood. Without an accurate understanding of this Biblical truth, the blessings procured by it, the glory of God seen through it, the Word of God permeated through and through with it, and the hope that it provides for all mankind by it is the loss of the Gospel itself. The key concepts that we will learn is who we are in Christ, becoming a confident and assured believer, freedom from your past, authority as a believer, a purified and overcoming life, power in victory as a “follower of Christ” and the excitement of the reality of eternity in heaven!

The Purpose of This Message: GOD speaks through His Word to us in many ways but His VOICE always speaks the WORD of the same GOD. When we read the Bible, we should read it as a whole and understand it in a broader sense that can give us a greater definition to its key and important truths. A thirty-thousand foot view of the Bible is sometimes the basis for assisting us in a more detailed understanding of the Bible. Until we begin to discover what those broader, yet foundation truths of the Bible are, every key revelation from God's divine and unchanging truth can become dormant, hidden or even seem irrelevant to our Biblical understanding, leaving a deficit in our spirit. Today we want to gain a relevant understanding of the bigger picture so that the simple truths can be repositioned in our spirits as resounding revelations!

God's Plan For Man

When God created the universe, it was His intent to make those He created to **participate with Him in His power and through His love and wisdom on this earth. God not only wanted to reveal Himself to His created beings, but also through them by communicating to them as they were capable of receiving.** The relationship of man with God can only be one of absolute, universal dependence. God can not, nor will not change and there is no room for negotiation. We must find and submit to His plan or there is no plan. **So man must “change,” not “adapt” to His Word.** This challenge not only lies within us, but the universe as a whole will one day bow its knee to this truth. And, this truth is waiting to be held on to for the sake of the universe and those who live in it.

Twilight

It's interesting with all the interest that has to do with blood today. Apparently, it's quite popular to be a vampire. Twilight focuses on the development of a personal relationship between a human teenager named Bella and a 104-year-old vampire that goes by the name of Edward. Edward and others assist him in keeping Bella safe from a separate group of hostile vampires. Since the release of the first novel, Twilight, in 2005, the books have gained immense popularity and commercial success around the world. One of the books won the 2008 British Book Award for **"Children's Book of the Year"** for Breaking Dawn, while the series as a whole won the **2009 Kids' Choice Award for Favorite Book.** The book was released on August 7, 2007 with an initial print run of 1 million copies, and sold more than 150,000 copies in the first 24 hours alone.



In 2008, the romantic-fantasy film called “Twilight” was released in theaters. The movie **grossed US\$35.7 million on its opening day**. As of September 19, 2009, the film has **grossed US\$383,520,177 in worldwide** box office and, as of **July 12, 2009, \$157,078,128 in North American DVD sales**. Because of its success, two other movies, The Twilight Saga: New Moon, was released on November 20, 2009. The third film, The Twilight Saga: Eclipse, is set to be released June 30, 2010. Let me ask you a few questions:

- What is this infatuation with “blood?”
- Are these books and films representative of a deeper need we are searching for but just can't put our finger on?
- Do our spirits secretly cry out for a supernatural protector that defies the enemy on our behalf?
- Is there a real Biblical response to the mystery and stories that are so prevalent in our culture today?

Thirty Thousand Foot View

Thirty Thousand Foot View is typically the landscape view out of the window of a commercial aircraft at cruising altitude. It is also a popular term used to help people pull back from details to a broader view. At times we get so consumed with the details that we lose the big picture. A few years back I flew to England on my way to Uganda, Africa. I had the thirty thousand foot view. One of my greatest memories ever is being able to look out and down and notice the Swiss Alps, as majestic as you could have ever imagined and also see the desert of Northern Africa. That perspective was breathtaking. No one could ever describe it to me quite like I saw it. That's the perspective God wants us to have of His Word and His truth. Without the understanding of the big picture, the little details of powerful revelation can get distorted or even become antagonistic to the greater purpose.

Tradition Verses Revelation

An important thing that I need to address is the idea of establishing a proper understanding of where we are going in this message series. As we journey in our walk with Christ we discover people actually come from basically two different directions. In one direction, there are those who have no idea of God nor His power or their need of Him. Their discovery is deep and rewarding, they know they were truly lost but now are found. As for the other direction, these are people who have been in an environment that proclaimed Jesus Christ, it had a form of religious activity with many traditions, but there never was a connection between the living God and the ritual they had experienced called “church.” Their discovery is revelatory and shocking, they feel deceived and betrayed. Because of this discovery, in a radical response of this new revelation, they often consider everything they had been involved with prior to this new revelation as legalism and dead bondage. In essence, it takes the same place of as the Old Testament, the old covenant. The problem with this is this point, everything in the Old Testament pointed *forward* to Christ's coming. That's why it is the Old Testament. In reality, today, all the traditions of many churches, that we might consider dead in tradition, are actions specifically looking *backward* at the Christ who came, the “new covenant.” There are some incredible teachings and richness in many of the traditions of the church, and in our search for understanding the word of God and a deeper revelation of Christ we begin to formulate, structure clear statements of what we believe and lo and behold, those

same statements were made clearly in the creeds and catechisms of a religious past.

What's the problem? It's what is always the problem, **the newest revelation always has the potential of becoming the past tradition.** In other words, what we so loudly celebrate today, the next generation may not think is so cool, they've been there and bought the shirt. They are looking for "their" truth.

I say all this because I am seeing an incredible need to two things:

1. **Return to a more traditional communion-** This doesn't mean that we will have a limited few who can serve communion or a certain way we will have to partake. But what I see is that we provide communion in different venues every Sunday. That is why, in our new sanctuary, we are intentionally designing space for individual and corporate communion each Sunday morning.
2. **Training and celebrating first communion with our children-** What I am understanding and learning concerning the Blood of Jesus, communion will never look the same, and after hearing these messages, I hope you feel the same. I believe that we are not doing our children a favor if we are not helping them understand what communion means and how it symbolizes the living and powerful purpose of Christ in us. The idea of catechism is something I thought I would never say, but again, **tradition is only revelation that got old.** We will do our best to not allow the revelation of God's truth to become cold and heartless. We should celebrate what should be celebrated and that is the revelation of what Christ has done in our lives.

There are, without a doubt, some traditions that have no Biblical foundations and should be challenged and identified for what they really are. But there are many traditions that many believers feel like they have been liberated from, and they represent exactly what they are discovering in the truth of God's Word. Personally, I don't like tradition of any kind. If it is not life giving, I'm really not into it. But there is a mystery that is occurring today, an acknowledgement that some of the things designed, written and creeded a ways back, could have never been said or done better, they are amazing! Most of what we would call "tradition" is nothing more than revelation that got old. Tradition celebrates the obvious, remember that! It never moves far beyond the person of Christ, His life, His death, His blood or God and the Holy Spirit. It's just plain and simple. Tradition can seem limited, short sighted...even shallow.

And that moves me to an other concern that I've observed, and that is "deep revelation." Here is what I've observed, the deeper you go in revelation, the less perspective you have on the key simple truth, it's about Jesus. There are so many people dying for "deep" revelation and they are not at all moved by the person of Christ, His life, death, blood, God or the Holy Spirit...well maybe the Holy Spirit.

What I'm saying is that when I was a kid in my back yard, I dug a hole, it was a deep hold, deep enough that I couldn't get out of it by myself. The deeper I went, the less view I had of my back yard. Now that's deep! Ha! But the deeper I went, the less perspective I had of everything else. I became "tunnel" visioned. I could only see what was only in my hole. When you take this thought into the realm of a believer, those with "deep" revelation will share or push for that truth, and I do mean truth because it's real. It gathers others around that hole, others start digging in the same hole and tunnel off in different directions mining all the incredible truths of that revelation, and it is so exciting, so real, so alive, everything in comparison looks like tradition.

What's interesting is, in the 45 years that I've been a Christian and the 30 years I've been in pastoral ministry, I've seen movements of revelation that has gathered others around them in specific doctrinal issues, church government concepts, worship styles and outreach or ministry methods. The revelation explodes and people gather, creating a denomination, network or covenant and given time other people wonder why these gathered people do what they do, their revelation seems to look sort of...traditional. Of course, this is not true to all the people within the group, no, those people are on fire and confident what they found is the answer, the solution and revelation for all. But we all have a tendency to grow old and along with it, our revelation.

I'm not for tradition, and I love revelation, but what happens when your revelation makes full circle and connects with traditional values and activities? I believe you have to “not” do what you did in the first place, you don't throw everything out the window and totally be swallow up by the next revelation.

Thirty Thousand Foot View- We are going to pull out of the revelatory hole, pull back to the view of a commercial air flight pattern. We are going to see a key thought that is so pertinent to our lives that if this is misunderstood or ignored you will not get any truth from the word of God. Actually, all the holes you dig and tunnel out of will only get you deeper, away from the truth.

By The Blood

I believe there is a response to the mystery that surrounds our culture today and has surrounded cultures from the beginning of time. And it comes from one of the oldest writings in the world, the Word of God. **From Genesis to Revelation there is no single scriptural idea more constantly kept in view than that of "THE BLOOD."** In this Word there is an incredible mystery to be seen and a wonderful revelation to be found. Today there is **no better explanation** than what has been written and **no greater truth** than what has been taught from each one of it's pages. This incredible BLOOD OF JESUS has mighty power in it. And it will be worth your while to follow with me as we journey through the Bible and see the unique trail of THE BLOOD from the beginning to the end of God's revelation of Himself to man, as recorded in the Bible.

Four Areas Of Focus

1. The Blood In The Old Testament
2. The Blood In The Teachings of Jesus
3. The Blood In The Teachings of The Apostles
4. The Blood In The Teaching of Revelation

1. The Blood In The Old Testament

When you start your understanding about the Blood in the Old Testament you learn that it all begins in Eden.

I. The Creation	1:1—2:25
A. Creation of the World.....	1:1—2:3
B. Creation of Man.....	2:4—25
II. The Fall	3:1—5:32
A. The Fall of Man.....	3:1—24

B. After the Fall: Conflicting Family Lines.....4:1—5:32

1) Ruin of family (4:1-5:32)

a) Adam and Eve

(1) First born, Cain (4:1)

(a) Rebelled against God (4:3)

(b) A murderer (4:8)

(c) Rejected by God (4:5, 12)

(2) Second born, Abel (4:2)

(a) Feared God (4:4)

(b) Murdered by Cain (4:8)

(c) Accepted by God (4:10)

(d) Replaced by God (4:25)

III. The Judgment of the Flood6:1—9:29

God's Sacrifice

It's interesting to notice that it was God who first provided a sacrifice to cover the works of sin. In Genesis 3:21, Adam and Eve "saw that they were naked," and because of their "sin" God had to shed blood to provide covering for that particular sin. It was the first sign of the shedding of blood to cover their sins.

Abel's Sacrifice

Our word, "Sacrifice" is from a Middle English verb meaning "to make sacred." The ritual of sacrificing an animal was first represented when God had to sacrifice an animal to cover both Adam and Eve. It was a part of religious practice there and has been discovered in many religions since then as a means of appeasing a god or gods. Animal sacrifice has turned up in almost all cultures, from the Hebrews to the Greeks and Romans, Ancient Egyptians and from the Aztecs to the Yoruba. Animal sacrifice is still practiced today in various places. Look at Abel's actions

"But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast."

Genesis 4:4-5

This is actually the first act of worship recorded in the Bible, blood was shed for it to take place.

"By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead."

Hebrews 11:4

Abel offered a "better," an "acceptable" sacrifice, and it is important for us to understand this. Cain was not only wrong, everyone was wrong but Able in his choice of sacrifice. This issue has not change during all these thousand of years, there are still others who don't like the way God leads His business. A key thought here is,

YOU HAVE NOT ACCURATELY WORSHIPED GOD UNTIL YOU HAVE

ACCEPTABLY SACRIFICED TO GOD.

Some key observations concerning Cain is:

1. Cain knew that God did not look with favor over his sacrifice.
2. Cain became angry because of this rejection.
3. Cain looked down rather than up at God.
4. Cain took it out on his brother.

Letter From Church Member

I recently received an email from one of the individuals in our congregation. It is interesting how things have not changes all that much since the time of Abel and Cain.

“Last night and early this morning God...brought to my memory when i first accepted Christ. I wanted everyone to know. And for some reason He place on my heart to tell this one lady I worked with. I was friends with her but not someone I would (normally) go to, but I did. She was receptive to me and then I told my family. OOOOOOh my, you would have thought i committed murder. It was, “Dont preach to me!” My Dad said, “I know more about God than you do. Don't preach to me!” And all I said was, “I accepted Christ.” I would hear, “All you have to be is good and you will go to heaven.” “Your in a cult!” “You don't know anything about God.” Then it was, “You are no longer apart of this family.” I thought wow, all this for saying I accepted Christ and I wanted to share it with you guys. Then work. People would see that I stopped drinking. They would ask, “Why?” I would start to share about Christ. OOOOOh my. You would have thought I killed someone again. People would literally come at me. “You have no right to tell us about God!” “Who cares what you have to say?” And yet they are the ones asking me about Him. I would have people come up to me and say, “We are watching you.” And if I messed up, got mad or even cussed, they were right there to tell me, “Your not a Christian!” And if I tried to tell them about Christ, being able to come to Him for forgiveness, they would get so mad. I thought, “Lord what is going on?” “Why am I being attacked like this?” And I shut down.”

That is part of the letter that describes the life of a Christian in a Cain world.

Recently I read an interesting article found in the winter/2010 edition of “The American Christian.” The article sited an incident that took place at Missouri State University with a student by the name of Emily who experienced an appalling harassment and intimidation because of her faith.

A few weeks before graduation, Emily's professor commissioned his students to write letters to the Missouri legislature advocating foster care and adoption “rights” for same-sex couples. She respectfully approached her professor and told him she couldn't do what he'd asked and offered to do another assignment instead. He immediately attempted to change her political viewpoint. When he saw she wasn't going to change her mind he abruptly ended class and stormed out of the room.

Three days later Emily received a telephone call informing her that the professor had filed a Level 3 grievance- the most serious complaint possible- against her. She was

required to meet with the faculty ethics committee after her finals. Withholding the full purpose of the meeting and would not allow her to bring an attorney, her parents or anyone else to the meeting. After two-and-a-half hours of browbeating Emily about her Christian faith the committee threatened to withhold her diploma if she didn't take steps to "correct" her actions.

The incident reached the ears of a group called Center for Academic Freedom who filed suit against the college and things changed almost overnight. The college president launched an internal investigation and suspended the professor and placed the entire department under external investigation. The president did something more, he offered to pay for Emily's graduate school education and expenses at any other public school in the state. And because of this incidence the state of Missouri passed the "Emily Brooker Intellectual Diversity Act.

The purpose of telling you this story is to say that there are those who have a "Cain" attitude. They are angry, they will not look up to God and they take it out on the brothers of Christ. God does not nor will He ever accept their idea of religion, sacrifice or worship. He instituted what it is and that's all it will ever be. Anything outside that is perversion, it is sin and idol worship!

Able had the favor of God on his life because he was obedient in the sacrifice of his firstborn of his flock. Able accurately worshiped God because he appropriately sacrificed to God.

Listed first among several men of faith in Hebrews 11, he is among those whom the Bible calls "**believers**." Cain could have joined his brother, he could have provided an acceptable offering, one that...pleased God. Abel's faith was in the sacrificial blood that God accepted. **This great revelation at the very beginning of human history, is of of the most significant issue through out the remainder of history.** We can clearly see that there can be no approach to God; no fellowship with Him; no enjoyment of His favor, apart from **THE SHED BLOOD OF A SACRIFICE.**

Noah's Sacrifice: The Flood

There is little more detail of this sacrificial blood during the next **sixteen centuries** that followed the sacrifice of Abel, (Genesis 4) until after the Flood (Genesis chapters 6-9), which was **God's judgement on sin, by destruction caused by a flood on the world and on mankind.** The world as it was became completely submerged, baptized by water. It went down in death but came up a new earth.

The **first recorded act of Noah**, after he had left the ark, was to offer a burnt sacrifice to God. Just like Abel, finding an acceptable sacrifice before God, so it was with Noah in this new beginning, it was **"BY THE BLOOD."**

Abraham's Sacrifice

400 years later, sin was once again prevailing. God begins to establish an entirely new Kingdom on this earth. **Abraham had a divine call God in his life**, (Genesis 13:1), **which led to the miraculous birth of Isaac**, (Genesis 21), Abraham being 100 years old. God's purpose through Abraham was not without the shedding of **THE BLOOD.** This is apparent in the most solemn hour of Abraham's life. God told

Abraham,

"Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

Genesis 22:2

God had already entered into **covenant relationship with Abraham**, and his **faith** had **already** been severely **tried**, (Genesis 13:1). For **Abraham's faith** to trust and follow God, it **was reckoned, or counted to him, for righteousness**. He had to learn that this promise that was given to him, his son, had to be wholly God's, and could only be God's if he was willing to put him to death.

Isaac must die. It's so difficult to understand that the promise can sometimes become our God. We worship the blessing more than the "blesser." Abraham is no different than we are, **death can only prove or develop our faith**.

Abraham must offer Isaac on the altar.

God was not playing "Who's in Control" with Abraham. It wasn't a manipulative play to see how much Abraham loved God, this was a **revelation of divine truth**, that it is this,

Only through death, life can truly be consecrated to God

Was it impossible for Isaac to die and rise again from the dead? Abraham was counting on it, (Hebrews 11:19). Abraham was promised to bring a new Kingdom to this world and it would come through his seed. See, **sin had determined death, there had to be a sacrifice**, but **Isaac's life was spared**, and a **ram was offered** in his place. The blood of that ram flowed on Mount Moorish and Isaac was spared. In one way, Isaac and all the people that came after him, live accepted by God **"BY THE BLOOD."** The incredible teaching of **substitution** is here clearly seen here.

Israel's Sacrifice

Four hundred years pass, the descendants of Abraham and Isaac have come to live in Egypt, they are called **the people of Israel**. They were delivered from Egyptian bondage and recognized as **God's first-born among the nations, "BY THE BLOOD."** Abel understood it, Noah felt compelled to do it, Abraham could not resist it and the children were not going to leave the bondage of Egypt without it. God could have been God at any point on the timeline of history. He could have intervened at Abel's death, He could have just killed the people rather than have a flood. God could have given children to Abraham while he was young, and had several descendants before his death, God could have destroyed Egypt with the wave of His hand. But He didn't, what was the common denominator in all these four key events? It was THE BLOOD!

THE BLOOD was significant for Abel, Noah, Abraham and eventually Israel, by the sprinkling of the **BLOOD of the Paschal lamb on door frames**, (Exodus 12:22), that eventually became a practice represented in the **Passover** as an enduring ordinance,

"When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down."

Exodus 12:23

Israel learned that night that **LIFE CAN BE OBTAINED ONLY BY THE DEATH OF A SUBSTITUTE**. There was no other means of survival, **life was only possible for them BY THE BLOOD**.

Moses' Sacrifice

Fifty days after Israel leaves Egypt they reach **Mt. Sinai** where God gives them His **Law**. Moses reads this law to them covenant of God to the people and they unanimously agree to obey it, (Exodus 24:3). The next morning Moses builds an altar of 12 stones and selects young men to sacrifice young bulls, and Moses takes half of the **Sacrificial BLOOD and sprinkled half on the altar, and the other half on the people**, (Exodus 24:4-7), the altar representing God's side of that Covenant and then on the people, with the declaration,

"This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Exodus 4:8

The Covenant of God was empowered BY THE BLOOD. It is BY THE BLOOD alone, that God and man can be brought into covenant fellowship. The foreshadow of this Blood Covenant was in the beginning with **Adam, Eve** and then **Abel**, it was with **Noah** as he walked out of the ark, it was with **Abraham** on the mountain with his son, it was with **Israel** on the deadly Passover night, it was at the foot of Mount Sinai with **Moses**. **Without BLOOD there could be no life or access of sinful man to a Holy God.**

As time moved on, the manner of how the blood was applied changed. When **Abraham** was on **Mt. Moriah** the life of **Isaac** was **redeemed** by the shedding of the **rams blood**. In **Egypt** the **lambs blood** was sprinkled on the door posts of the houses. But when Moses was at Sinai, the blood of bulls was sprinkled on the persons themselves. **The contact was closer, the application more powerful.**

Sanctuary Sacrifice

Immediately following Israel's Covenant with God, God requests something from His people,

"...have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them."

Exodus 25:8

The God of the Covenant wanted to dwell among them. He wanted residence among His people so that they might have fellowship with Him and worship Him there.

God wanted the sanctuary exactly like the pattern He was going to show them. It all represented something. Everything in the Sanctuary was representative of something to come, a foreshadowing. God didn't want any substitutes or changes made, He wanted it exactly done, down to the minutest care.

As you survey the sanctuary that God wanted constructed, notice that **THE BLOOD is the centre and the reason of its activity and purpose.**

- **ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING-** The first visible thing at the Sanctuary was the altar of burnt offering. The sprinkling of blood continued there, without ceasing, from morning till evening.
- **Holy Place-** The golden altar of incense, with the veil, was constantly sprinkled with the BLOOD.
- **MOST HOLY PLACE-** (Holy of Holies) the place where God dwells "**BY THE BLOOD.**" This is the place where the High Priest enters alone, one man, to bring in THE BLOOD, as an acceptable sacrifice of worship to God.

The highest act in that worship is the sprinkling of THE BLOOD.

THE BLOOD is always the one thing needed in any type of service on behalf of man,

- If someone wanted their house blessed and consecrated to God
- If Priests were to be consecrated to God
- At the birth of a child
- When there was repentance for sin
- When there was great celebration

Always and in everything, the only way to fellowship with God was BY THE BLOOD alone.

Jesus' Sacrifice

This process of temple sacrifice continued for fifteen hundred years. It **started at Mt. Sinai and continued until Jesus came to this earth and make an end of all shadows.** He was who all the shadows were pointing to. He came to establish fellowship with God by coming in spirit and truth. And at His death a dramatic event took place,

"The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom."
Mark 15:38

2. Jesus' Teaching About The Blood

Jesus brought a "New Covenant."

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."
Jeremiah 31:31 (Hebrews 8:8)

"By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear."
Hebrews 8:13

Jesus came from Heaven, and can tell us in divine words the way to the Father.

"For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant."
Hebrews 9:15

Some people only think that THE BLOOD is an Old Testament idea. But Jesus Christ

has something to say about that.

John The Baptist Declared It

When John the Baptist saw Jesus at a distance he made a powerful statement,

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:29

The shedding of the BLOOD was always necessary for the taking away of sin.

Jesus Christ Himself Declared It

It was necessary for blood to be shed for the purpose of redeeming life. He clearly states in the **Synagogue at Capernaum** that He was **"THE Bread of Life"**; of **His flesh**, **"that He would give it for the life of the world."**

Four times in John 6, Jesus makes a firm claim about Himself,

"...unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."

John 6:53

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:54

"For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink."

John 6:55

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him."

John 6:56

Jesus was not quiet about the fundamental fact that He, the Son of God, came to restore to us our lost life, can do this in no other way than by dying for us; by shedding His blood for us; and then making us partakers of its power.

The Old Testament teaching of Sacrifices, a shadow of what was to come had come and that true life can be obtained through the sacrifice of one individual and that life through Christ Resurrection has become our eternal promise as well.

But Christ Himself cannot make us partakers of that eternal life outside the shedding of His blood, causing us to drink it as a reminder of what He has done, " **BY THE BLOOD**" eternal life **CAN** be ours.

On the last night before His crucifixion He instituted the Holy Supper,

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Matthew 26:28

"In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:25

Without remission of sins there is no life. But by the shedding of His BLOOD He

has obtained a new life for us. By what He calls " the drinking of His blood " He shares His life with us. His blood SHED is what we call the Atonement, which frees us from the SIN, the price or the guilt of sin; and from death, the punishment of sin; the blood, which by faith we drink, gives us His life. The BLOOD He shed was FOR us, and is then given TO us.

3. **Apostles Teaching About The Blood**

When Christ returned to heaven and no longer resident by a physical presence, He is still resident By The Blood.

The letter written to the Hebrews to explain how the Temple service had become unnecessary because of the work of Christ upon the cross.

"He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption."

Hebrews 9:12

"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,[a] so that we may serve the living God!"

Hebrews 9:14

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus..."

Hebrews 10:19

"...to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."

Hebrews 12:24

"And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood."

Hebrews 13:12

By such words **the Holy Spirit teaches us that the blood is really the central power of our entire redemption.** "BY THE BLOOD" is as valid in the New Testament as in the Old.

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus, shed in His death for sin, can cover sin on God's side, or remove it on ours.

"...and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement,[a] through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—"

Romans 3:24-25

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace..."

Ephesians 1:6

4. **Revelation's Teaching About The Blood**

The revelation which God had given to John, His glory and throne, and the blood still retains its remarkably prominent place.

"Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth."

Revelation 5:6

"And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

Revelation 5:8

"And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

Revelation 5:9

Later on when he saw the great company which no man could number, he was told in reply to his question as to who they were, "They have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

Revelation 12:11

In the glory of heaven, as seen by John, there was no phrase by which the great purposes of God; the wondrous love of the Son of God; the power of His redemption; and the joy and thanksgiving of the redeemed; can be gathered up and expressed save this-"THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB." From the beginning to the end of Scripture; from the closing of the gates of Eden, to the opening of the gates of the Heavenly Zion, there runs through Scripture a golden thread. It is "THE BLOOD" that unites the beginning and the end; that gloriously restores what sin had destroyed.

1. God has no other way of dealing with sin, or the sinner, other than the blood.

For victory over sin and the deliverance of the sinner God has no other means or thought than "THE BLOOD OF CHRIST." Yes, it is indeed something that surpasses all understanding.

All the wonders of grace are focused here-the Incarnation, by which He took upon Himself our flesh and blood; the love, that spared not itself but surrendered itself to death; the righteousness, which could not forgive sin till the penalty was borne; the substitution, by which He the Righteous One, atoned for us the unrighteous; the atonement for sin, and the justification of the sinner, thus made possible; renewed fellowship with God; together with the cleansing, and sanctification, to fit us for the enjoyment of that fellowship; the true oneness in life with the Lord Jesus, as He gives us His blood to drink; the eternal joy of the hymn of praise, "Thou hast redeemed us to God"; all these are but rays of the wonderful light which are reflected upon us from "THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS."

2. The blood must have the same place in our hearts which it has with God.

From the beginning of God's dealings with man, yes, from before the foundation of the world, the heart of God has rejoiced in that blood. Our heart will never rest, nor find salvation, till we too learn to walk, and glory in the power of that blood.

It is not only the penitent sinner, longing for pardon, who must thus value it. No --the redeemed will experience that just as God in His temple sits upon a throne of grace, where the blood is ever in evidence, so there is nothing that draws our hearts nearer to God, filling them with God's love, and joy, and glory, as living in constant, spiritual view of that blood.

3. You must take time to learn the full blessing and power of that blood.

The blood of Jesus is the greatest mystery of eternity, the deepest mystery of the divine wisdom. Let us not imagine that we can easily grasp its meaning. God thought 4,000 years necessary to prepare men for it, and we also must take time, if we are to gain a knowledge of the power of the blood.

Even taking time is of no avail, unless there is definite taking of sacrificial trouble. Sacrificial blood always meant the offering of a life. The Israelite could not obtain blood for the pardon of his sin, unless the life of something that belonged to him was offered in sacrifice. The Lord Jesus did not offer up His own life, and shed His blood to spare us from the sacrifice of our lives. No, indeed 1 but to make the sacrifice of our lives possible and desirable.

The hidden value of His blood is the spirit of self-sacrifice, and where the blood really touches the heart, it works out in that heart, a like spirit of self-sacrifice. We learn to give up ourselves and our lives, so as to press into the full power of that new life, which the blood. has provided.

We give our time in order that we may become acquainted with these things by God's Word. We separate ourselves from sin and worldly-mindedness, and self-will, that the power of the blood may not be hindered, for it is just these things that the blood seeks to remove.

We surrender ourselves wholly to God in prayer and faith, so as not to think our own thoughts, and not to hold our own lives as a prize, but as possessing nothing save what He bestows. Then He reveals to us the glorious and blessed life which has been prepared for us by the blood.

4. God desires to and will reveal to us the power of His blood.

It is by this confident trust in Him that the blessing obtained by the blood becomes ours. We must never, in thought, separate the blood from the High Priest who shed it, and ever lives to apply it.

He who once gave His blood for us, will, oh I so surely, every moment, impart its efficacy. Trust Him to do this. Trust Him to open your eyes, and to give you a deeper spiritual insight. Trust Him to teach you to think about the blood as God thinks about it. Trust Him to impart to you, and to make effective in you, all that He enables you to see.

Trust Him above all, in the power of His eternal High Priesthood, to work out in you, unceasingly, the full merits of His blood, so that your whole life may be an uninterrupted abiding in the sanctuary of God's presence.

Believer, you who have come to the knowledge of the precious blood, hearken to the invitation of your Lord. Come nearer. Let Him teach you; let Him bless you. Let Him cause His blood to become to you spirit, and life, and power, and truth.

Begin now, at once, to open your soul in faith, to receive the full, mighty, heavenly effects of the precious blood, in a more glorious manner than you have ever experienced. He Himself will work these things out in your life.