

Cleansing Blood

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>Last week, we looked at Hebrews 9:8-10 and we found out that there is glory in the old covenant but there is greater glory in the new covenant.</p> <p>—We also saw that we can not get involved in religious practices without entering into the presence of God.</p> <p>—So, we need to get rid of the veils that are between us and God.</p> <p>—We need to turn to the ministry of righteousness, the ministry that remains, and to Christ Jesus.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>We are now going to spend time looking at Christ.</p> <p>—We have looked at the old way of doing things and how it did not cleanse the conscience, it did not provide total redemption, it did not pay the price finally, it did not provide the way into the continuous presence of God, it did not make people clean for all time, and did not cleanse at the deepest human level.</p> <p>—We will see that Christ's blood is cleansing.</p> <p>—We will see how Christ's cleansing helps us to serve God.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 9:11–14 (NASB95): 11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;</p> <p>12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.</p> <p>13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh,</p> <p>14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?</p>	<p>Verse 11 begins with: But when Christ....”</p> <p>— I think it is easy to overlook these words, maybe it is easy to take these words for granted.</p> <p>— — "But Christ...", or "but God ...", are some of the most important words in the Bible because they usually remind us of our human condition, our brokenness, our desperate situation, or our ill fate just before these words are read.</p> <p>— — — Let’s take a minute to look at what God does when we see "but God...", or some form of it.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Ephesians 2:4–5 (NASB95): 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),</u></p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Romans 5:8 (NASB95): But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.</u></p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Matthew 19:26 (NASB95): 26 And looking at them Jesus said to them, “With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”</u></p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Acts 2:22–24 (NASB95): 22 “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 “But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.</u></p>

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	<p>— — — — —READ: Acts 3:14–15 (NASB95): 14 “But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 but put to death the Prince of life, the one <u>whom God</u> raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.</p> <p>— — — — —READ: Romans 6:23 (NASB95): 23 For the wages of sin is death, <u>but the free gift of God</u> is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.</p> <p>— — — — —READ: 1 Corinthians 1:26–27 (NASB95): 26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 <u>but God</u> has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,</p> <p>— God could have left us in our destitute and desolate condition.</p> <p>— — He could have left us hopeless and helpless because that is what we deserve.</p> <p>— — — But God!!!! These are some of the best words in the Bible.</p> <p>— — — — God does not leave us unloved, dead and more specifically dead without possibility of life, in an impossible unsaved place, destined for eternal destruction ... unchosen.</p> <p>— — — — — <u>But God</u> loved us while we were His enemies; He made us alive through Christ; He redeemed us, saved us, will raise us, has give us eternal life, and has chosen us. "But God ..." are the most fantastic words that a Christian could hear!</p>

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	<p>The name Christ means, "Messiah, Anointed One, God's special choice."</p> <p>— This name was specifically chosen to show that Jesus is the Messiah, the special chosen One that Israel had been expecting.</p> <p>— — Jesus the Messiah is the one that has come to save Israel not just from the Romans, but from sin, death, and themselves.</p> <p>— — — Not only is Jesus the Messiah but He is God's special selected High Priest.</p> <p>— — — — We see this word "appeared" which means that not only has God's salvation become visible but His more perfect tabernacle has become visible; and the way into constant fellowship with God the Father has become visible.</p> <p>— — — — — Arthur W. Pink wrote, <i>"So the priestly functions of Christ fall into two great divisions, as they were performed on earth and as they are now continued in heaven. Before our great High Priest could enter the Holiest on high and there make intercession before God, He had first to make an atonement for the sins of those He represented, which was accomplished in His state of abjection here below, being consummated by His offering Himself [as] a sacrifice unto God."</i></p>

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	<p>This Jesus, Messiah Savior Jesus, High Priest forever Jesus, bringer of good things Jesus entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle.</p> <p>— This greater and more perfect tabernacle is not made with human hands and is not of this creation but it is something altogether different.</p> <p>— — This is a spiritual, heavenly tabernacle that is not of this world but something different.</p> <p>— — — This tabernacle does not have a veil but God’s presence is always present and available to those who enter.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Romans 8:9–11 (NASB95):</u></p> <p>9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. 10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.</p>

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	<p>As we think about the blood of Christ, we have to recognize the effectiveness of that blood.</p> <p>— Murray wrote, <i>“The infinite efficacy of Christ’s blood, and the infinite blessedness of the cleansing it effects, can only be measured by what that blood really is.”</i></p> <p>— — It is the blood of Christ that has the power to cleanse the conscience of humanity.</p> <p>— — — READ: 1 John 1:7 (NASB95): 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.</p> <p>— — — READ: Ephesians 1:7 (NASB95): 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace</p> <p>— — — READ: Colossians 1:19–20 (NASB95): 19 For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The blood of Christ helps us see that Christ was perfectly obedient.</p> <p>— READ: Philippians 2:8 (NASB95): 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.</p> <p>— READ: John 14:30–31 (NASB95): 30 “I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; 31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.</p> <p>— — The Eternal Spirit, the Holy Spirit, led Christ as He leads us as well.</p> <p>— — — READ: Luke 4:1–2 (NASB95): Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry.</p> <p>— — — — God gives us the same Spirit to lead and guide us.</p>
	<p>Christ's blood is so precious to God.</p> <p>— Murray wrote, <i>“That Life gave His blood, each drop of it, an infinite value. The blood of a man is of more worth than that of sheep. The blood of a king or great general is counted of more value than handles of common soldiers. The blood of the Son of God! It is in vain that the mind seeks for some expression of its value; all we can say is that it is His own blood, the precious blood of the Son of God!”</i></p> <p>— — This precious blood opened the physical grave and then it opened up heaven so that those who believe could dwell with God.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>In doing all of this, the blood of Christ is able to cleanse our conscience completely.</p> <p>— So what is our conscience? How do we understand what He is able to cleanse so completely?</p> <p>— — Murray wrote, <i>“It tells us what we are. Conscience deals not only with past merit or guilt but also with present integrity or falsehood.”</i></p> <p>— — — So to have our conscience cleaned by the blood of Christ is to have our hearts cleansed.</p> <p>— — — — The heart and the conscience are a part of one another.</p> <p>— — — — — Remember back to our heart study, "the heart is:"</p> <p>the Bible defines the heart as the inner self, the place where thoughts come from, the mind, the place where choices are made, your intellect, or your will.</p> <p>— — — — — — So when our conscience is cleansed so is our heart cleansed. It is this cleansing that allows us to be brought into the presence of God.</p> <p>— — — — — — — <u>READ: Hebrews 10:19–22 (NASB95):</u></p> <p>19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, what is our take away? What is our practical application for all that we have heard today?</p> <p>— A cleansed conscience and cleansed heart is how we go from dead works to serving God.</p> <p>— Dead works are these things that we do through our own efforts, our own sinful ways, through our own understanding of moral and religious works.</p> <p>— — <u>"But Christ"</u> removes our dead works and give us the freedom to serve God.</p> <p>— — — Pink wrote, <i>"The 'living God' cannot be served by those who are dead in sins, and therefore alienated from Him. But the sacrifice of Christ has purchased the gift of the Spirit unto all for whom He died, and the Spirit renews and equips the saint for acceptable worship."</i></p> <p>— — — — Those that are redeemed by the blood of Christ are those that serve God with joy and fulfillment.</p> <p>— — — — — What is your service to God revealing about your conscience/heart?</p>
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