

Are You Bleeding?

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>Last week looked at Hebrews 9:15-17.</p> <p>—We saw how Christ is the one who wrote the new covenant, testament, or will.</p> <p>—We saw how it was Christ who had to die for the will to be enacted.</p> <p>—Yet, because of Christ’s obedience and sacrifice, He was raised up and is also the mediator of the will.</p> <p>—We also saw that those who are called will receive an eternal inheritance.</p> <p>—Those that are called are those who have received Christ, who believe in Christ, who have had their eyes opened, those who have been forgiven, and those who have been specifically called.</p> <p>—A death took place so that we could be redeemed; that our transgressions would be forgiven; that we would claim an eternal inheritance; that we would be in the presence of God; and that we would have a Mediator between a perfect God and a broken us.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>Today we are going to talk about blood ... a lot.</p> <p>—We will see how Moses did things under the old covenant and how we can see Christ in those things.</p> <p>—But also how Christ is greater than those things.</p> <p>—We will see the greatness of Christ and the worth of His blood, once again.</p> <p>—We will understand that we need to embrace sacrifice and bleeding for Christ in our lives.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 9:18-22: 18 Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood. 19 For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you.” 21 And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. 22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.</p> <p>New American Standard Bible: 1995 update (Heb 9:18–22). (1995). The Lockman Foundation.</p>	<p>Our opening verse brings us back to Moses and the things that God instructed him to do to inaugurate the covenant.</p> <p>— READ: Exodus 24:4-8: 4 Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the Lord. 6 Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 7 Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!” 8 So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”</p> <p>— — Why does the author, inspired by God, continue to point us back to the necessity of blood?</p> <p>— — — Why spend so much time focusing on this for the Hebrews that he is writing to?</p> <p>— — — — Well, sacrifice had become part of the Israelites’ DNA.</p> <p>— — — — — It was a way of life for them and it is something that they would understand.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>This is a hard concept for us in our age to understand.</p> <p>— Sacrifice is not a word that we like or want to be a part of.</p> <p>— — Sacrifice means that we have to give something up; we have to take a loss.</p> <p>— — — We have been trained all of our lives not to take losses.</p> <p>— — — — Even when we give to charitable places it seems like we are taking a loss, but we get to claim that loss on our taxes and get a tax break because of it.</p> <p>— — — — — The world has trained us not to take a loss; not to give so that it actually affects us.</p> <p>— — — — — — we give out of our abundance instead of being like the widow who gave all she had to God.</p> <p>READ: Luke 21:1-4: 1 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. 2 And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. 3 And He said, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; 4 for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on.”</p>
	<p>There are no guaranteed returns when we give to God.</p> <p>— It is not safe when we give to God; it is actually pretty reckless.</p> <p>— — But God calls us to sacrifice!! He calls us to sacrifice not just money but time, talent, social status, our desires, selfishness, and the list goes on and on.</p> <p>— — — READ: Romans 12:1-2: 1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.</p> <p>— — — — What should the cost of our sacrifice be? Well, I am going to make you wait until verse 22 to find that out.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The blood mentioned here is not just to draw the readers to the idea of sacrifice and how that sacrifice has to be part of our lives; but it also points to the effective nature of the blood.</p> <p>— Arthur W. Pink wrote, “In the verses upon which we are now to comment, the apostle is not merely proving that the old covenant or testament was confirmed with blood, for had that been his only objective , he could have dispatched it in very few words; rather, does he also declare, what was the use of blood in sacrifices on all occasions under the law, and thereby he demonstrates the use and efficacy of Christ’s blood as unto the ends of the new covenant. The ends of the blood under the old covenant were two, namely, purification and pardon, both of which were confirmed in the expiation of sin.”</p> <p>— — What is Pink saying here? He is calling attention to the fact that God provided a substitute for the people in the old covenant and a substitute for those under the new covenant.</p> <p>— — — The death of the animal was the substitute for the disobedient person.</p> <p>— — — — See, we don’t like to talk about this because it is harsh but our disobedience should be punished by death.</p> <p>— — — — — Our breaking of the covenant creates a debt of life; requires a death.</p> <p>— — — — — — This is only just; as disobedience of the God of the universe so not a small thing.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>But God.... Under the old covenant provided a way for the covenant breakers to pass the death sentence to the sacrificial animal.</p> <p>— There had to be blood shed for the transgressions of the sinners.</p> <p>— — Albert Mohler wrote, “Thus, the shedding of blood represented the beginning of a covenant and the forgiveness of sins.”</p> <p>— — — So, as the first covenant was inaugurated with death and blood, so to was the new covenant.</p> <p>— — — — Christ’s blood accomplishes the beginning of the new covenant; being the once for all time sacrifice that we need to save us from the wrath of God and the death that we deserve.</p> <p>— — — — — But why blood?</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>In the Israelite culture they believe the life of a person or an animal was in the blood.</p> <p>—READ: Leviticus 17:11: 11 ‘For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.’</p> <p>— — Without our blood we do not have life; so blood was the reminder that the Blood. Is. Life.</p> <p>— — — So to for us, without the blood of Christ cleansing us from all unrighteousness, We. Do. Not. Have. Life.</p> <p>— — — — READ: 1 John 1:7: 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>— — — — — When we are covered by the blood of Christ we are saved from the wrath of God; from eternal death.</p> <p>— — — — — — READ: Romans 5:9-11: 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.</p> <p>— We have been justified by His blood, saved from wrath; reconciled, saved, and exulted because of Christ and His sacrifice.</p> <p>— — Andrew Murray wrote, “But, blessed be God, the blood of the Son of God, in which there was the life of the Eternal Spirit, has been given and has now wrought an eternal redemption! He did, indeed, bear our sins, and take them away. He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. The life He poured out in His bloodshedding was a life that had conquered sin and rendered a perfect obedience.”</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, the old covenant had to have constant bloodshed because the blood that was shed in the old covenant was not valuable enough to cleanse for all time.</p> <p>— But the value of the blood in the new covenant ... is infinite.</p> <p>— — The blood of the new covenant causes God to remember our sins no more (Heb. 8:12), the blood of Christ cleanses our hearts (Heb. 8:14), His laws will be written on our hearts (Heb. 8:10), we have fellowship with God (Heb. 4:16).</p> <p>— — — Murray wrote, “It was in this blood of the eternal covenant that God brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus: The blood had so atoned for sin and made an end of it that, in its power, Christ was raised again. It became the power of a new life to Him and to us. With it, He opened the way into the Holiest for us; the way into our hearts for Himself.”</p>
21 And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood.	<p>In verse 21 we see Moses sprinkling the tabernacle and the utensils in the tabernacle with blood signifying, once again, cleansing.</p> <p>— How fitting, that on this side of the cross, the believers are the tabernacle and it is Christ’s blood that cleanses this New Testament tabernacle.</p> <p>— — READ: Ephesians 5:25: 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.</p> <p>— Christ cleanses those who are His and those who are His are His temple and His bride.</p>

Scripture:	
22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.	<p>So, now we are brought to verse 22 where we find that the shedding of blood and the forgiveness of sins biblically go hand in hand.</p> <p>—every thing needs to be cleansed with the blood and that is what believers in Christ are cleansed by, the blood of Christ.</p> <p>— — But as Christ’s battle with our sins cost Him blood, so should our battle against our sins cost us blood.</p> <p>— — — God calls us to be living sacrifices in Romans 12 and we are instructed to take up our cross daily and follow Christ if we want to be one of His disciples.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Luke 9:23: 23 And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.</u></p> <p>— — — — — in order to be living sacrifices... to take up our cross daily; it will cost us blood in the battle against our sins.</p> <p>— — — — — Christ went to the cross for your sins and for my sins; it cost Him His blood and His life.</p> <p>— — — — — That is how important it was to Christ, that we should be saved.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Here is our practical application.</p> <p>This is our time to reflect on what we have heard and to face the reality of what we are called to do.</p> <p>Do we fight against our sins so that we are dying to ourselves? Are we sacrificing ourselves for God?</p> <p>— READ: Hebrews 12:3-4: 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. 4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;</p> <p>— — Many of us have not shed blood in our fight against our sins, but Christ has.</p> <p>— — — READ: Matthew 26:27: 27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.</p> <p>— — — — Christ thinks your life is worthy of the shedding of His blood.</p> <p>— — — — — Christ is willing to sacrifice Himself; shedding His blood to defeat your sin, your death, and your flesh.</p> <p>— — — — — Are you willing to shed spiritual blood in the fight against your flesh and your sin?</p> <p>— — — — — His shedding of blood brings forgiveness of sins. Our shedding of blood in being a sacrifice and taking up our cross is the fruit of Him making us a new creation.</p> <p>— — — — — Are you embracing your newness?</p>
	<p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p>