

The Shedding of Blood

Hebrews 9:11-15

Intro

Every person has more or less about 5 liters of blood.

It takes 23 seconds for the blood to circulate the entire body.

In those 23 seconds the blood is nourishing the body with all its organs and tissues.

At the same time it is nourishing the body it is also purifying and cleansing the body of germs and bacteria.

Blood is both a feeding and cleansing agent.

We are marvelously made. I like what David said in Psalm 139:14, *“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”*

Blood is a marvelous substance and without it we couldn't live.

Without blood there cannot be life in the physical body. That is just as true in the Bible. Blood flows through the Bible just as it does through our veins.

Someone has said, “Cut the Bible anywhere and it will bleed.” The blood is spoken of 427 times in our Bible, so it is easy to see, this is not a minor theme. Without the blood, the Gospel is dead and we are deprived of eternal life.

The early church understood the blood. The 22 sermons recorded by the 4 preachers in the Book of Acts all give the same message, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They understood that His death and the provision of *“atonement by the blood”* was the essential ingredient of the Gospel.

Jesus said, *“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”* Matthew 26:28

Life is in the blood

Leviticus 17:11 says, *“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.”*

In the study of anthropology, almost every civilization practiced some sacrifice where blood was shed.

In the Old Testament we find many references about the pouring of blood, the animals sacrificed on the altars. In the Bible, blood has a very important place and significance.

Passover (Exodus 12:7-13)

The story is told in Exodus 12 where God is freeing Israel from slavery in Egypt. The tenth plague is about to fall on the land. In that plague the firstborn of each household will die. But God provides a way of protection for His people. He tells them to sacrifice a lamb and put the blood of the lamb on the top and side posts of the doors of their homes.

Then He promises in Exodus 12:13 *“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.”*

There was one essential distinction that fateful night between the Israelites and the Egyptians. The blood applied by faith in obedience to God's instruction made all the difference. God didn't say I'll review your works and decide whether you deserve protection or not. If He had done that, all of Israel would have been in big trouble.

This is an awesome demonstration of God's grace. God Himself provided the way of salvation. All they had to do was take Him at His word and do exactly what He told them to do. The blood applied to the door posts was the essential difference.

Of course, we know that the blood of those lambs was only a foreshadowing of the blood that would provide the eternal protection we all need. Jesus is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. Our deliverance from bondage—our protection from destruction comes because His blood has been applied by faith to our hearts.

His blood was given to purchase our salvation. 1 Peter 1:18-19 *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."*

Romans 5:9 *"Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!"*

We have been made right and acceptable to God by Jesus' blood. That's what justification means. And because we have been justified we are also saved from God's wrath.

What does the blood of Jesus do?

What does the blood of Jesus do for you and me?

1. His Blood Purchases.

In Ephesians 1:7, it says, *"In him we have **redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."*

The word "**redemption**" means "the act or process of buying back or purchasing". When sin entered the human race through Adam it resulted in spiritual death for humanity. For people to be reconciled to God and have the relationship and fellowship with Him restored, it required redeeming people from the deadly consequence of sin.

Two Greek words picture the slave market of sin that required redemption.

First word is: "*agorazo*" from the root "agora" (market place) stresses the awfulness of the place from which we were redeemed. This word is translated "bought." We were bought from the market place of slavery to be set free..

In I Corinthians 6:19-20 we read, *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were **bought at a price**. Therefore honor God with your body."*

The other Greek word is: "*peripoieo*" is translated "purchased."

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The Biblical meaning of the word redeem means “to deliver from slavery or from captivity of an enemy by payment of a ransom.”

The Bible states that because of our disobedience, we become slaves of sin, death and Satan. Therefore Christ paid the ransom, the price to free us from sin, death and Satan’s slavery.

2. His Blood Pardons.

In Ephesians 1:7, it says, “*In him we have redemption through his blood, the **forgiveness** of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.*”

The blood of Jesus pardons, it forgives, from sin, it forgives from faults, and it forgives from failures, the blood of Jesus pardons. Yes, the blood of Jesus pardons!

Hebrews 9:22 says, “*Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.*”

That’s what the blood of Jesus does. It pardons and forgives the sin we have committed. When we confess and ask for forgiveness.

3. It Purifies.

1 John 1:7 says, “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, **purifies** us from all sin.*”

The blood of Jesus purifies. When we receive Him into our lives, He purifies us from **all** sin. The word purify means it cleans us completely from all sin.

4. It Is Perpetual (never ending or changing, permanent)

The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were continuous year after year. The blood of bulls and goats provided forgiveness and pardon temporarily only because it pointed to the sacrifice of Christ and His blood being shed for the covering of our sin.

The writer of Hebrews speaks of Christ as one, “*Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself*” (Hebrews 7:27).

Again in Hebrews 9:12 we read, “*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.*”

The death of Christ set into motion a continuous cleansing for those who trust in Him. We are given the gift of eternal life that He purchased with His blood. Thank God we are covered under the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

5. It Is Powerful!

The song writer of “*There’s Power in the Blood*” wrote:

Would you be free from the burden of sin?

There is power in the Blood. Would you over evil a victory win?

There’s wonderful power in the Blood

There is power, power wonder working power

In the Blood of the Lamb

There is power, power wonder working power

In the precious Blood of the Lamb.

We are told that they overcame the wicked one, Satan, by the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 12:11 says, *“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.”*

It takes a lot of power to do that, too!

Conclusion

In sharp contrast Jesus’ blood is worth more than we can even fathom for all humanity. It is worth more because it has eternal ramifications. Our worship for all eternity will center on the great price paid for our salvation.

Revelation 5:9 says *“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.”*

The central message of the Bible is an invitation to know God. That is only possible through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. But the sacrifice has been made.

The way has been opened for anyone here to come to God and live in fellowship with Him. If you have never taken that step of obedience, today is the time to do that. Place your faith in what Jesus has already done for you. On the basis of His sacrifice for you at the cross ask God to forgive you of your sins and commit your life to Him.

Story

A story from Scotland tells of a mother’s dramatic rescue of her child. Workmen were blasting rock in a quarry. One day after they had attached the fuse and retired to a safe place and gave the alarm they saw a three year old child wandering across the open space where danger threatened. Every passing second meant death was closing in on the child.

The workmen called to the child and waved their arms, but he only looked on their strange antics with amusement. No man dared run forward knowing the explosion was only seconds away. The child most certainly would have been killed, had not his mother appeared at this moment of crisis.

Taking in the situation at a glance she did what her mother’s heart dictated. She did not run toward her son or yell to frighten him. Instead, she knelt down, opened wide her arms and smiled for him to come. Instantly the child ran towards her. Shortly later the area shook with the force of the explosion, yet the child was safe in his mother’s arms.

Jesus spread His arms wide open for us on the cross, so that we might have eternal life. His blood was spilled for us as He saved us from the destructive consequences of sin and death.