

"THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST"

INTRODUCTION

The word "precious" as used in the Bible, is found a number of times, and simply means "rare, dear, or costly." In the O.T. it is used to describe things that were rare, or the utensils of the tabernacle, or even the death of "saints." In the N.T., it is used to describe ointment, but especially it is used 5 times by the apostle Peter to describe JESUS CHRIST, or things RELATED to Him, such as are "dear, or costly."

One passage is of special interest, where Peter refers to the "**precious blood of Christ.**" Let's read the passage, and use the term "the precious blood of Christ" as the title of our lesson at this time. (Read).

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the precious blood of Christ was PROPHESED IN THE O.T.

- A. Even with the death of an animal by Abel, it was prophetic of the death of our Lord.
1. Obviously, God's command to Cain and Abel was an allusion to Jesus' blood.
 2. Abel's sacrifice was offered by "faith", which always comes from the WORD of God. Cf Heb. 11:4; Rom. 10:17
 - a. Paul uses the word "blood" 20 times in the book of Hebrews, with most references referring to animal blood of the O.T., contrasted with the blood of Jesus that was shed for the remission of sins.
 - b. Nearing the end of the book, Paul stated that the blood of Jesus declares BETTER things than the blood Abel offered in sacrifice, as IT fulfills Abel's prophetic offering.
 - c. Several comparisons are made in the book of Hebrews, where things of the N.T. are better than contrasting things of the O.T.
 - 1) He uses the word "better" some 12 times in this connection.
 - 2) Then, the LAST comparison is that of the blood Abel shed in his offering that pleased God, but showing that even the blood of Christ was "better."
 - 3) Just as the birth of Jesus is alluded to in Gen.3:15, His death is in Gen. 4:4. d. Hebrews contrasts "blood" and "covenant" **before** Christ's blood and the new covenant, and the "things" *spoken of*, then there is something **better**, alluding to Christ's blood being better, as IT ratifies the "new covenant."
 - 4) Paul named the "thing" (blood) that made Abel's sacrifice, and NOT some "attitude" that Abel had that made his gift commendable.
- B. Then, the offering of the ram caught in the thicket in Gen. 22 which was offered as a substitute for Isaac, is also prophetic in that another Lamb would be offered as a substitute for man's sins, in the person of Christ.
- C. Then, the thousands of lambs that were sacrificed during the Mosaic dispensation, along with the prophecies that Lamb of God (CHRIST), whose blood would be offered pointed to the Lamb of God who would take away sins. John 1:29; Heb. 10:4; 9:22; Matt. 26:28

II. 2nd, we want to note WHY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS PRECIOUS.

- A. 1st, it was the blood of God's SON, who was indeed "**dear**" to the Father, and it was "**costly**" in that it cost the life of God's only begotten Son on the cross of Calvary. Matt. 3:17; Col. 1:13-14; Rom. 5:8
- B. 2nd, it was the blood of the LAMB OF GOD, who was spotless and without sin, as the PERFECT Lamb. 1 Pet. 1:19
- C. 3rd, it is because Christ is the "precious" CORNERSTONE in the foundation of the church. Isa. 28:16; 1 Pet. 2:6-7

III. 3Rd, let's note the BLESSINGS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD.

I. There are ten things that occur when the precious blood of Jesus is received.

- a. 1st, there is "justification." Rom. 5:7
- b. 2nd, there is "redemption." Eph. 1:7
- c. 3rd, there is "peace." Eph. 1:20
- d. 4th, there is "remission of sins." Matt. 26:28
- e. 5th, there is the "washing away of sins." Rev. 1:5
- f. 6th, there is "cleansing." 1 John 1:7
7. 7th, there is "propitiation." Rom. 3:25
8. 8th, there is "sanctification." Heb. 13:12
9. 9th, there is being "made white" by His blood. Rev. 7:1-4
10. 10th, one is "made nigh" to God by His blood. Eph. 2:13

B. Each of these 10 points would be a lesson within themselves, and without the blood of Jesus being shed, none of these things would be available.

IV. 4th, let's see HOW the blood is applied according to the scripture.

A. We first **contact** the precious blood of Christ, (which is figurative), when our faith and repentance leads us to be baptized into Christ's **DEATH**, where His blood was shed. John 19:34; Rom. 6:3-5

1. The **WHAT** of our salvation is the **blood of Jesus**. Rev. 1:5
2. The **WHEN** of our salvation is in the **act of immersion, or baptism**. Acts 22:16

B. We keep in contact with the blood by **communing** with Him each week in the Lord's Supper, remembering His death. 1 Cor. 10:16

C. We also have contact with the blood of Christ by **walking in the light** of God in living the Christian life. 1 John 1:7

CONCLUSION

I. What does the blood of Christ mean to you?

A. If you have never become a Christian, you need to make initial contact with that blood in obeying the gospel of Christ.

B. If you have turned your back on the Lord you need to return to Him, in repentance and prayer.

II. If you are in need of the blood in either manner, we invite you to come now, as we stand together and sing for your encouragement.

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