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12:12



Jesus has the Better Blood

The problem with animal sacrifices was that every time they were offered, they served as a reminder that sin had not been completely forgiven. The beauty of Christ's sacrifice is that it is a constant reminder that all sin has been completely forgiven!

Hebrews 9:14-10:4

CUSTOM

Gareld and Linda Hickman cancer update

Reporter in the Ukrain on the spread of the war - *"A social services official told us yesterday that the people of Sloviansk hope the war will end before it reaches the city. People who had come to the city from outlying villages to travel to western Ukraine and Europe said the same. They included refugees. They said the same, even though they were reluctant to do it on camera, that they never believed the war might land on their doorstep."*

We have battlers on our doorstep, and we will engage every front in order to stand for righteousness.

PRAY - Kimberly Miller 2nd service

Vote on Tuesday.

INTRO

EXAMPLE: My first time going to a blood drive. They took some blood, came back and said,

"We can't accept your blood. There are problems with the levels." After going to a doctor, I

"we can't accept your blood. There are problems with the levels." After going to a doctor, I discovered that my liver enzymes were off the charts high. They eventually leveled out, and to this day I don't know what the source of that was. But here's the point:

My blood, which could have been a life-giving source, was rejected because of imperfections.

Today's passage is all about the perfect blood (yeah)!

- **In God's economy, His covenants are sealed by a life-giving source of blood, but in order for the new covenant to be established, perfect blood had to be drawn and offered for the remission of sin.**

BLOOD

Interestingly enough, many people, many churches today prefer to avoid discussions and teachings about the blood of Jesus.

- We will talk about the life of Jesus, and we will even mention the death of Jesus, but do we really need to get into all the bloody details? Yes, quite literally, the details of the blood are an essential part of the gospel.
- I realize no one loves to talk about and think about blood. Some people get sick at the sight of it (so I won't show slides). Blood can be gory and disturbing.
- But blood is an important aspect of the gospel that many Christians don't consider or think about.

EXAMPLE: And if we are honest, this idea of emphasizing blood is strange to the human understanding. I remember singing that old song, "Nothing but the blood of Jesus" and thinking, "Without any understanding, this seems like a really weird thing to sing about!"

Well, those in Jesus' time who didn't have any context also had a hard time with it, including Jesus' disciples:

Jhn 6:54-56, 60 NKJV – 54 "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

... 60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"

Jesus goes on to tell them that this is spiritual language, representing spiritual things. Still,

John tells us that after this, many of His disciples walked with Him no more.

ILLUSTRATION

Well, isn't talking about Jesus' death enough? I mean, that's what really matters, right? That Jesus died in my place?

- Of course, that matters. The bodily death of Jesus was what we call, "Substitutionary Atonement." Simply meaning that We deserved death and Jesus took our place. But that's not all that happened!

Remember The Last Supper?

- Jesus displays TWO symbolic elements.
- He told us that the bread was His **body (substitution)** broken for us .
- Then, he told us that the wine was His **BLOOD (atonement)**, poured out for the remission of sins (atonement, cleansing, forgiveness).

[Lev 17:11 NKJV] 11 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

In order for our salvation to be complete, the body of Christ had to be broken AND the blood of Christ had to be shed and sacrificially offered.

So let's dig in and see what the author has to tell us...

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 9:15 NKJV] 15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

CUSTOM

The first covenant of the law was mediated through the sacrificial death of animals and their lifeblood being poured out or sprinkled on the unclean.

- As we learned last week, while an animal's blood was sufficient *to provide ceremonial cleanness and secure physical blessings, it did not have the efficacy to cleanse moral guilt and a shameful conscience, or secure eternal salvation and heavenly blessings.*
- Therefore, there were still transgressions on our record under the old covenant system that had to be paid for with a better sacrifice in order to receive the promise of eternal inheritance.
- As one theologian put it:

QUOTE

“The dignity of the blood shed must correspond to the value of the forgiveness granted. The death of a bull, or a heifer, or a goat, or a lamb, may suffice for obtaining remission of ceremonial guilt, but it will not suffice for the remission of moral guilt.

Brown

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 9:16-18 NKJV] 16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. 18 Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood.

THE DEAL

I'm sure you've heard the phrase, **"Seal the deal."**

- This indicates that the terms are on the table, but the contract has to be signed and its

terms fulfilled in order for it to be executed

terms fulfilled in order for it to be enacted.

- Here we find that the New Covenant of eternal forgiveness and salvation had to be sealed and fulfilled in order for it to be delivered to all those who would benefit from it (that's us).
- What was required for the New Covenant between God and mankind to be sealed? The death of the testator.
- **Literally, the price of the New Covenant was the life of its author!**

Salvation is certainly free to all, but it cost the dear price of Jesus' own life!

LAST WILL

The Word "Testament" here is another word for what we would consider a "will." The person who wrote the will is the testator.

- Hey, Grandpa might have left you the savings account in his will, but until he has passed from this life, you don't have access to those funds!

THE GOSPEL: The New Covenant of eternal salvation by grace through faith is, in a sense, the last will and testament of Jesus Christ!

- He said, ***"When I die, this is the list of things that I am going to leave my children who come to me by faith."***
 - All the handwriting of the law's requirements that are against them, I will wipe away and nail to the cross.
 - Their sins and their lawless deeds, I will remember no more.
 - I will deliver to them abundant and eternal life.
 - I will seal them and fill them with the Holy Spirit of God.
 - I will seat them in the heavenly places.
 - I will give them a new heart and a new mind.
 - I will ensure free and immediate access to the presence and grace of God.
 - I will welcome them as my sons and daughters.
 - I will give them the power to walk victoriously and overcome!
 - I will never leave or forsake them.

Sounding pretty good! But let's remember that all those promises were only on paper (so to speak) until Jesus own blood sealed the deal and made those promises tangibly accessible.

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 9:19-21 NKJV] 19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, 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 has commanded you." 21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.

CUSTOM

The first covenant, which was a shadow and pattern of things to come, indicated that death and blood were necessary to “seal the deal” of God’s terms and promises.

- In Exodus 21-24, God gives a book of laws, His covenant to the children of Israel. Upon presenting the book to the people, Moses offered sacrifices. The blood of the sacrifice was then sprinkled upon the book and the people.
- This might beg the question, “Why blood.” Couldn’t God just make a deal with people without blood having to be shed? Why blood.

I believe that blood was necessary because it reminds those on the receiving end of the covenant of a few things:

1 Blood reminds us: That sin has to be cleansed

BIBLE VERSE

...with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop

THREE ELEMENTS

Jewish ceremonies were filled with very specific items that were intentionally prescribed by God to be symbols and shadows of the better things to come. Here we find three. In the sealing of the covenant, the blood was taken and mixed with water, and scarlet wool. Hyssop was dipped in the blood and splattered.

- **Water represents cleansing and purity** - When the blood hit the water, the water turned red. It was a reminder of death. It was a reminder that sin caused death.
- **Scarlet wool** - Literally "Stuff that comes from a worm." There is a worm in that region of the world that attaches itself to its larvae. When the larvae hatch, they eat the worm which causes its deep, scarlet blood to drip down the tree. That blood would be harvested and used to die linens and wools.
 - In Psalm 22, there is a prophetic image given of Jesus on the cross written in 1st person, from the perspective of Christ on the cross. It's the Psalm Jesus uttered while on the cross that begins with, "My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me..." In that Psalm, we read the following:
 - **[Psa 22:6 NKJV] 6 But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.**
 - The word worm is *tola*, and look *what it means* - the dye made from the dried body of the female of the worm "coccus ilicis."
 - **[Isa 1:18 NKJV] 18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."**
- **Hyssop**- Hyssop was a plant used to clean and purify. It was the main ingredient in ancient detergents.
 - Hyssop was used to apply the blood of the first Passover lamb to the doorposts of the Hebrews as the angel of death passed through the land of Egypt. Whoever's home doorpost was painted by the lamb's blood with Hyssop would be "passed over" by the angel and their firstborn would live. No death could touch them and whoever was in their house.
 - **[Psa 51:7 NKJV] 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**
 - It's also interesting that a hyssop stalk was used to offer a sponge of wine and vinegar to Jesus while He was on the cross. The sourness of gall and sin was

tasted by Jesus on the hyssop branch!

APPLICATION

All these applicators were reminders that something had been defiled, contaminated, and stained by sinful actions or thoughts. And that stain of sin required blood.

Some people start to measure their sin: Oh, it's not that big of a deal. It's just one small sin. It can't be that serious. Wrong! That one small sin has stained you before God and blood had to be poured out in order to cleanse and purify you from it!

BIBLE VERSE

[Rev 1:5 NKJV] 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

2

Blood reminds us: That sin carries a gruesome penalty

CUSTOM

Imagine for a moment how you would feel about sin if every time you committed one, you had to take an innocent, harmless animal, kill it and have its blood literally on your hands. Wouldn't you be sickened by sin?

- The shedding of blood tells us that God takes sin incredibly serious. It's not that he just doesn't like it. Sin is so wicked and vile that nothing less than the payment of death

will suffice for it.

- When you see blood and it's connected directly to your sin, you realize that the wages of sin is death!

BIBLE VERSE

ILLUSTRATION

I was talking to a friend the other day about how deceitful sin is.

- Every time sin is creeping at your doorstep, it will disguise itself as something far more tame and harmless than what it really delivers.
- Sin is masterful at alluring the flesh with lies.
 - There are no consequences.
 - You can only do it once.
 - No one will find out.
 - God understands.
 - One more time won't hurt anything.
- It's all the same tactic that Satan used to allure Eve in the Garden of Eden! He is a liar from the beginning and there is no truth in him.
- I think sometimes we become so accustomed to God's grace and the benefits of Jesus' blood that we forget that it was the price of our sin that required His innocent blood to be shed!

3

Blood reminds us: That forgiveness comes at great cost

CUSTOM

22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Simply meaning this: Forgiveness of sin requires blood to be shed. Purification of the flesh and of the soul requires blood to be shed.

- So next time we take the grace and forgiveness of God for granted, as though we are entitled to it, maybe we can remember that where there is blood, there was a sacrifice; someone else who gave up life so that I wouldn't have to.

This is why blood was necessary. It helped the people remember that sin was costly and that that forgiveness is never free. It revealed the holiness and justice of God, and how seriously he takes sin and rebellion against Him.

Leviticus 17 establishes the fact that the life is in the blood. Sacrificial blood represents one life for the redemption of another.

BIBLE VERSE

[1Pe 1:18-19 NKJV] 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

APPLICATION

Next time you are tempted to sin I want you to do two things:

- Just steal that item
- Just take that hit
- Just look at that image
- Just go to that place
- Just slander and gossip about that person
- Just cheat on that test

- Just flirt with that other person
- Just idolize that job or that paycheck

When you hear that do two things:

- Picture yourself standing next to someone that is blatantly lying to your face, because that's exactly what the temptation is doing to you.
 - Does anyone here enjoy being lied to? Anyone here angry when another person tells them bold face lie?
 - That's exactly what's happening when you are being tempted. You are being lied to. Promised one thing and will be delivered something totally the opposite.
- *Visualize the blood of Jesus dripping out of nail wounded hands and feet as His life and breath slowly slips away. As you see him bleeding out, remind yourself that the thing you are about to do is what required that sacrifice.*

You might find the motivation to fell from, resist, and battle against that temptation!

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 9:23 NKJV] 23 Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

CUSTOM

The logic is this:

- If the old things, the earthly things, the imperfect things required the sacrifice of blood, how much more do the heavenly realities require a greater sacrifice of a more perfect blood?
- He restates himself yet again! the nature of Christ's sacrifice is not that of the imperfect, continual sacrifice of animals by dying priests. His perfect sacrifice was made and perfect blood was shed one time, for all people. His sacrifice didn't provide

a temporary covering up of sin, but a one and for all putting away of sin!

- The religious efforts of the Levitical priests were tiresome and continual because they were never truly sufficient.

QUOTE

“*A lifetime of religious effort or improved moral performance will never come close to accomplishing what the one-time sacrifice of Jesus accomplished for us.*

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 9:24 NKJV] 24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, [which are] copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

APPLICATION

There's one phrase I don't want you to miss in verse 24: For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us...

FOR US:

- Why did Jesus give up his place in heaven and come to earth?
- Why did he subject himself to sinful men?
- Why did he bear the gruesome death of a cross?
- Why did he conquer death?
- Why did he bring his own blood to the altar of heaven before God the Father?
- Why did he ascend to heaven, sit at God's right hand?
- Why is he coming back again?

FOR US!

- The next time you are questioning God's love, care, or interest in your life or situation, please remind yourself of what he already did FOR YOU.

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 9:25-26 NKJV] 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another-- 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

4 Blood reminds us: That mercy triumphs over judgment

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 9:27-28 NKJV] 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

APPLICATION

The linguistics of these two verses is masterful. The author is contrasting ideas:

Appointed for men once to die = the death of a person – no one escapes it, and everyone is destined for it at a time that only God knows.

After this judgment = the eternal penalty for a person – judgment is the natural destination for a person. We have all sinned, sin must be judged therefore we must be judged.

Christ was offered = the death of Christ

Will appear a second time = the eternal reward of Christ.

The gospel in two verses: Every person is going to die in their sins and then be judged by God for their sins. But then Jesus showed up! He died for our sins, and to all those who await Him, he is returning not to judge us for our sin but to deliver us into the fullness of His salvation!

- *Is anyone in here this morning happy about this???*

Which option would you prefer? death and judgment, or forgiveness, salvation and eternal life? AFTER DEATH THERE IS NO MORE OPTION. You must choose before that time.

PHRASE

Another phrase that catches my eye here though is very challenging:

- To those who EAGERLY await him, he will come a second time with salvation.

Eagerly – To patiently wait with great care and perseverance

- How much of my day and life is consumed with the temporal, physical aspects of life?
 - I eagerly await vacation, eagerly await the football game, eagerly await that next thing I'm looking forward to.
 - Do I, with the same or greater expectation and excitement, live my life as though Jesus is coming back?
 - When is the last time you woke up in the morning and thought, "I hope Jesus comes back today." When is the last time you were at work thinking, "I might stand before the throne of God and give an account for what I did with Jesus before the office closes today."

DEFINITION

Also, not the word "appear" in this chapter. We see it three times:

- He appeared on earth to take away sin
- He appears before God on our behalf
- And one day, He will appear again to bring the fullness of His promise to all who wait for him.

The point? EVERY TIME JESUS SHOWS UP, SOMETHING AMAZING HAPPENS.

Are you looking for Jesus?

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 10:1-4 NKJV] 1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, [and] not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those [sacrifices there is] a reminder of sins every year. 4 For [it is] not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

ILLUSTRATION

Have you ever been constantly reminded of something?

- **EXAMPLE: reminder alarm on my phone to take out the trash.**
- **Or maybe it's something far more impactful and emotional. That picture, place, smell that brings up the memory of a loved one passed.**

Well, that's what a sacrifice was. The blood, the smoke, the dying animal... all a reminder that you sin and guilt before God was still there. It would be there next year, and the year after that, and the year after that.

APPLICATION

The problem with animal sacrifices was that every time they were offered, they served as a reminder that sin had not been completely forgiven. The beauty of Christ's sacrifice is that it is a constant reminder that all sin has been completely forgiven! When we sin today, we don't have to wait until next year for a sacrifice to be offered, and even then have the fear and knowledge that our sin is not completely dealt with. We have the joy of knowing, with utter confidence, that Jesus took all our sin upon himself. No more sacrifice is needed. No more wondering, fear, or anxiety about whether or not we have measured up. Just grace.

CONCLUSION

We are ending there today and finishing chapter 10 next week. It's my hope and prayer that you see the blood of Jesus in a new and powerful way; that it not only reminds you of the extent of your sin but more importantly, of the extent of God's forgiveness.

- If you are not under the blood of Jesus today, there is no sacrifice on earth that can cleanse away your guilt. No sacrifice of self, or religious effort, or good works, or moral reformation has power like the cleansing blood of Jesus.

ILLUSTRATION

"The Lord Our Righteousness" German Hymn translated by John Wesley

Jesus, Thy blood, and righteousness
my beauty are, my glorious dress;
amidst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
with joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in that great day,
for who aught to my charge shall lay?
Fully absolved through these I am,
from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
which, at the mercy seat of God,
forever doth for sinners plead,
for me, even for my soul, was shed.

Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
whose boundless mercy hath for me,
for me a full atonement made,
an everlasting ransom paid.

When from the dust of death I rise
to claim my mansion in the skies,
Even then this shall be all my plea,
Jesus hath lived, hath died, for me.

O let the dead now hear Thy voice;
now bid Thy ransomed ones rejoice;
their beauty this, their glorious dress,
Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness.
