

Bible Studies

The Blood

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, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 1 Peter 1:18-19

The New Testament frequently refers to Jesus Blood. People outside the Church often see this as morbid, while within the Church many have developed wrong understandings of the Blood. The object of this study is to see what the Bible says about Blood.

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. Leviticus 17:11

In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Hebrews 9:22

The life of the creature is in the blood. Sometimes it is even called the 'lifeblood'. Because of this there were very strong prohibitions in the Bible against eating blood. Gen 9:4, Lev 7v26-27. These even find their way into the New Testament, Acts 15v20. The blood represented the life of the creature, therefore, to an extent, when we read of *the blood of Jesus*, we can understand it as, *the life of Jesus*. Eg Shed His precious blood means, gave His life. Ironically, we can also understand it as His death.

What significant does 'I have Given' have?

Right back in the Old Testament, God ordained that Blood would be the substance that made atonement for sin. Perhaps an illusion to this is found when God provided skins for Adam and Eve.

It was not only people that needed to be purified with blood, the Tabernacle and its utensils were all sprinkled with blood to sanctify them.

Hebrews tells us that sins cannot be forgiven without the shedding of blood, but in the next chapter it also says;

It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Hebrews 10:4

What conclusion do these two verses force us to draw?

The threefold work of the Blood

To establish covenant.

Exodus 24v8

Zechariah 9v11

Mark 14v24 (Matthew 26v28, Luke 22v20, 1 Corinthians 11v25)

Hebrews 9v18-20

John 19v34-35

Purchased by His Blood

Acts 20v28

Ephesians 1v7

Hebrews 9:12

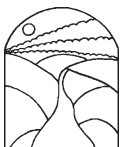
Revelation 5v9

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Purification by the Blood

Romans 5v9

Hebrews 9:14

1 John 1v7

Revelation 1v5

The joint effect of the above is to establish a firm relationship between God and man; *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13*

And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1:20

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, Hebrews 10:19

Someone once said ‘God sees us through the blood’ is this true?

Applying the Blood

Under the Old Covenant the blood of sacrificed animals was collected and sprinkled on the altar, the veil, the atonement cover, the priest and the people. 20 times in Leviticus we read of the sprinkling of the blood. Hebrews 9v21 sums this up “*In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies.*” The blood not only had to be shed it had to be applied. Christ’s sacrifice was no exception.

You have come... to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. Hebrews 12:24. cf. Hebrews 11:4 & Genesis 4v10.

What do you think the blood of Abel says?

What do you think the blood of Christ says?

The Blood of Abel cried out for retribution, for the injustice and sin of all mankind. The Blood of Christ speaks forgiveness and peace.

To God’s elect ... chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood 1 Peter 1:2

The grammar here is uncomfortable. This is because both the NIV and KJV have tried to retain a strange anomaly. While the context require that Christ sprinkle us with His blood, the subject Gk verb ‘sprinkling’ is the same as that for ‘obedience’ ie. it is something that we do.

Which part of the threefold work of the Blood do these verse pertain to?

Exodus 12v7 & 13

1 Corinthians 10v16

John 6v53

Revelation 12v11

What does it mean to plead the Blood?

In light of the threefold efficacy of the Blood are we justified in doing so?

Romans 3v25 *Faith in His Blood* helps us here. If our understanding of the power of the blood is in line with the above, then I believe we are justified in so doing.

When we say “I’m trusting in the power of the blood”, we are referring to the victory that Jesus won by shedding His blood and the position it has bought us into. Such confession of faith is awesome. (In Rev 12, it was applied personally and back up by action.) Cf. The Cross, 1 Cor 1v17, Gal 6v14, Col 2v15.

The danger is that ‘applying the blood’ becomes meaningless rhetoric or at worst straight superstition. Cf. Acts 19v14-15