



*A Celebration
of Life*

*The Power of the Blood
Leviticus 17:11-14*

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Introduction

Leviticus 17:11 – 14

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood. [13] And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust. [14] For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.

How does blood make atonement for sin? When offered with the right attitude, the sacrifice and the blood shed from it made forgiveness of sin possible. On the one hand, blood represented the sinner's life, infected by his sin and headed for death. On the other hand, the blood represented the innocent life of the animal that was sacrificed in place of the guilty person making the offering. The death of the animal (of which the blood was proof) fulfilled the penalty of death. God therefore granted forgiveness to the sinner. It is God who forgives based on the faith of the person doing the sacrificing.

Why was eating or drinking blood prohibited? The prohibition against eating blood can be traced all the way back to Noah (Genesis 9:4). God prohibited eating or drinking blood for several reasons. (1) To discourage pagan practices. Israel was to be separate and distinct from the foreign nations around them. Eating blood was a common pagan practice. It was often done in hopes of gaining the characteristics of the slain animal (strength, speed, etc.). God's people were to rely on him, not on ingested blood, for their strength. (2) To preserve the symbolism of the sacrifice. Blood symbolized the life of the animal that was sacrificed in the sinner's place. To drink it would change the symbolism of the sacrificial penalty and destroy the evidence of the sacrifice. (3) To protect the people from infection because many deadly diseases are transmitted through the blood.

The Jews took this prohibition seriously, and that is why Jesus' hearers were so upset when Jesus told them to drink his blood (John 6:53-56). However, Jesus, as God himself and the last sacrifice ever needed for sins, was asking believers to identify with him completely. He wants us to take his life into us, and he wants to participate in our lives as well.

Have you ever thought about the nature of our salvation? When you think about it Christianity is a bloody faith! D.L. Moody said it this way, "I must die, or have someone die for me. If the Bible doesn't teach that, it doesn't teach anything. And that is where the atonement of Jesus Christ comes in!" Every other religious system in the world places the burden of salvation on the efforts of humanity. But, Christianity teaches that salvation only comes through the sacrificial shedding of innocent blood on behalf of the guilty. In the OT this sacrifice was symbolized in the yearly slaughter of an innocent animal on behalf of a guilty nation. In the NT the ultimate blood sacrifice for salvation was accomplished once for all by the God-Man Jesus Christ.

A trail of life and the shedding of blood can be traced from Genesis through The Book of Revelation.

Follow with me these life-changing Scriptures that will establish your eternal destiny.

Chapter 1

Lamb Slain for Adam and Eve

“The Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.” (Genesis 3:21 NLT)

What was involved when the Lord God made clothing from animal skins?

Man did not have the understanding of how to kill an animal to make coats of skin BEFORE man fell into sin, for the knowledge of death could not come to man until after man sinned: “Just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin.” (Romans 5:12 NKJV)

Man did not have the understanding of how to kill an animal to make coats of skin immediately after the fall, for man only knew how to make a covering of fig leaves: “They sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.” (Genesis 3:7-8 NKJV)

God alone could cover the nakedness of man; God alone made the clothing: “I spread my wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became mine,’ says the Lord God. ‘Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil.’ I clothed you.” (Ezekiel 16:8-10 NKJV)

God covered man’s nakedness only AFTER man had acknowledged his nakedness: “So he [Adam] said, ‘I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’” (Genesis 3:10 NKJV) The covering of the man’s nakedness occurred only after the promise of the crushing of the serpent: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15 NKJV) Man was again made naked while he removed the inadequate coverings of fig leaves that were made. Man let the inadequate covering be removed, and allowed God to put on him a covering that permanently covered his nakedness.

God could have made a covering for Adam and Eve by simply speaking it into existence. Yet he made tunics through the sacrifice of an animal. God could have allowed man to die with no possibility of restoration. The fact that man had sinned

before God required the shedding of blood: “Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22 NIV) The first Adam received the covering of the sacrifice of a lamb in the Garden but was sent away from Paradise. The Last Adam became the sacrifice of the Lamb so that man could be received back into Paradise.

When the first Adam allowed deceptive intelligence to govern their thinking and rationalized disobedience to the Father, Rather than turning His back on them lovingly covered their nakedness with the covering of an innocent to cover their shame. Foreshadowing from the beginning how He would lovingly allow for the shedding of the blood of His beloved and innocent Son for the remission of our sin, to graciously redeem us from the penalty of that sin and the resulting shame and guilt, by covering us with His own righteousness and peace.

Chapter 2

Noah is Given Instructions Concerning the Blood.

Genesis 9:1-6 (NLT)

God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, "Multiply and fill the earth. [2] All the wild animals, large and small, and all the birds and fish will be afraid of you. I have placed them in your power. [3] I have given them to you for food, just as I have given you grain and vegetables. [4] But you must never eat animals that still have their lifeblood in them. [5] And murder is forbidden. Animals that kill people must die, and any person who murders must be killed. [6] Yes, you must execute anyone who murders another person, for to kill a person is to kill a living being made in God's image.

The covenant is made between God and Noah and his sons. It is God's covenant of righteousness by faith, with the acceptance of Noah and his generations to perform the will of God and keep the Noahide commandments. The relationship is what must I do to show my faith and obey God. God answers by first blessing Noah and his sons. Noah and his sons and all generations will be blessed by keeping this covenant. The true worshipers of God, from all generations forward are the keepers of this covenant. Therefore, they can have no other covenants with false gods.

God will "demand an accounting" means that God will require each person to account for his or her actions. We cannot harm or kill another human being without answering to God. A penalty must be paid. Justice will be served.

Here God explains why murder is so wrong: To kill a person is to kill one made in God's image. Because all human beings are made in God's image, all people possess the qualities that distinguish them from animals: morality, reason, creativity, and self-worth. When we interact with others, we are interacting with beings made by God, beings to whom God offers eternal life. God wants us to recognize his image in all people.

Chapter 3

Remembering the Passover

Scripture: Exodus 12:21-36

21 Then Moses called all the elders of Israel, and said to them, "Select lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood which is in the basin; and none of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. 23 For the LORD will pass through to slay the Egyptians; and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to slay you.

Passover became an annual remembrance of how God delivered the Hebrews from Egypt. Each year the people would pause to remember the day when the destroyer (God's angel of death) passed over their homes. They gave thanks to God for saving them from death and bringing them out of a land of slavery and sin. Believers today have experienced a day of deliverance as well—the day we were delivered from spiritual death and slavery to sin. The Lord's Supper is our Passover remembrance of our new life and freedom from sin. The next time struggles and trials may come. Remember how God has delivered you in the past and focus on his promise of new life with him.

24 You shall observe this rite as an ordinance for you and for your sons forever. 25 And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. 26 And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' 27 you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he slew the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

28 Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

29 At midnight the LORD smote all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the first-born of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the first-born of the cattle.

30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where one was not dead.

Every firstborn child of the Egyptians died, but the Israelite children were spared because the blood of the lamb had been placed on their doorframes. So begins the story of redemption, the central theme of the Bible.

Redemption means “to buy back” or “to save from captivity by paying a ransom.” One way to buy back a slave was to offer an equivalent or superior slave in exchange. That is the way God chose to buy us back—he offered his Son in exchange for us.

In Old Testament times, God accepted symbolic offerings. Jesus had not yet been sacrificed, so God accepted the life of an animal in place of the life of the sinner. When Jesus came, he substituted his perfect life for our sinful lives, taking the penalty for sin that we deserve. Thus he redeemed us from the power of sin and restored us to God. Jesus’ sacrifice made animal sacrifice no longer necessary.

We must recognize that if we want to be freed from the deadly consequences of our sins, a tremendous price must be paid. But we don’t have to pay it. Jesus Christ, our substitute has already redeemed us by his death on the cross. Our part is to trust him and accept his gift of eternal life. Our sins have been paid for, and the way has been cleared for us to begin a relationship with God (Titus 2:14; Hebrews 9:13-15, 23-26).

31 And he summoned Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise up, go forth from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said. 32 Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also!"

33 And the Egyptians were urgent with the people, to send them out of the land in haste; for they said, "We are all dead men." 34 So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their mantles on their shoulders. 35 The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked of the Egyptians jewelry of silver and of gold, and clothing; 36 and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they despoiled the Egyptians.

The people are instructed on how they must celebrate the Passover meal. They must sacrifice an unblemished lamb, since only a perfect sacrifice would be

acceptable to God. The lamb is a type of Christ, *the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*. Jesus was the sinless victim offered on our behalf (2 Cor. 5:21; Hebrews 4:15-16).

The blood of the lamb was to be placed on the lintel and doorposts, which caused the destroying angel to pass by. The blood on the doorposts is a type of the atoning blood of Christ's sacrifice that pays for our sins.

Further instructions were given by Moses for the lamb to be eaten with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. The bitter herbs signify suffering and serve as a reminder to the people that God delivered them from the bitter bondage in Egypt. The lamb could not be eaten raw or boiled, but was roasted over the fire. Fire is often used in the scriptures to denote judgment and hell. Christ, our true Passover (1 Cor. 5:7-8), underwent suffering and was slaughtered as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. John 19:14 records that Jesus' crucifixion began at noon on the day of preparation for Passover and Matthew 27:45 says that Jesus died at the ninth hour. This was the exact day and hour at which the Passover lambs were to be sacrificed in the Temple.

The bread prepared in haste had to be unleavened. The Lord was coming to deliver them and they had to be ready. There is a spiritual significance to this since leaven usually signified something evil. The true unleavened bread is the purity and holiness of a life lived in Christ, as it is written, "Let us celebrate the feast not with the old leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor. 5:6-8).

God instructed his people to remember the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover and celebrate it yearly as a memorial service. The Passover Feast was a commemoration of deliverance to remind the people of how God liberated them from slavery in Egypt. The Passover lamb was a symbol of safety since it was the blood that kept Israel safe on the night of destruction when the Angel of death passed through the land.

At the Last Supper Jesus fulfills the Jewish Passover meal by offering himself as the true Lamb of God and perfect sacrifice for our sins. As a pledge of his love and in order to make his disciples sharers in his Passover, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper or Eucharist as the memorial of his death and resurrection and he commanded his apostles to celebrate it until he returns. At the Last Supper Jesus directed his disciples' attention toward the fulfillment of the Passover in the kingdom of God: "I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matthew 26:29).

Chapter 4

The Old Testament Blood Covenant

Exodus 24:21

Exodus 24:3-8 (NLT)

When Moses had announced to the people all the teachings and regulations the Lord had given him, they answered in unison, "We will do everything the Lord has told us to do."

[4] Then Moses carefully wrote down all the Lord's instructions. Early the next morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain. He also set up twelve pillars around the altar, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. [5] Then he sent some of the young men to sacrifice young bulls as burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. [6] Moses took half the blood from these animals and drew it off into basins. The other half he splashed against the altar.

[7] Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They all responded again, "We will do everything the Lord has commanded. We will obey."

[8] Then Moses sprinkled the blood from the basins over the people and said, "This blood confirms the covenant the Lord has made with you in giving you these laws."

To understand this unusual covenant ratification ceremony, we need to understand the Bible's view of sin and forgiveness. God is the sovereign judge of the universe. He is also absolutely holy. As the holy judge of all, he condemns sin and judges it worthy of death. In the Old Testament God accepted the death of an animal as a substitute for the sinner. The animal's shed blood was proof that one life had been given for another. So on the one hand, blood symbolized the death of the animal, but it also symbolized the life that was spared as a result. Of course the death of the animal that brought forgiveness in the Old Testament was only a temporary provision, looking forward to the death of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 9:9-10:24).

In this ceremony described here, Moses sprinkled half the blood from the sacrificed animals on the altar to show that the sinner could once again approach God because something had died in his place.

He sprinkled the other half of the blood on the people to show that the penalty for their sin had been paid and they could be reunited with God. Through this symbolic act God's promises to Israel were reaffirmed and lessons are taught to us about the future sacrificial death (or atonement) of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 5

The Blood is reserved for God “Sin Offering”

Deut. 12:13-20 (NLT)

Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt offerings just anywhere. [14] You may do so only at the place the Lord will choose within one of your tribal territories. There you must offer your burnt offerings and do everything I command you.

[15] "But you may butcher animals for meat in any town, wherever you want, just as you do now with gazelle and deer. You may eat as many animals as the Lord your God gives you. All of you, whether ceremonially clean or unclean, may eat that meat. [16] The only restriction is that you are not to eat the blood. You must pour it out on the ground like water.

[17] "But your offerings must not be eaten at home—neither the tithe of your grain and new wine and olive oil, nor the firstborn of your flocks and herds, nor an offering to fulfill a vow, nor your freewill offerings, nor your special gifts. [18] You must eat these in the presence of the Lord your God at the place he will choose. Eat them there with your children, your servants, and the Levites who live in your towns, celebrating in the presence of the Lord your God in all you do. [19] Be very careful never to forget the Levites as long as you live in your land.

[20] "When the Lord your God enlarges your territory as he has promised, you may eat meat whenever you want.

You must offer the meat and blood of your burnt offerings on the altar of the Lord your God.

While the pagans offered sacrifices to their gods, they offered them in many places. In contrast, the Israelites were only to offer sacrifices in the prescribed manner and in the prescribed places. This restriction was meant to ensure purity of worship for the nation of Israel. Later, they would neglect this injunction and offer sacrifices at the high places where pagan deities were worshiped. (See, for example, 2 Kings 23 where Josiah destroyed the other altars.) We should take steps to safeguard the purity of worship in our congregations. If we all individualized

and customized worship to suit our own preferences, we would lose the benefit of worshipping as a body of believers.

The Hebrews placed great emphasis on family worship. Whether offering a sacrifice or attending a great feast, the family was often together. This gave the children a healthy attitude toward worship, and it put extra meaning into it for the adults. Watching a family member confess his or her sin was just as important as celebrating a great holiday together. Although there are appropriate times to separate people by ages, some of the most meaningful worship can be experienced only when shared by old and young.

Chapter 6

New Testament Blood Covenant

The importance of understanding the Blood Covenant is found in the fact that the basis of Christianity is rooted in a Blood Covenant. The Blood Covenant between God and Abraham, the foundation for the relationship of God to His chosen people, appears in the New Testament as a New Covenant, this time between God and those who choose to serve Him in Christ. In the Old Testament, the people were the chosen of God, those whom He had chosen to represent Him to the world. In the New Testament the covenant people are the ones who choose God, who represent Christ to a dying world. This New Covenant is between God and Jesus, whereas the Old Covenant was between God and Abraham. In each case, the meaning of the Blood Covenant remains constant. What it meant to David in the Old Testament it means to us in the New Testament.

Matthew 26:26-29 (NLT)

As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and asked God's blessing on it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it and eat it, for this is my body."

Each name we use for this sacrament brings out a different dimension to it. It is the Lord's Supper because it commemorates the Passover meal Jesus ate with his disciples; it is the Eucharist (thanksgiving) because in it we thank God for Christ's work for us; it is Communion because through it we commune with God and with other believers. As we eat the bread and drink the wine, we should be quietly reflective as we recall Jesus' death and his promise to come again, grateful for God's wonderful gift to us, and joyful as we meet with Christ and the body of believers.

[27] And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you shall drink from it, [28] for this is my blood, which seals the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many

How does Jesus' blood relate to the new covenant? People under the old covenant (those who lived before Jesus) could approach God only through a priest and an animal sacrifice. Now all people can come directly to God through faith because Jesus' death has made us acceptable in God's eyes (Romans 3:21-24).

The old covenant was a shadow of the new (Jeremiah 31:31; Hebrews 8:1ff), pointing forward to the day when Jesus himself would be the final and ultimate sacrifice for sin. Rather than an unblemished lamb slain on the altar, the perfect Lamb of God was slain on the cross, a sinless sacrifice so that our sins could be forgiven once and for all. All those who believe in Christ receive that forgiveness.

. [29] Mark my words—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom."

Again Jesus assured his disciples of victory over death and of their future with him. The next few hours would bring apparent defeat, but soon they would experience the power of the Holy Spirit and witness the great spread of the gospel message. And one day, they would all be together again in God's new kingdom.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (NLT)

And now, may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ all that is pleasing to him? Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep by an everlasting covenant, signed with his blood. To him is glory forever and ever. Amen.

This verse includes two significant results of Christ's death and resurrection. God works in us to make us the kind of people that would please him, and he equips us to do the kind of *work* that would please him. Let God change you from within and then use you to help others.

In a blood covenant relationship everything you have or possess is freely available to your covenant partner. Likewise everything he has or possesses is now available to you, you only need to ask and it is yours. If we treated our relationship with our Heavenly Father as a relationship within a Blood Covenant that means anything we need that He has is ours for the asking! Conversely anything He asks of us we are covenant bound to provide Him

Chapter 7

In summarizing the power and Purpose of the Divine blood of Jesus, Dr. L.J. Ehrlich said:

“Jesus was born of a virgin. This was a miraculous birth. The blood that flowed through the veins of Jesus was Divine Blood. There was not a trace of Joseph’s blood. If he had any of Joseph’s blood, he would not have been truly the Son of God. His birth would not be a virgin birth”.

We underestimate the power of the Divine Blood of Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross it was divine blood, not human blood that spilled to the ground. When water gushed forth from a spear thrust into his side at death, blood and water came forth, the water was the Holy Spirit that Jesus was filled with even before his birth when the Angel of the Lord came upon Mary and miraculously implanted the seed of Jesus into her womb.

This is one reason Jesus preached of being born again to new blood by faith in Him. Only Jesus could preach you must be born again, not of flesh and blood. He was not born of flesh and blood, but by a miraculous process of new life directly from the Throne.

Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that **which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.**

The power of the blood of Jesus is the number one enemy of Satan. Satan flees when the Divine Blood shows up.

Chapter 8

Communion

John 6:53-63 (KJV)

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood; ye have no life in you. [54] Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. [55] For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. [56] He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

This was a shocking message—to eat flesh and drink blood sounded cannibalistic. The idea of drinking any blood, let alone human blood, was repugnant to the religious leaders because the law forbade it (Leviticus 17:10-11). Jesus was not talking about literal blood, of course. He was saying that his life had to become his own, but they could not accept this concept. The apostle Paul later used the body and blood imagery in talking about communion (see 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

[57] As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. [58] This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever. [59] These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. [60] Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, this is a hard saying; who can hear it? [61] When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, doth this offend you? [62] What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? [63] It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

The Holy Spirit gives spiritual life. Without the work of the Holy Spirit we cannot even see our need for new life (John 14:17). All spiritual renewal begins and ends with God. He reveals truth to us, lives within us, and then enables us to respond to that truth.

1 Cor. 11:23-34 (KJV)

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: [24] And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. [25] After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

What does the Lord's Supper mean? The early church remembered that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on the night of the Passover meal (Luke 22:13-20). Just as Passover celebrated deliverance from slavery in Egypt, so the Lord's Supper celebrates deliverance from sin by Christ's death.

What is this new covenant? In the old covenant, people could approach God only through the priests and the sacrificial system. Jesus' death on the cross ushered in the new covenant or agreement between God and us. Now all people can personally approach God and communicate with him. The people of Israel first entered into this agreement after their exodus from Egypt (Exodus 24), and it was designed to point to the day when Jesus Christ would come. The new covenant completes, rather than replaces, the old covenant, fulfilling everything the old covenant looked forward to (see Jeremiah 31:31-34). Eating the bread and drinking the cup shows that by keeping, we are remembering Christ's death we are renewing our commitment to serve him.

Jesus said, "Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." How do we remember Christ in the Lord's Supper? By thinking about what he did and why he did it. If the Lord's Supper becomes just a ritual or a pious habit, it no longer remembers Christ, and it loses its significance.

[26] For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. [27] Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. [28] But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. [29] For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. [30] For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. [31] For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. [32] But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. [33] Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another. [34] And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

Paul gives specific instructions on how the Lord's Supper should be observed. (1) We should take the Lord's Supper thoughtfully because we are proclaiming that Christ died for our sins (1 Cor. 11:26). (2) We should take it worthily, with due reverence and respect (1 Cor. 11:27). (3) We should examine ourselves for any unconfessed sin or resentful attitude (1 Cor. 11:28). We are to be properly prepared, based on our belief in and love for Christ. (4) We should be considerate of others (1 Cor. 11:33), waiting until everyone is there and then eating in an orderly and unified manner.

When Paul said that no one should take the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner, he was speaking to the church members who were rushing into it without thinking of its meaning. Those who did so were "guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord." Instead of honoring his sacrifice, they were sharing in the guilt of those who crucified Christ. In reality, *no one* is worthy to take the Lord's Supper. We are all sinners saved by grace. This is why we should prepare ourselves for Communion through healthy introspection, confession of sin, and resolution of differences with others. These actions remove the barriers that affect our relationship with Christ and with other believers. Awareness of your sin should not keep you away from Communion but should drive you to participate in it.

"Without recognizing the body of the Lord" means not understanding what the Lord's Supper means and not distinguishing it from a normal meal. Those who do so condemn themselves (see 1 Cor. 11:27).

"Fallen asleep" is another way of describing death. That some of the people had died may have been a special supernatural judgment on the Corinthian church. This type of disciplinary judgment highlights the seriousness of the Communion service. The Lord's Supper is not to be taken lightly; this new covenant cost Jesus his life. It is not a meaningless ritual, but a sacrament given by Christ to help strengthen our faith.

People should come to this meal desiring to fellowship with other believers and prepare for the Lord's Supper to follow, not to fill up on a big dinner. "If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home" means that they should eat dinner beforehand, so as to come to the fellowship meal in the right frame of mind.

The Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:20) is a visible representation of the Good News of the death of Christ for our sins. It reminds us of Christ's death and the glorious

hope of his return. Our participation in it strengthens our faith through fellowship with Christ and with other believers.

When the Lord's Supper was celebrated in the early church, it included a feast or fellowship meal followed by the celebration of Communion. In the church in Corinth, the fellowship meal had become a time when some ate and drank excessively while others went hungry. There was little sharing and caring. This certainly did not demonstrate the unity and love that should characterize the church, nor was it a preparation for Communion. Paul condemned these actions and reminded the church of the real purpose of the Lord's Supper.

Chapter 9

Jesus Paid a Ransom for Our Sins

1 Peter 1:18 (NLT)

For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver.

A slave was “redeemed” when someone paid money to buy his or her freedom. God redeemed us from the tyranny of sin, not with money, but with the precious blood of his own Son (Romans 6:6-7; 1 Cor. 6:20; Col. 2:13-14; Hebrews 9:12). We cannot escape from sin on our own; only the life of God’s Son can free us.

Christ’s sacrifice for our sins was not an afterthought, not something God decided to do when the world spun out of control. The all-knowing, eternal God set this plan in motion long before the world was created. What a comfort it must have been to Jewish believers to know that God planned Christ’s coming and his work of salvation long before the world began. This assured them that the law was not being scrapped because it didn’t work, but that both the law *and* the coming of Christ were part of God’s eternal plan.

Rev. 5:9-10 (NLT)

And they sang a new song with these words:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it.
For you were killed, and your blood has ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.

[10] And you have caused them to become God's kingdom and his priests. And they will reign on the earth."

People from every nation are praising God before his throne. God’s message of salvation and eternal life is not limited to a specific culture, race, or country. Anyone who comes to God in repentance and faith is accepted by him and will be

part of his kingdom. Don't allow prejudice or bias to keep you from sharing Christ with others. Christ welcomes all people into his kingdom.

The song of God's people praises Christ's work. He (1) was slain, (2) purchased them with his blood, (3) gathered them into a kingdom, (4) made them priests, and (5) appointed them to reign on the earth. Jesus has already died and paid the penalty for sin. He is now gathering us into his kingdom and making us priests. In the future we will reign with him. Worship God and praise him for what he has done, what he is doing, and what he will do for all who trust in him. When we realize the glorious future that awaits us, we will find the strength to face our present difficulties.

The believers' song praises Christ for bringing them into the kingdom and making them kings and priests. While now we are sometimes despised and mocked for our faith (John 15:17-27), in the future we will reign over all the earth (Luke 22:29-30). Christ's death made all believers priests of God—the channels of blessing between God and mankind (1 Peter 2:5-9).

Christ has done all things necessary to save and redeem mankind enslaved to the devil, sin and death, and under the wrath of God. He 'paid the price, not in some legalistic or juridical or economic meaning. He "paid the price" not to the devil whose rights over man were won by deceit and tyranny. He 'paid the price' not to God the Father in the sense that God delights in His sufferings and received 'satisfaction' from His creatures in Him. He 'paid the price' rather, we might say, to Reality Itself. He 'paid the price' to create the conditions in and through which man might receive the forgiveness of sins and eternal life by dying and rising again in Him to newness of life.

(See Romans 5:8 and Galatians 2:4 By dying on the cross and rising from the dead, Jesus Christ cleansed the world from evil and sin. He defeated the devil 'in his own territory' and on 'his own terms.' The wages of sin is death. Romans 6:23 So the Son of God became man and took upon Himself the sins of the world and died a voluntary death. By His sinless and innocent death accomplished entirely by His free will—and not by physical, moral, or juridical necessity—He made death to die and to become itself the source and the way into life eternal

Luke 9:1-2 (NLT)

One day Jesus called together his twelve apostles and gave them power and authority to cast out demons and to heal all diseases. [2] Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the coming of the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Note Jesus' methods of leadership. He empowered his disciples (Luke 9:1), gave them specific instructions so they knew what to do (Luke 9:3-4), told them how to deal with tough times (Luke 9:5), and held them accountable (Luke 9:10). As you lead others, study the Master Leader's pattern.

Jesus announced his kingdom by both preaching and healing. If he had limited himself to preaching, people might have seen his kingdom as spiritual only. On the other hand, if he had healed without preaching, people might not have realized the spiritual importance of his mission. Most of his listeners expected a Messiah who would bring wealth and power to their nation; they preferred material benefits to spiritual discernment. The truth about Jesus is that he is both God and man, both spiritual and physical; and the salvation that he offers is both for the soul and the body. Any group or teaching that emphasizes soul at the expense of body, or body at the expense of soul, is in danger of distorting Jesus' Good News.

Chapter 10

Redemption through the Blood of Jesus

Romans 5:9-11 (NLT)

And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's judgment. [10] For since we were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life. [11] So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God.

The love that caused Christ to die is the same love that sends the Holy Spirit to live in us and guide us every day. The power that raised Christ from the dead is the same power that saved you and is available to you in your daily life. Be assured that, having begun a life with Christ, you have a reserve of power and love to call on each day, for help to meet every challenge or trial. You can pray for God's power and love as you need it.

Ephes. 1:6-8 (NLT)

So we praise God for the wonderful kindness he has poured out on us because we belong to his dearly loved Son. [7] He is so rich in kindness that he purchased our freedom through the blood of his Son, and our sins are forgiven. [8] He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

To speak of Jesus' blood was an important first-century way of speaking of Christ's death. His death points to two wonderful truths—redemption and forgiveness. Redemption was the price paid to gain freedom for a slave (Leviticus 25:47-54). Through his death, Jesus paid the price to release us from slavery to sin. *Forgiveness* was granted in Old Testament times on the basis of the shedding of animals' blood (Leviticus 17:11). Now we are forgiven on the basis of the shedding of Jesus' blood—he died as the perfect and final sacrifice. (See also Romans 5:9; Ephes. 2:13; Col. 1:20; Hebrews 9:22; 1 Peter 1:19.)

Grace is God's voluntary and loving favor given to those he saves. We can't earn salvation, nor do we deserve it. No religious, intellectual, or moral effort can gain

it, because it comes only from God's mercy and love. Without God's grace, no person can be saved. To receive it, we must acknowledge that we cannot save ourselves, that only God can save us, and that our only way to receive this loving favor is through faith in Christ.

Ephes. 1:6-7 (NLT)

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Jesus' blood is imperative for atonement and is a powerful weapon of victory. This was achieved on the victorious cross of Calvary. Jesus' blood is still as powerful now, as it was two thousand years ago. If the blood of Jesus had not been shed, mankind would not have been able to enter into a relationship with the living God. The blood is precious. '...Almost all things are purged with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no remission [forgiveness]' Hebrews 9:22.

Chapter 11

Divine Protection Through the Blood of Jesus

We can apply the Blood of Jesus on specific things for which we want protection before any kind of adversity could strike them – like your body, house, car, and finances, land and home. The goal is to apply the Blood of Jesus on those things in order to protect you **before** any kind of adversity could ever come your way.

Luke 10:19

And I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.

The disciples had seen tremendous results as they ministered in Jesus' name and with his authority. They were elated by the victories they had witnessed, and Jesus shared their enthusiasm. He helped them get their priorities right, however, by reminding them of their most important victory—that their names were written in heaven. This honor was more important than any of their accomplishments. As we see God's wonders at work in and through us, we should not lose sight of the greatest wonder of all—our heavenly citizenship.

Jesus may have been looking ahead to his victory over Satan at the cross. John 12:31-32 indicates that Satan would be judged and driven out at the time of Jesus' death. On the other hand, Jesus may have been warning his disciples against pride. Perhaps he was referring to Isaiah 14:12-17, which begins, "How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, and son of the dawn!" Some interpreters identify this verse with Satan and explain that Satan's pride led to all the evil we see on earth today. To Jesus' disciples, who were thrilled with their power over evil spirits ("snakes and scorpions"), he may have been giving this stern warning: "Yours is the kind of pride that led to Satan's downfall. Be careful!"

Notice in this verse we have God's power over **all** the power of our enemies, not just against some or part of their powers. This means we have the ability to come out **completely victorious** in life's battles and struggles, but only if we learn how to properly use what is now available to us.

Daniel 11:32

But the people who know their God shall be strong and do exploits.

We may long to do great exploits, to move in a great anointing, to rise to new level of faith, to experience victory after victory and mighty manifestations of the power of God. It is certainly possible for those who know their God to do great exploits.

“Knowing their God” means that we have spent good quality time in establishing a good personal relationship with the Lord. If we do this, then this verse is telling us that God will strengthen and empower us when we need His power to be able to carry out great exploits and great adventures for Him.

The above verses are showing us that we can apply the Blood of Jesus against any attacks that may have already come our way, then I believe it only stands to reason that we can also go one step further with the Blood of Jesus – and that is to use it for protection **before** any kind of attack could actually come our way. In this case, you simply apply the Blood of Jesus on whatever you want God’s full protection on before any attacks could possibly come your way.

There is something else in the Bible that gives us another clue that entitles us to be able to apply the Blood for this specific purpose. In the Old Testament, God the Father had it arranged with His chosen people, the Jews, that in order for them to be able to enter into a covenant relationship with Him, they had to have some kind of temporary covering for their sins. Jesus had not come yet, so there was no full remission for any of the sins that had occurred.

You may wish to apply the blood of Jesus for protection from attacks on your body, your house, your family, your car, your finances, your family, your land, your home and your place at work. There are, no doubt many others.

Any one of these could come under demonic or human attack at any time. Applying the Blood of Jesus on your car will help prevent you from getting into any type of serious auto accidents, along with helping to prevent any type of break-ins or break down, or theft of your car.

Applying the Blood of Jesus on your finances will help protect you from all of the scammers and con artists who are out there trying to scam and steal all of your hard earned money. Identity theft has become a major problem in our country. Applying the Blood of Jesus on all of your credit cards and bank accounts as well as business contracts will stop thieves dead in their tracks if they try and target you for identity theft.

Applying the Blood of Jesus on your house and office building will help protect you against any fires, break-ins, burglaries, natural catastrophes, or any type of bad accidents. Applying the Blood of Jesus on your children will help protect them from any possible abductions, serious accidents, or life-threatening illnesses. Applying the Blood of Jesus on your own body, soul, and spirit will also help keep you protected from all of the above.

Several years ago my wife felt directed to walk around the outside of our place where our home is located. It was a two-mile walk. In some places, there were high weeds near the fence. As she went, she continuously applied the Blood of Jesus.

A short time later, a tornado was coming across the neighbor's field toward our house. When it came to our fence, the tornado lifted back up into the sky.

Here is a sample prayer you could pray for applying the blood of Jesus.

Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, I now apply the Blood of Jesus over my spirit, soul, and body. I now apply the Blood of Jesus against any evil spirits that may come against my family. I now apply the Blood of Jesus against any accidents or catastrophes that may come against us. I apply the Blood of Jesus against any diseases, viruses, or illnesses that come against me. Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, I now have full faith and belief that the Blood of Jesus will now fully protect me against all of the things for which I have applied His Blood. Thank you Father.

Chapter 12

Forgiveness through the Blood of Jesus

We know there is definitely forgiveness in the Blood of Jesus. This is the basic central message of true Christianity – that God the Father sent His one and only begotten Son Jesus Christ down to our earth in the flesh to physically die on a cross in order to save us and give us total and permanent forgiveness for all of our sins.

Without Jesus dying and shedding His blood on the cross, there would be no forgiveness and remission of any of our sins. Here are some extremely powerful verses from Scripture specifically telling us this:

Matthew 26:28

This is my blood, which seals the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many.

How does Jesus' blood relate to the new covenant? People under the old covenant (those who lived before Jesus) could approach God only through a priest and an animal sacrifice. Now all people can come directly to God through faith because Jesus' death has made us acceptable in God's eyes (Romans 3:21-24).

The old covenant was a shadow of the new (Jeremiah 31:31; Hebrews 8:1ff), pointing forward to the day when Jesus himself would be the final and ultimate sacrifice for sin. Rather than an unblemished lamb slain on the altar, the perfect Lamb of God was slain on the cross, a sinless sacrifice so that our sins could be forgiven once and for all. All those who believe in Christ receive that forgiveness.

Ephes. 1:6-7 (NLT)

So we praise God for the wonderful kindness he has poured out on us because we belong to his dearly loved Son. [7] He is so rich in kindness that he purchased our freedom through the blood of his Son, and our sins are forgiven. Paul says that God "chose us in Christ" to emphasize that salvation depends totally on God. We are not saved because we deserve it, but because God is gracious and freely gives salvation. We did not influence God's decision to save us; he did it according to his plan. Thus there is no way to take credit for your salvation or to find room for pride. The mystery of salvation originated in the timeless mind of God long before

we existed. It is hard to understand how God could accept us, but because of Christ, we are holy and blameless in his eyes. God chose you, and when you belong to him through Jesus Christ, he looks at you as if you had never sinned. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

Ephes. 2:3

All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God's anger just like everyone else.

The fact that all people, without exception, commit sin proves that without Christ we have a sinful nature. We are lost in sin and cannot save ourselves. Does this mean only Christians do good? Of course not—many people do good to others. On a relative scale, many are moral, kind, and law-abiding. Comparing these people to criminals, we would say that they are very good indeed. But on God's absolute scale, *no one* is good enough to earn salvation (“you were dead in your transgressions and sins,” Ephes. 2:1). Only through being united with Christ's perfect life can we become good in God's sight. “Objects of wrath” refers to those who are to receive God's wrath because of their rejection of Christ.

Leviticus 17:11

For the life of any creature is in its blood. I have given you the blood so you can make atonement for your sins. It is the blood, representing life that brings you atonement.

When offered with the right attitude, the sacrifice and the blood shed from it made forgiveness of sin possible. On the one hand, blood represented the sinner's life, infected by his sin and headed for death. On the other hand, the blood represented the innocent life of the animal that was sacrificed in place of the guilty person making the offering. The death of the animal (of which the blood was proof) fulfilled the penalty of death. God therefore granted forgiveness to the sinner. It is God who forgives based on the faith of the person doing the sacrificing.

Chapter 13

Reconciliation through the Blood of Jesus

Ephes. 2:13

But now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought near to him because of the blood of Christ.

Pious Jews (“the circumcision”) considered all non-Jews (the “uncircumcised”) ceremonially unclean. They thought of themselves as pure and clean because of their national heritage and religious ceremonies. Paul pointed out that Jews and Gentiles alike were unclean before God and needed to be cleansed by Christ. In order to realize how great a gift salvation is, we need to remember our former natural, unclean condition. Have you ever felt separate, excluded, and hopeless? These verses are for you. No one is alienated from Christ’s love or from the body of believers.

Jews and Gentiles alike could be guilty of spiritual pride—Jews for thinking their faith and traditions elevated them above everyone else, Gentiles for trusting in their achievements, power, or position. Spiritual pride blinds us to our own faults and magnifies the faults of others. Be careful not to become proud of your salvation. Instead, humbly thank God for what he has done, and encourage others who might be struggling in their faith.

Before Christ’s coming, Gentiles and Jews kept apart from one another. Jews considered Gentiles beyond God’s saving power and therefore without hope. Gentiles resented Jewish claims. Christ revealed the total sinfulness of both Jews and Gentiles, and then he offered his salvation to both. Only Christ breaks down the walls of prejudice, reconciles all believers to God, and unifies us in one body.

Col. 1:20

And by him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of his blood on the cross.

Christ’s death provided a way for all people to come to God. It cleared away the sin that keeps us from having a right relationship with our Creator. This does not mean that everyone has been saved, but that the way has been cleared for anyone

who will trust Christ to be saved. We can have peace with God and be reconciled to him by accepting Christ, who died in our place. Is there a distance between you and the Creator? Be reconciled to God. Come to him through Christ.

Chapter 14

Entrance into the Holy Place through the Blood of Jesus

Hebrews 9:11-14 (NLT)

So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that great, perfect sanctuary in heaven, not made by human hands and not part of this created world. [12] Once for all time he took blood into that Most Holy Place, but not the blood of goats and calves. He took his own blood, and with it he secured our salvation forever.

[13] Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people's bodies from ritual defilement.

And obviously people who talk like that are looking forward to a country they can call their own.

This imagery comes from the Day of Atonement rituals described in Leviticus 16. *Redemption* refers to the process of paying the price (ransom) to free a slave. Through his own death, Christ freed us from the slavery of sin forever.

Though you know Christ, you may believe that you have to work hard to make yourself good enough for God. But rules and rituals have never cleansed people's hearts. By Jesus' blood alone (1) we have our consciences cleansed, (2) we are freed from death's sting and can live to serve God, and (3) we are freed from sin's power. If you are carrying a load of guilt because you are finding that you can't be good enough for God, take another look at Jesus' death and what it means for you. Christ can heal your conscience and deliver you from the frustration of trying to earn God's favor.

When the people sacrificed animals, God considered the people's faith and obedience, cleansed them from sin, and made them *ceremonially* acceptable according to Old Testament law. But Christ's sacrifice transforms our lives and hearts and makes us clean on the inside. His sacrifice is infinitely more effective than animal sacrifices. No barrier of sin or weakness on our part can stifle his forgiveness.

Hebrews 10:17-20 (NLT)

Then he adds, "I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds."

[18] Now when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices. [19] And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. [20] This is the new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us through the sacred curtain, by means of his death for us.

The Holy Place where the priests set out the bread of the Presence was a room 20 cubits long by 10 cubits wide and 10 cubits in height (30 feet x 15 feet x 15 feet). The golden upright frames formed the sides. The beautiful linen curtain with its pattern of cherubim could be viewed through the framework in the front and on the ceiling. There were four golden pillars at the entrance and in the back of the room was the holy veil behind it was the Ark of the Covenant. Inside the room every piece of holy furniture was golden. The golden lamp-stand was on the left, the table of shewbread on the right, and the golden altar of incense in the back before the veil.

The writer concludes his argument with this powerful statement that God will remember our sins no more. Christ forgives completely, so there is no need to confess our past sins repeatedly. As believers, we can be confident that the sins we confess and renounce are forgiven and forgotten.

Chapter 15

Sanctified Through the Blood of Jesus

Hebrews 13:12-13 (NLT)

So also Jesus suffered and died outside the city gates in order to make his people holy by shedding his own blood. [13] So let us go out to him outside the camp and bear the disgrace he bore.

The Jewish Christians were being ridiculed and persecuted by Jews who didn't believe in Jesus the Messiah. Most of the book of Hebrews tells them how Christ is greater than the sacrificial system. Here the writer drives home the point of his lengthy argument: It may be necessary to leave the "camp" and suffer with Christ. To be outside the camp meant to be unclean—in the days of the exodus, those who were ceremonially unclean had to stay outside the camp. But Jesus suffered humiliation and uncleanness outside the Jerusalem gates on their behalf. The time had come for Jewish Christians to declare their loyalty to Christ above any other loyalty, to choose to follow the Messiah whatever suffering that might entail. They needed to move outside the safe confinement of their past, their traditions, and their ceremonies to live for Christ. What holds you back from complete loyalty to Jesus Christ?

One of the most precious and beautiful themes in the Bible is our positional or absolute sanctification by the blood of Jesus Christ. This sanctification is an unchanging and unchangeable eternal position with God.

It is the result of the finished work of atonement Jesus accomplished to take away our sins on the cross. We are accepted in the Beloved. As He is, so are we. We are reckoned by God to be as Christ is in our new standing or position in Christ.

Through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ we are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:10) Our sanctification is by the offering of Jesus on our behalf. God declares, "We are sanctified." This is a great fact, a reality, which is true of all believers. Our sanctification by the blood of Jesus is eternal in character because Jesus' work was done perfectly. It is never repeated like the high priest of Israel did each year on the Day of Atonement.

He [Jesus] has perfected for all time those who are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14). Jesus did what the old sacrifices failed to do. The word "perfected" means "to bring to a state of completion." Everything essential to the salvation of the individual is

included in this one great gift of Christ, which the believing sinner received, by faith in Christ. “Them that are sanctified” is descriptive of the believer in Christ who has been set apart to God.

1 John 1:7

But if we are living in the light of God's presence, just as Christ is, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin.

How does Jesus' blood purify us from every sin? In Old Testament times, believers symbolically transferred their sins to an animal, which they then sacrificed (see a description of this ceremony in Leviticus 4). The animal died in their place to pay for their sin and to allow them to continue living in God's favor. God graciously forgave them because of their faith in him, and because they obeyed his commandments concerning the sacrifice. Those sacrifices anticipated the day when Christ would completely remove sin. Real cleansing from sin came with Jesus, the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

Sin, by its very nature, brings death—that is a fact as certain as the law of gravity. Jesus did not die for his own sins; he had none. Instead, by a transaction that we may never fully understand, he died for the sins of the world. When we commit our lives to Christ and thus identify ourselves with him, his death becomes ours. He has paid the penalty for our sins, and his blood has purified us. Just as Christ rose from the grave, we rise to a new life of fellowship with him (Romans 6:4).

Rev. 7:14

And I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows."

Then he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white."

Chapter 16

Victory over Satan through the Blood of Jesus

Rev. 12:7-11

Then there was war in heaven. Michael and the angels under his command fought the dragon and his angels. [8] And the dragon lost the battle and was forced out of heaven. [9] This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the Devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels. [10] Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has happened at last—the salvation and power and kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ! For the Accuser has been thrown down to earth—the one who accused our brothers and sisters before our God day and night. [11] And they have defeated him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of their testimony. And they were not afraid to die.

The critical blow to Satan came when the Lamb, Jesus Christ, shed his blood for our sins. The victory is won by sacrifice—Christ's death in our place to pay the penalty for our sin, and the sacrifices we make because of our faith in him. As we face the battle with Satan, we should not fear it or try to escape from it, but we should loyally serve Christ, who alone brings victory (see Romans 8:34-39).

The devil is not a symbol or legend; he is very real. Originally Satan was an angel of God, but through his own pride, he became corrupt. The devil is God's enemy, and he constantly tries to hinder God's work, but he is limited by God's power and can do only what he is permitted to do (Job 1:6-2:8). The name *Satan* means "accuser" (Rev. 12:10). He actively looks for people to attack (1 Peter 5:8-9). Satan likes to pursue believers who are vulnerable in their faith, who are spiritually weak, or who are isolated from other believers.

Chapter 17

Propitiation through the Blood of Jesus

Romans 5:8-11 (NLT)

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. [9] And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's judgment. [10] For since we were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life. [11] So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God.

While we were still sinners—these are amazing words. God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, not because we were good enough, but because he loved us. Whenever you feel uncertain about God's love for you, remember that he loved you even before you turned to him. If God loved you when you were a rebel, he can surely strengthen you, now that you love him in return.

The love that caused Christ to die is the same love that sends the Holy Spirit to live in us and guide us every day. The power that raised Christ from the dead is the same power that saved you and is available to you in your daily life. Be assured that, having begun a life with Christ, you have a reserve of power and love to call on each day, for help to meet every challenge or trial. You can pray for God's power and love, as you need it.

God is holy, and he will not be associated with sin. All people are sinful and so they are separated from God. In addition, all sin deserves punishment. Instead of punishing us with the death we deserve, however, Christ took our sins upon him and took our punishment by dying on the cross. Now we can “rejoice in God.” Through faith in *Christ's* work, we become close to God (reconciled) rather than being enemies and outcasts.

Chapter 18

Washed With the Blood of Jesus

Psalm 51:1-2 (KJV)

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. [2] Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Although David had sinned with Bathsheba, David said that he had sinned against God. When someone steals, murders, or slanders, it is against someone else—a victim. According to the world's standards, extramarital sex between two consenting adults is acceptable if nobody gets hurt. But people *do* get hurt—in David's case, a man was murdered, and a baby died. All sin hurts us, and others, but ultimately it offends God because sin in any form is a rebellion against God's way of living. When tempted to do wrong, remember that you will be sinning against God. When we sin against God, we must be washed from that sin.

Rev. 1:5 (NLT)

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the commander of all the rulers of the world. All praise to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us.

Others had risen from the dead—people whom the prophets, Jesus, and the apostles had brought back to life during their ministries—but later those people died again. Jesus was the first who rose from the dead in an imperishable body (1 Cor. 15:20), never to die again. He is the firstborn from the dead.

Rev. 7:14-17 (NLT)

And I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows."

Then he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white. [15] That

is why they are standing in front of the throne of God, serving him day and night in his Temple. And he who sits on the throne will live among them and shelter them. [16] They will never again be hungry or thirsty, and they will be fully protected from the scorching noontime heat. [17] For the Lamb who stands in front of the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe away all their tears."

It is difficult to imagine how blood could make any cloth white, but the blood of Jesus Christ is the world's greatest purifier because it removes the stain of sin. White symbolizes sinless perfection or holiness, which can be given to people only by the death of the sinless Lamb of God on our behalf. This is a picture of how we are saved through faith (see Isaiah 1:18; Romans 3:21-26).

1 John 1:6-7 (NLT)

So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness. We are not living in the truth. [7] But if we are living in the light of God's presence, just as Christ is, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin.

How does Jesus' blood purify us from every sin? In Old Testament times, believers symbolically transferred their sins to an animal, which they then sacrificed (see a description of this ceremony in Leviticus 4). The animal died in their place to pay for their sin and to allow them to continue living in God's favor. God graciously forgave them because of their faith in him, and because they obeyed his commandments concerning the sacrifice. Those sacrifices anticipated the day when Christ would completely remove sin. Real cleansing from sin came with Jesus, the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Chapter 19

Brought Near to God through the Blood of Jesus

Ephes. 2:13-14 (NLT)

But now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought near to him because of the blood of Christ.

[14] For Christ himself has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us.

Have you ever felt separate, excluded, and hopeless? These verses are for you. No one is alienated from Christ's love or from the body of believers.

Col. 1:21-23

This includes you who were once so far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions, [22] yet now he has brought you back as his friends. He has done this through his death on the cross in his own human body. As a result, he has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. [23] But you must continue to believe this truth and stand in it firmly. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed by God to proclaim it.

The way to be free from sin is to trust Jesus Christ to take it away. We must remain "established and firm" in the truth of the gospel, putting our confidence in Jesus alone to forgive our sins, to make us right with God, and to empower us to live the way he desires. When God forgives our sins, our record is wiped clean. From his perspective, it is as though we had never sinned. God's solution is available to you. No matter what you have done or what you have been like, God's forgiveness is for you.

Chapter 20

Granted Eternal Life Through the

Blood of Jesus

John 6:53-56

So Jesus said again, "I assure you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. [54] But those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them at the last day. [55] For my flesh is the true food, and my blood is the true drink. [56] All who eat my flesh and drink my blood remain in me, and I in them.

Jesus was not talking about literal blood, of course. He was saying that his life had to become his own, but they could not accept this concept. The apostle Paul later used the body and blood imagery in talking about communion (see 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

John 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. [17] God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.

The entire gospel comes to a focus in this verse. God's love is not static or self-centered; it reaches out and draws others in. Here God sets the pattern of true love, the basis for all love relationships—when you love someone dearly, you are willing to give freely to the point of self-sacrifice. God paid dearly with the life of his Son, the highest price he could pay. Jesus accepted our punishment, paid the price for our sins, and then offered us the new life that he had bought for us. When we share the gospel with others, our love must be like Jesus'—willingly giving up our own comfort and security so that others might join us in receiving God's love.

Chapter 21

How to Apply the Blood of Jesus

Learning how to apply the Blood of Jesus will give you one of the most powerful, if not the most powerful form of offensive prayer that you can use for any kind of deliverance and/or protection that you may need from the Lord.

This form of offensive prayer can not only be used to get God's protection on you before any type of adversity ever strikes you, but it can also be used for physical, emotional, and mental healings, for battling demons, and for battling any kind of storm that may have just come your way.

There are three specific things contained in the Blood of Jesus – **forgiveness, deliverance, and protection**. Many Christians only know about the first one – forgiveness. They have no idea there are two other things available to them that will enable them to live a victorious and overcoming life in the Lord while still living down here on this earth. Here is a brief discussion on each one of these three things.

From the article, “HIS GLORY REIGNS *by* B. Childress, we are given some ways to apply the blood of Jesus:

You have a legal right to use the Blood of Jesus, just as we have a legal right to use the name of Jesus. It has been given to us, and we have a right to use it.

Where one has God-given authority in your own life, in the lives of your children, in your ministries, and the lives of other believers, etc. - any stronghold of Satan can be destroyed by holding the Blood of Jesus upon it.

We need to start using and living under the Blood of Jesus by having faith in the Blood. Jesus' Blood has a voice; it is those who believe in Him. You and I can go boldly to the throne and receive mercy for our failures. We can walk in the authority with which Jesus has clothed us.

We can exercise authority over Satan and his demonic hosts because of Jesus and His Blood. You need to start praying the Blood over your children, your car, your home, your property and your body. You have a legal right to use the Blood of Jesus, just as we have a legal right to use the name of Jesus.

It has been given to us, and we have a right to use it.

Where you have God-given authority in your own life, in the lives of your children, your ministries, and the lives of other believers, etc. - any stronghold of Satan can be destroyed by holding the Blood of Jesus upon it.

The Blood of Jesus avails for all things; it is our protection against everything if we will cry for it and trust in it.

Believers have the Blood of Jesus but precious few even understand the value of it, let alone how to use it in their everyday lives to provide for the protection of themselves and their property.

We need to "put" the blood on our lives and homes. We do it by faith. We do it simply saying, in faith.

"Father God, I plead the blood of Jesus on my life and my home" Joyce Meyers prays this prayer when she is applying the Blood: "Father, I come to You in Jesus' name, and I put the blood of Jesus on my life and on all that belongs to me, on all that over which You have made me a steward. I put the blood of Jesus on my mind, my body, my emotions and my will. I believe I am protected by Blood of Jesus. I put the blood on my children, my employees and all the partners of Life in the Word Ministries."

Pleading the Blood with our mouths lines up with scripture, "Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy." Psalm 107:2

If the enemy tries to put the curse upon you, say that you are redeemed from the curse of the law:

" According to Galatians 3:13 I am redeemed from the curse of the law.

Chapter 22

The Brazen Altar By Paul Yonggi Cho

“For those who like to read, I offer this Temple Prayer that teaches a way to pray. I believe it could enhance the way you pray and perhaps open a new understanding about prayer. Enjoy and God bless you as you read the Temple Prayer.” - Dr. L.J. Ehrlich.

The part of the Temple Prayer that deals with the blood of Jesus is covered by the study of the Brazen Altar gives information on how Brother Cho applies the blood of Jesus to his situation.

When you approach the tabernacle, you find the Brazen Altar where the priest killed the animals, sprinkled the blood, and burned the flesh to forgive the sins of the people. All the people who had committed sin had to bring animals to the tabernacle. As soon as they stepped into the courtyard of the tabernacle this all the Brazen Altar were God judge sin by killing the animals. They laid their hands upon the animal on confess their sins. Then in front of their eyes, the priest killed the animal, sprinkled the blood on four corners of the altar and import out the blood and burned the flesh.

This is the type of the cross of Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, they all started worship God at the place of the brazen altar.

Likewise, when you pray, we must start from the cross of Calvary. This is very, very powerful prior. I always pray according to this tabernacle prayer more than three times a day. This prayer gives me power so that I can easily carry out my ministry among 700,000 people as well is my foreign mission evangelism.

Every day you must come to the cross of Jesus Christ as many times as possible. There you worship the lord. There you see God judging your sense Jesus Christ. Just as God judge the sin of Israel through the animals, Jesus judges your sense through Jesus Christ. This is a very serious thing.

I come to the cross and worship Jesus Christ saying, "Dear Jesus Christ I worship your blood. I thank you because your blood forgave all of my sins. He forgives all of the sins that I have committed and all of the sins that I'm going to commit in the future. He has forgiven me eternally".

Pray this prayer: "Jesus, I worship you because through the blood you have delivered me from the power of Satan and the world. You move to the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Now I'm living in your son's kingdom through the blood of Jesus Christ."

Only the blood can set you from the chains of Satan and the world. Now I have cast out all the influences of Satan and worldliness from my life and the Holy Spirit has taken it all out of me. I'm living in the kingdom of the beloved son by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. I am in the kingdom of the Son of God and the Holy Spirit leads and guides me. Jesus Christ moves me and takes care of me. I praise him because of the blood.

Praise the blood of Jesus Christ because that blood declares to me that I was completely freed from all kinds of sickness and infirmity.

I pray, "Jesus through the stripes which you received in the courtyard of Pilate, all sickness and diseases have been taken away since 2000 years ago. I declare that because of the blood of Jesus Christ blood speaks better than the blood of Abraham, and so I praise you. I praise you for divine healing through the blood of Jesus Christ".

Then I pray, "Dear Jesus, through your blood I have been redeemed from the Adamic curse. Because of Adam the earth was cursed. The earth was to bring forth thistles and thorns. That is a symbol of all the failure in life."

"Oh God, you took our curse upon the cross. Because the bible says that Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law making our curse for us for it is written cursed is every one that hangs upon a tree that the blessings of Abraham might come upon the gentiles."

"So through your blood I am completely delivered from the curse. I'm delivered from failure and poverty. I am free from the curse. I have the blessings of Abraham. I am a blessed person."

I very strongly confess the point that I am a blessed person because many people are living in failure consciousness. They live in poverty circumstances. Before they get rid of their consciousness us they can never move on to Jesus Christ.

Jesus was rich but he became poor for you so that you might be rich in Jesus Christ. So you must really saturate your mind within we didn't the blessing of Christ. We should worship Jesus about that point I must declare that point powerfully. You must say "by his stripes I am healed. By his cross I'm delivered from the curse".

When you we have the blessing of God in your heart, many times God will perform tremendous miracles in your life. From an unknown source, blessings will flow to you. So you must claim that blessings because you are a blessed people. You're not a cursed people. You are blessed people so only the blessings will come and dwell with you. The curse will not dwell with you any more.

Next I pray, "Dear Jesus, through your blood I am delivered from death and hell. Jesus, you died and you are resurrected. You conquered death and hell. You brought the glory of the kingdom of heaven. By the blood of Jesus Christ I am completely delivered from death and hell and am now living in the glory of Jesus Christ. I am a member of the kingdom of God. I have eternal kingdom in the so praise God because of the blood. I worship Jesus and praise him because of the blood".

For me, it usually takes 5 to 10 minutes to praise God for the blood. You really praise the blood of Jesus Christ, you feel so free because the Devil's all leave. The Devil is afraid of the blood of Jesus Christ. So when you really worship the blood of Jesus Christ point by point, the Devil leaves and you feel the refreshing presence of the Holy Spirit powerfully in your life.

When you worship the blood, you see the devil flee. When you worship the blood, you see the Holy Spirit, and dwell within you. So it is very necessary to start your worship through the blood of Jesus Christ.

If you're worshipping without the blood, then that worship is not very powerful. Only the blood opens the door for you to come near to the lord with boldness. That is the reason in tabernacle worship God always wanted the people to come to the brazen altar.

First the sacrifice, then the approach to the lord: Without sacrifice, you cannot approach the lord. Jesus Christ offered the eternal sacrifice for us so we don't need to bring in animals. Jesus is our sacrifice, our eternal sacrifice. We worship him over and over again. By your worship, we are offering sacrifice to Jesus Christ, to our heavenly father.

Matthew 11:28

**Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.**



To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References

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