

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST
Follow Christ
Banská Štiavnica, 29th September 2019

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|---|---|
| <p>εἰδότες ὅτι οὐ φθαρτοῖς, ἀργυρίῳ ἢ χρυσίῳ, ἐλυτρώθητε ἐκ τῆς ματαίας ὑμῶν ἀναστροφῆς πατροπαραδότου ¹⁹ ἀλλὰ τιμίῳ αἵματι ὡς ἀμνοῦ ἀμώμου καὶ ἀσπίλου Χριστοῦ</p> | <p>1Pt 1:18-19 ...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">וַיִּהְיֶינָהּ מַצָּרִים וְנִשְׁפָּחַם לְחַטֵּי אִוִּי וְנִלְחַם אֵימָתוֹ וְיָצָאנוּ בְּרַחֲמָיו וְנִשְׁלַטְנוּ בְּרַחֲמָיו</p> | <p>Is 53:5 But he was <u>wounded for our transgressions</u>; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.</p> |
| <p>καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν μεγάλην ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ λέγουσαν· ἄρτι ἐγένετο ἡ σωτηρία καὶ ἡ δύναμις καὶ ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν καὶ ἡ ἐξουσία τοῦ χριστοῦ αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἐβλήθη ὁ κατήγωρ τῶν ἀδελφῶν ἡμῶν, ὁ κατηγορῶν αὐτοὺς ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν ἡμέρας καὶ νυκτός</p> | <p>Rev 12:10-11 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have <u>conquered him by the blood</u> of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death</p> |
| <p>καὶ δι' αὐτοῦ ἀποκαταλλάξαι τὰ πάντα εἰς αὐτόν, εἰρηνοποιήσας διὰ τοῦ αἵματος τοῦ σταυροῦ αὐτοῦ, [δι' αὐτοῦ] εἴτε τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς εἴτε τὰ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς</p> | <p>Col 1:20 and through Him to <u>reconcile</u> all things to Himself, having made <u>peace through the blood</u> of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven</p> |
| <p>εἰ γὰρ τὸ αἶμα τράγων καὶ ταύρων καὶ σποδὸς δαμάλεως ῥαντίζουσα τοὺς κεκοινωμένους ἀγιάζει πρὸς τὴν τῆς σαρκὸς καθαρότητα, ¹⁴ πόσω μᾶλλον τὸ αἶμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὃς διὰ πνεύματος αἰωνίου ἑαυτὸν προσήνεγκεν ἄμωμον τῷ θεῷ, καθαρῶς τὴν συνείδησιν ἡμῶν ἀπὸ νεκρῶν ἔργων εἰς τὸ λατρεύειν θεῷ ζῶντι</p> | <p>Heb 9:13-14 For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the <u>blood of goats and bulls</u> and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will <u>the blood of Christ</u>, who through the eternal <u>Spirit</u> offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God</p> |

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0. INTRODUCTION

- Some are incensed against the blood of Christ—they are so **delicate** that they do not even like to hear about it. (Spurgeon, Sermon 2793. *Five Divine Declarations*)

We are in a time when a spirituality without positive content seems attractive to many minds. And the numbers may grow of those favouring an undogmatic Christianity which is without apostolic or evangelical substance, but cultivates a certain emulsion of sympathetic mysticism, **intuitional** belief, and **benevolent** action. (P. T. FORSYTH *The Work of Christ*)

- The blood of Christ: Rom 3:25, 5:9; Eph 1:7, 2:13; Col 1:20; Heb 9:12, 14, 22, 10:19, 29, 13:12, 20; 1Pt 1:2, 19; 1John 1:7; Rev 1:5, 5:9, 7:14, 12:11
- [FORSYTH P. T. *The Cruciality of the Cross*, p. 200] Is there anything conveyed by the extreme phrase **the blood of Christ**; which is not conveyed by the idea of sacrifice, or the idea of revelation, or the idea of a Busspredigt? Yes. There is one whole side the side indicated by the words, judgment, expiation, or atonement; the side which, ever since Anselm, has magnified the weight and sinfulness of sin; as the sense of God's holiness rose. And this is a side which it is absolutely impossible to drop from Christianity without giving the Gospel quite away...

"Avoid a sugared gospel as you would shun sugar of lead. Seek the gospel which rips up and tears and cuts and wounds and hacks and even kills, for that is the gospel that makes alive again. And when you have found it, give good heed to it. Let it enter into your inmost being. As the rain soaks into the ground, so pray the Lord to let his gospel soak into your soul." (SPURGEON, Sermon 2804. *Disobedience to the Gospel* January 14, 1877)

0.1. BLOOD AND LIFE

- [Wikipedia] *Blood* is a body fluid in humans and other animals that delivers necessary substances such as nutrients and oxygen to the cells and transports metabolic waste products away from those same cells.

OF all substances blood is the most mysterious and in some senses the most sacred. Scripture teaches us—and after all there is very much philosophy in Scripture—that “the blood is the life thereof”—that the life lies in the blood. Blood, therefore, is the mysterious link between matter and spirit. How it is that the soul should in any degree have an alliance with matter through blood we cannot understand. But certain it is that this is the mysterious link which unites these apparently dissimilar things together so that the soul can inhabit the body and the life can rest in the blood. God has attached awful sacredness to the shedding of blood. (SPURGEON *Sermon No.211*)

- **Lev 17:11** For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

0.2. THE USES OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Andrew MURRAY *The Power of the Blood of Jesus* (1) Redemption by Blood (2) Reconciliation Through the Blood (3) Cleansing Through the Blood (4) Sanctification Through the Blood (5) Cleansed to Serve the Living God (6) Dwelling in the Holiest (7) Life in the Blood (8) Victory through the Blood (9) Heavenly Joy Through the Blood

- The precious blood of Christ is useful to God's people in a thousand ways—we intend to speak of twelve of them: (SPURGEON *Sermon No.621*):
 1. REDEEMING POWER Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law (**Gal 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us)
 2. ATONING EFFICACY Without shedding of blood there is no remission (**Heb 9:22** Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins)
 3. A CLEANSING POWER The blood of Jesus Christ His Son, cleanses us from all sin. (**1J 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin)
 4. ITS PRESERVING POWER When I see the blood I will pass over you. (**Ex 12:13** The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.)
 5. PLEADING PREVALENCE It speaks better things than that of Abel (**Heb 12:24** and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.)
 6. MELTING INFLUENCE They shall look upon Me whom they have pierced (**Zech 12:10** And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn)

7. A GRACIOUS POWER TO PACIFY Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (**1Tim 1:15** The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost)
8. ITS SANCTIFYING INFLUENCE He died for all that we which live might not henceforth live unto ourselves (**2Cor 5:15** and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised)
9. ITS POWER TO GIVE ENTRANCE the high priest never went within the veil without blood (**Heb 9:7** But into the second *went* the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and *for* the errors of the people)
10. ITS CONFIRMING POWER the blood of the Everlasting Covenant (**Heb 13:20** Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant)
11. THE INVIGORATING POWER Except a man shall eat My flesh and drink My blood, there is no life in him (**John 6:53** So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you)
12. AN OVERCOMING POWER They overcame through the blood of the Lamb (**Rev 12:11** And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death)

1. HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDING

1.1. THE APPROACH OF APOLOGETICS

- **John 19:34-35** But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out **blood and water**.³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness – his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth – that you also may believe

1.2. THE DANGER OF LIVING IN THE PAST

- Impersonal facts →
- **James 2:19** Even the demons believe – and shudder!

2. THEOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING

2.1. THE THEOLOGY OF THE CROSS

- **Rom 3:24-25** ...justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith
- **Heb 10:19-20** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence (*παρρησίαν*) to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water

2.1. THE DANGER OF DEAD ORTHODOXY

- more philosophy than reality; dead orthodoxy; rationalism

If we are talking to a person who would not understand the term “spacetime history” we can say: “Do you believe that Jesus died in the sense that if you had been there that day, you could have rubbed your finger on the cross and got a splinter in it?” Until he understands the importance of these three things, he is not ready to become a Christian. (SCHAEFFER *The God Who Is There*)

- the blood of Jesus – a mere symbol if the *spiritual* meaning

Mere intellectuality leads to bloodlessness and passionlessness, to stoicism and unreality. The more merely intellectual a person becomes the more hopelessly useless he is, until he degenerates into a mere criticising faculty, passing the strangest and wildest verdicts on life, on the Bible, and on our Lord. (CHAMBERS, O. *Biblical Psychology*)

Let no one think that he must first understand how to lay hold of, or explain everything, before he may, by faith, pray that the blood might manifest its sanctifying power in him. No; it was just in connection with the bath of cleansing-the washing of the disciples' feet-that the Lord Jesus said, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." It is the Lord Jesus Himself who sanctifies His people "by His own blood. (Andrew MURRAY *The Power of the Blood of Jesus*)

3. SACRAMENTAL UNDERSTANDING

3.1. EUCHARISTIC CONTROVERSIES

- **John 6:53-54** Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.
- **John 6:63** It is ; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life
- → transubstantiation; consubstantiation; spiritual presence; symbols...

Take away the certainty of sense, and there is no discerning a body from a spirit; and grant transubstantiation, and we take away the certainty of sense. (WESLEY, J.)

3.2. THE DANGER OF SUPERSTITION

- mechanical operation
- Magical understanding; a magical substance (relics); a “mantra”; a magic formula; ritual of invocation...
- → John 6

We are apt to look upon the blood of Jesus Christ as a magic-working power instead of its being the very life of the Son of God poured forth for men. The whole meaning of our being identified with the death of Jesus is that **His blood may flow through our mortal bodies**. Identification with the death of Jesus Christ means identification with Him to the death of everything that never was in Him, and it is the blood of Christ, in the sense of the whole personal life of the Son of God, that comes into us and “cleanseth us from all sin (CHAMBERS, O. *The Place of Help*)

4. SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING

- By faith my physical blood is becoming part of his mystical body and his blood is working for sanctification of my earthly body.

4.1. THE COVENANT

- **Eph 2:13** But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (νυνὶ δὲ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ ἡμεῖς οἳ ποτε ὄντες μακρὰν ἐγενήθητε ἐγγύς ἐν τῷ αἵματι τοῦ Χριστοῦ)
- **1Cor 10:16** The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation (κοινωνία) in the blood of Christ?
- **Acts 20:28** ...care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood (ν περιεποιήσατο διὰ τοῦ αἵματος τοῦ ἰδίου)
- **Gal 2:20** It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (ἐγὼ γὰρ διὰ νόμου νόμῳ ἀπέθανον, ἵνα θεῷ ζήσω. Χριστῷ συνεσταύρωμαι. ²⁰ ζῶ δὲ οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός· ὃ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῆ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ)

4.2. THE DANGER OF EMOTIONALISM

- individualism(?)
- separation of spirit and matter

5. TO REMEMBER

- A “bloodless Christianity” is biblically impossible and we must be careful not to succumb to the cultural trends of politically correct language of nonviolence or effeminate sugary love without sacrifice.
- Understanding the manifold meaning of the blood of Christ has to take into account several aspects of theology and avoid the dangers of imbalance.
- For a healthy spiritual life the blood of Jesus should be an expression of personal identification of loving relationship based on the Cross and the Resurrection.