

THE

HARVESTER

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

January 1988

No. 025

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST

We do not need to take a course in Biology to realize the importance of blood. Whenever we cut ourselves and start bleeding, we instinctively try to stop that blood from leaving our body. If we don't, it could possibly result in our death. Thus, blood is the essence of physical life. *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood ... For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof ..."*(Lev. 17:11,14) It is for this reason that we consider our blood to be very precious. Without it, we cannot live.

There is a blood, however, even more valuable than our own -- the blood of Christ! This is especially true for all Christians. Just as

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our physical blood reaches every member of our body through circulation in the veins and arteries, the blood of Jesus Christ surrounds all who are members of His body. And as disciples of Christ, we should be very thankful for this spiritual blessing. Why?

For one thing, Christ's blood is precious indeed. It is a highly cherished and esteemed blood of untold worth. It paid the ransom on our souls when nothing else could even come close to the purchase price. This is why our Lord is able to redeem us. *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."* (1 Pet. 1:18-19) Where would we be today without His shed blood?

Imagine if we lived under the Old Law with its rituals and ceremonies. In order to be sanctified and purified before God, we would have to use the blood from animals. *"For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."*(Heb. 9:19-22) Fortunately we do live under a better covenant. We do come in contact with a much greater blood -- the blood of Jesus Christ! For this we should be most grateful. *"For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall*

the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"(Heb. 9:13-14)

Whereas the blood of animals had to be offered often (every year), Christ's blood had to be shed only ONCE! That was sufficient for all mankind! So once again, we see the superiority of His blood over all others. His was final and conclusive. "Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."(Heb. 9:25-28)

Although most people associate the circulation of the blood with carrying nutrition and oxygen to the body's cells, there is another important function. The blood cells must also carry the waste products away. It is through this process that the body cleanses itself. Likewise, the blood of Jesus is designed to cleanse our bodies of sin. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."(1 John 1:7) Notice that this will occur only "if we walk in the light", i.e., as His blood continues to circulate in our spiritual body. If we ever sin and confess it not, then the circulation stops and we die! "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."(1 John 1:9) John also describes this cleansing process to a "washing" in Rev. 1:5, "And from

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, and all correspondence to:

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Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood". Therefore we see how His blood can work for those who remain faithful in the Lord.

When man sins, he is separated from God. *"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."*(Isa. 59:2) What can return man back again to God? Nothing but the blood of Jesus! *"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."*(Eph. 2:13) Only His blood can bring about the reconciliation of man with God and restore sinful man to the good graces of the Almighty Creator. Oh, how wonderful it is to be a member of Christ's body and in contact with His precious blood!

Finally, we have to think of our goal in life: to reach heaven. We will never attain it on our own nor without the blood of Christ. Like a blood stained trail, His blood leads us to the Promised Rest, the holiest of holies. *"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh."*(Heb. 10:19-20) Just as our blood circulates the body and leads to the heart, Christ's blood will circulate through all its members and lead all to the throne of God.

Transfusion is the process of restoring vigor in feeble persons by infusing healthy blood into their veins. In the 17th century, it was even believed that such blood transfusions were the means of prolonging human life indefinitely! Yet, this is exactly what the blood of Jesus can do for us: prolong our spiritual life for eternity! Isn't that what we desire: a transfusion of the "spiritual kind"? We would be utterly lost without His shed blood. It justifies us and can save us from the wrath of God. *"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."*(Rom. 5:9)

The blood in our bodies is essential to the growth of the tissues and to the preservation of life. It carries food, oxygen, and building materials to every part of the body. As long as this goes on, we have physical life. In a similar manner, the blood of Christ is the essence of all spiritual life. Without it, one will surely face the second death. The only way to overcome Satan and that "lake of fire" is *"by the blood of the Lamb"*(Rev. 12:11). Can you sense it flowing in your life right now? Isn't it glorious to be sustained by that *"precious blood of Christ"*?

RAY McMANUS

FROM THE SCRIPTURES ...

PARADOXES

There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.(Prov. 13:7)

He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.(Matt. 10:39)

He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. (John 12:25)

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. (1 Cor. 3:18)

But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God ... By honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things. (2 Cor. 6:4-10)

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (2 Cor. 12:10)

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. (Phil. 3:7)

TILL THE DAY DAWN

2 Peter 1:19, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts."

Sunrise, to me, is the most beautiful time of the day. The parturient night, in travail, breaks forth its radiant beam. Softly at first, with hues of pink and lavender, then brightens to orange and gold. Finally, from the womb of the morning, the birth of the full orb, imbreathing warmth and light into another day. Psa. 110:3, "... In the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth."

The First Beam

Peter, the apostle, indicates to us in 2 Peter 1:19 that the prophetic word given us in the scripture is as a radiant beam of light breaking forth to mankind, held captive, in the deep, black, darkness of sin. 1 Pet. 2:9, "... who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

The Day Dawn

The reception and proper application of these beams grow brighter and brighter still. Psa. 119:130, "The entrance of thy words giveth light;" Prov. 4:18, "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

The Day Star

The light progresses from the faint beam, to the dawn, to the appearance of the "Day Star". Luke 1:78, "... the dayspring from on high hath visited us." In Rev. 22:16 Jesus says, "I am the bright and morning star." John 1:4, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

Arise in Your Hearts

The light of the "Day Star" imbreathe life, and is absorbed and indwells, and shines forth to others. Gal. 4:19, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again till Christ be formed in you." Matt. 5:14, "Ye are the light of the world." Matt. 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

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THE CHURCH HAS A CLUB!

No other organization is needed in the church of the Lord. For years members of the church frowned on missionary societies, youth organizations, ladies aide and other such additional groups with the denominations. But a rather informal club is gaining large membership from within the church. It is the GSOE Club. It is not confined to any one area, or to any one congregation. It is not restrictive in any age group, since all ages belong to it. It has no official organization as such, but in spite of all this, it is highly successful in its avowed purpose. It demands no dues, has no program of work and no formal invitation is required. In fact, you may be a member without realizing it. This is the "Get-Some-One-Else" Club. Its avowed purpose is to destroy the work of the church through indifference. Its members give the name of their club when they are called upon to visit, teach, to give, to sing for funerals, to prepare a dish, to sit with the sick, to help advertise the church, to bring others to a gospel meeting, to restore a wayward member. "Get-Some-One-Else," they say. Are you a member of this club? Membership is bestowed on those who give its name in response to a request for service.

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Weber Road Bulletin
Corpus Christi, TX