

The Wednesday Word, February 25, 2015: Seeing the Blood

The Bible does not teach that a man is saved by the keeping of rules and regulations, but by the shedding of Blood. At the cross, Jesus bought and paid for us with His blood. To the gospel believer, the blood of Christ is, therefore, amazing. May we never cease to be astonished by the knowledge that He who poured out His blood and died on the cross was God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16).

The blood has been the centre of divine revelation since the beginning. We first see the blood when an innocent animal was killed to clothe our guilty ancestors. We see the blood in Abel's sacrifice. We see blood on the doorpost on the night of the Passover. We see blood in the Tabernacle and Temple sacrifices. We see blood in the prophets who foretold that the Messiah would pour out His life (Isaiah 53).

When we see the blood it, therefore, means that we believe what the Father tells us about the death of His Son. Seeing the blood means that we see Christ's death as our death. Seeing the blood, however, does not mean that we have visions of Christ with blood dripping from His wounded body. How ghoulish! To the contrary, seeing the blood, means we are satisfied that Christ died for us, personally, as our substitute. When we see the blood, we know that He was wounded for our transgressions. In fact, when we see the blood, faith makes redemption personal enabling us to say, "He was wounded for MY transgressions, He was bruised for MY iniquities" (Isaiah 53:5).

This is what is meant by seeing the blood and by seeing it we have victory.

In all the sacrifices of the Old Testament, the shedding of the blood was the infliction of death. In Genesis 9:4, the life and blood are equated. In Leviticus 17:11, the blood made atonement for the soul. This blood shedding or life-taking was the payment for the penalty of sin. We read, "The soul that sins, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20), and "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). So when Christ hung upon the cross, He did so as the great offering for sins. He poured out His soul unto death (Isaiah 53:12). This is God's perfect ultimate and only sacrifice with which He is satisfied forever!

Since the Father is satisfied with the doing and dying of the Son, so should we be! Since Christ died for us, we have the certainty of eternal life. Since He was punished in our stead, that means we cannot now be punished. God, being just, will not punish Christ first, and then punish us afterwards for the same crimes. Our Saviour died; the Lamb was slain and we are now free from the possibility of God's wrath. We can walk through this life secure. God is not out to get us. There are no thunderbolts from heaven being hurled at us. There are no flames of hell yawning wide for us since Christ has paid and suffered for us. Do you believe this?

Right standing before God is now altogether by the blood of Christ and has nothing whatsoever to do with how we behave. Regardless of the rules for acceptance so often imposed upon us by religious people, we will never be any more righteous than the blood of Christ has made us."

Amazing grace! 'tis heav'n below
To feel the blood applied,

And Jesus, only Jesus know,
My Jesus crucified.
The cleansing stream I see, I see!
I plunge, and oh, it cleanseth me!
Oh! praise the Lord, it cleanseth me,
It cleanseth me, yes, cleanseth me!

And that's the Gospel Truth!