

The Wednesday Word, March 7, 2012: Cleansed by the Blood: Part 3

“The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.” – 1 John 1:7

This verse tells us that the blood cleanses us, not just from some sin, but “from all sin.” Where is our original sin (Romans 5:12), our sin received from the Fall of Adam? ---it’s gone! How? The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Where is our inherited sin, the sin with which we were born (Psalm 51:5)? It is gone! How? The blood of Jesus, God’s Son, cleanses us from all sin! Where is our actual sin, those vile disturbances of filth that erupt from deep within. They are gone! How? The blood of Jesus, God’s Son, cleanses us from all sin.

The blood cleanses from all sins, big sins, small sins, sins of commission, sins of omission, deadly sins, sins of lust, sins of adultery, sins of lying, stealing, pride and arrogance--the blood of Jesus cleanses them all. Surely this one verse, when believed, will deliver us from the madness of working hard to appease God as we make our futile efforts to scrub out our record of sin.

The Reformer, Martin Luther, once dreamed that Satan stood before him holding up a great scroll on which was written all his sins and wickedness. Luther didn’t argue with the devil or his list, in fact he admitted to each and every charge without denial. In his dream, he simply scrawled 1 John 1:7 across the long and terrible list: “The blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.”

1 John 1;7 is a really marvellous verse. Notice how, based on that one time act of Calvary, the blood continues to cleanse us. We have already been legally and judicially cleansed once for all, yet there is a continuing cleansing by blood. This does not mean that Christ’s work is unfinished. In fact it’s quite the opposite. Our problem is that, although we are legally clean, we are not yet sinless and sin breaks fellowship with God. To walk in continued fellowship with the Father we, therefore, continually need the merits of Calvary applied to us. As imperfect sinners we can walk in the light because the once for all shedding of the blood continues to be applied to us and keeps us in fellowship with God. It is, therefore, not wrong to continually go, by faith, to our High Priest and ask for cleansing in His blood. We were judicially and totally cleansed at the cross, and based on that once for all finished work we are being cleansed experientially today and will be again tomorrow!

Each day we come into contact with sin both within and without. Yet our fellowship with the Father is protected because the blood of Jesus our Saviour cleanses us from all sin. In addition, old long forgotten sins sometimes surface and condemn us, yet the blood of Jesus continues to deal with every wicked action from our past and returns peace to our conscience. The righteousness of Christ is continually applied and reckoned to us so that we can stand, not only perfectly clean, but also in un-broken fellowship before our Father. What power and authority there is in the blood of Jesus! Guilt is gone and fellowship restored through the blood!

“Bowed down beneath a load of sin,
By Satan sorely pressed,
By wars without and fears within,
I come to Thee for rest.
Be Thou my shield and hiding place,

That, sheltered near Thy side,
I may my fierce accuser face,
And tell him Thou hast died!"

And that's the Gospel Truth!