

The Wednesday Word, March 11, 2015: How to Receive the Benefits of the Blood!

I John 1:7 tells us, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin." This is good news! The Father, in choosing the cleansing agent for our sins, chose the very best He had ... the blood of His own Son. By that same blood, we have been cleansed from the entire record our sins (Revelation 1:5).

By the blood of Christ, the sin stain has been erased, and its tortured memory destroyed. Thus Hebrews 9:13 promises us, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

It is only by the blood of our Lord that the penalty of our sin is removed. Jesus actually died on the cross, the Just for the unjust that he might bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18). But how do we come into contact with the saving benefits of that cleansing blood? How do we obtain profit from His death? Romans 6:3 tells us how. There we read; "... do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" When a person is baptized into our Lord's death, it is there that he comes into contact with the benefits and blessings purchased by the blood of Christ.

Now here's where we need to be careful. Some groups erroneously teach that Water Baptism is the means by which the benefits of Christ's death are obtained. Accordingly, it is through baptism, by their church, that they receive forgiveness of sins. They cite the instruction given to Paul in Acts 22:16, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins," They totally ignore, however, that Paul had already, by this stage,
1} Given evidence of his conversion and regeneration by calling Jesus Lord (Acts 22:10). 2} Spent time in prayer (Acts 9:11).
3} Had been filled with the Holy Ghost (Acts 9:17-18).

They claim that, although it is the blood of Christ that washes away sins, the only way to access the effects of the blood is by their baptism. If these scalawags are to be believed, we need to stop singing "There's Power in the Blood" and start singing "There's Power in the Tub." Some of these people say, 'If you don't get baptized you'll go to Hell.' How interesting! What then about people who get saved in the Sahara or the Antarctic? Houston we have a problem!

So, how then are the benefits of Christ's death to become ours? How are we baptized into Christ? The answer is simple, it is by faith alone! And where do we get this faith? It is the free and generous gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Have you trusted Christ alone to remove your sins? If you have, you are baptized into Christ. If you haven't, then you are carrying every sin that you have ever committed. When you die, there's nothing left for you but the Judgment and the Lake of Fire. You may have been baptized in a church, but if as a lost hell-deserving sinner you have not trusted Christ alone you are not baptized into Christ.

If you have not trusted in Christ alone, then you are still in your sins. The shed blood of Christ is of no benefit to you! Why don't you, right now, call on the Lord and ask him to save you. Trust

Him, right now, and receive Him and His Salvation for yourself. Our God is wonderfully gracious. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. He will save you to the uttermost.

And that is the Gospel Truth!