

## **The Wednesday Word, April 29, 2009: Washed in the Blood!**

*“Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood” Rev 1:5.*

In this day and age of ‘enlightened’, progressive thinking we hear less and less about being washed in the blood of Christ! We are told that such language is outmoded and meaningless in today’s culture. But is it? I don’t believe so! Let’s look for a moment then at what it means to be washed in the blood.

To be washed in the blood means that we are identified with Jesus in His death. The blood of Christ cleanses us, not because it is a ‘heavenly detergent, but by totally immersing and identifying us in and with the death of our Substitute. To be washed in the blood means that legally we have been crucified with Christ. His death was our death; His punishment was our punishment. We are now cleansed by His blood---- which is another way of saying that we have been made partakers of the death of Christ. Because the blood has been applied to us we are legally counted as those who have paid the penalty of the broken law in full.

We were once covered and saturated entirely with guilt and under sentence of death, but our substitute, the Lord Jesus shed His blood and washed us clean. In God’s eyes, that blood represents both his death and ours. He died as our substitute. The blood is shed for us and in that way death, which is the law's penalty, is reckoned legally to us. Legally we have died. This is good news! We have been crucified with Christ and have undergone the death sentence; as a result, our guilt has passed away. We are cleansed; we are washed in His blood.

This is good news from the good news. This is good news that tells us, not what we have to do, in order to be saved, but tells us what Christ Jesus has done to actually and effectively save us. Let’s be clear on this; only that which God has done in Christ Jesus on our behalf can deliver us. Deliver us from what? From the wrath of God for starters! But there’s more! **IN THIS LIFE**, it is only as we grasp that Christ’s blood has cleansed, covered and paid for us that the troubled conscience can come to perfect peace.

There is no other way to be freed from guilt than by applying, by faith, that which the blood

has accomplished. Every question that a guilty conscience can put, is fully answered by the blood. When your conscience condemns you and tells you that God is angry because you have sinned, it is then that you need to preach the gospel to yourself. You need to say, “ Self, the blood of Christ has cleansed and washed you. God does not condemn you today because He has already condemned Jesus at the cross 2,000 years ago!”

That Christ Jesus poured out his blood as the sinner’s substitute is God's declaration that He loves us and loves us righteously. In the gospel, righteousness and love embrace; our sin is condemned and judged in the person of our substitute, the Lord Jesus. The shed blood of Christ is shed instead of ours and God willingly accepts this substitution because He is satisfied with Christ alone.

In spite of the fact that there are those who, while professing to be Christian, slight and scorn it, God is well satisfied with the blood. Believers, therefore, dare not minimize its importance. God

is unchangeable when it comes to the importance of the blood for the honor of His Son is bound up in the same. The blood of the gospel is God's own blood (Acts 20:28); the shed blood was the blood of the God/Man. It was the blood of Him who was and is the brightness of Yahweh's glory, and the express image of His person (Hebrews 1:3). How then is it possible that God can overlook any affront or indifference to the blood? He cannot!

If we reject the blood we reject Christ. If we reject Christ we reject God Himself.

And that's the Gospel Truth!