

Wednesday Word, September 7, 2016: His Very Best

But now in Christ Jesus, you who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).

The Father, in choosing the method of putting away our sins, selected the very best He had, the blood of His own Son. It is by the priceless blood of the Lord Jesus that we are cleansed from our complete catalogue of sins. By the blood of Christ, our spiritual sin stain is taken away and its tortured recollection destroyed. That's why we read in Hebrews 9:13, "How much more shall the blood of Christ ... purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Jesus actually died at Calvary. In John 19:34, we read that one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear and immediately blood and water came out. Christ Jesus really was dead! There, at the cross, Christ Jesus died that we might live. Also, by His blood, we come, not only into life but into communion with God. In the Greek, the word communion is "Koinonia". It is a beautiful word that means, among other things, fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation and intimacy. And this communion, this 'Koinonia' comes through the blood.

But how do we come into contact with the blood? How do we obtain the benefits of His death? Romans 6:3 gives us the answer. It says, "... that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?" When a person is baptized into the Lord's death, it is there that he meets with the benefits and blessings purchased by the blood of Christ.

Some groups erroneously teach that Water Baptism is the means of obtaining the advantages and communion of His death. It is only by their baptism, they say, that we can 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." However, they totally ignore that Paul had already, by this stage, given evidence of his conversion and regeneration. He had called Jesus the Lord (Acts 22:10). He was spending his time in prayer (Acts 9:11), and he 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 rascals are to be believed, then we need to stop singing, "There's power in the blood" and start singing, "There's power in the tub!"

But how then are the benefits of Christ's death to become ours? How are we baptized into Christ? Here's the answer. It is by faith alone! And where do we get this faith? It is the free gift of God. We can't earn it or deserve it, we simply receive it!

Have you trusted Christ alone to take away your sins and their legal consequences? If you have, you are already baptized into Christ. If you haven't, then you still are carrying responsibility for every sin that you have ever committed. That means that 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 building, but if you are not trusting in Christ alone, you are not baptized into Christ. If you are not trusting in Christ alone, 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? Why don't you trust Him, right now, and receive Him and His salvation for yourself? Our God is wonderfully gracious. He will welcome you. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

And that's the Gospel Truth!