

## **The Wednesday Word, October 19, 2016: Beware of Imitations**

*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Rev 12:11*

The first thing the blood of the Lamb signifies is the death of the Son of God. Our Lord was not only bruised for our iniquities He was also put to death. As He took away our sins, His blood flowed at Calvary. His death is now our victory, our life, and our acquittal. It is the end of our rejection and the securing of our eternity. But beware of imitations. We don't need Christ the good example. Christ the good example saves no one. If the Christ we believe in is not the Christ of the Cross, He is not the saving Christ who saves by blood. When we read the phrase, "The blood of the Lamb," we are instantly reminded of the real Christ, the substitutionary sacrifice. His death was ours for He died, the Just for the unjust, to bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18). In the Old Covenant, the sinner brought the lamb and the lamb died in His place. The Lamb was the sinner's substitute. Today, as we, by faith, bring the Lamb to the Father, we discover that it is the Lamb who actually leads us to God.

As believers, we have the privilege to tell the story that God was manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16). We are blessed to be able to tell of how He became one of us, a genuine human and died for human sin. In His death, He did not merely make it possible for God to forgive us but He secured forgiveness for all His people. He did not die to make His people saveable, but to actually and definitely save them. Christ came to put away our sin by the sacrifice of Himself (Hebrews 9:26). As He died on the cross, He "finished transgressions, made an end of sin and brought in everlasting righteousness" (Daniel 9:24). What a Victory! There is now, therefore, no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

None! This is good news and music to our souls.

Frederick A. Tatford tells of how at a great Parliament of Religions, held in Chicago many years ago, practically every known religion was represented.

During one session, Dr. Joseph Cook, of Boston, suddenly rose and said: "Gentlemen, I beg to introduce to you a woman with a great sorrow. Bloodstains are on her hands, and nothing she has tried will remove them. The blood is that of murder. She has been driven to desperation in her distress. Is there anything in your religion that will eliminate her sin and give her peace?" A hush fell upon the gathering. Not one of the company replied.

Raising his eyes heavenwards, Dr. Cook then cried out, "John, can you tell this woman how to get rid of her awful sin?" The great preacher waited as if listening for a reply. Suddenly he cried, "Listen. John speaks: 'The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sins' (I John 1:7)."

Not a soul broke the silence: the representatives of Eastern religions and Western cults sat dumb. In the face of human need, the Gospel of Jesus Christ alone could meet the need. Sin demands blood. Christ provided it.

And that's the Gospel Truth!