

### Safe and Sanctified Part 3

Hebrews 13:12: *“Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.”*

We are sanctified (set apart) by the blood of Jesus. We were bought and paid for by that same blood. We were then seated in heaven, in Christ, having been totally delivered by the One who created us. It is finished!

In the Old Testament, animal sacrifices were offered, and the carcass was then burned outside the camp of Israel (see Leviticus 16:27; Hebrews 13:11). The idea seems to be that sin was so serious the body of the sacrificed animal had to be, not only destroyed but also removed and burned. It was discarded and held to be unfit, unclean and unwanted. Jesus willingly endured that kind of hatred (Hebrews 12:2), for our benefit. He suffered outside the gates of Jerusalem in order to sanctify the people of God. His suffering outside the gates demonstrates the finality and entire demolishing of sin by the blood. Christ’s blood has utterly sanctified and cleansed us before the Father. It was a thorough work.

Redemption is entirely by grace. Compare Old Testament and New Testament salvation. Leviticus 4:4 addresses the sinner saying; “And he shall bring the bullock unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD; and shall lay his hand upon the bullock’s head, and kill the bullock before the LORD.” As mentioned in the previous chapter, even that involved a slight amount of work. But notice, although it’s in the Old Testament, this verse does not tell the fallen sinner to do penance and be miserable for 40 days to atone for his sin. He is not told to go away and be depressed for four weeks in order to pay his debt. He is not given any sanctification techniques. He is not told to bang His head against the wall and then to go fast, pray and whip his back for another month in order to pay for what he did. No, the sinner is simply told to bring the “bullock without blemish” before the Lord.

In the New Testament, the Father endorses the gospel. As believers, no matter who or what we are, or what we have done, when we sin, fall and fail, we don’t have to enter into self-punishment mode. No amount of self-beating will help. We are already sanctified and set apart by that one great work that happened outside of us 2000 years ago. We simply, by faith, on the basis of Calvary, bring the representative man, Christ Jesus, to the Father and discover instant restoration before God.

You see, in the New Testament, we have a better mediator than they had in the Old. (Hebrews 7:22; Hebrews 8:6). His name is Christ Jesus and He is sufficient. It is, therefore, a shame to take Him for granted. It’s a shame to think that He is anything less than all and in all. (Colossians 3:11). No matter how badly you feel about your sin, present your High Priest to the Father.

Let me ask you, as a sinner, when you get on your knees, to look for mercy and forgiveness, do you present yourself and your determination to try harder? No indeed! If we are schooled in the gospel we don’t. We present Christ. We come to the Father in Jesus’ name. (By the way, “In Jesus’ name” is not merely a little formula that we attach to our prayers. Far from it! When we pray in Jesus name, we are pleading the merits of the Lord Christ and all that His shed blood has

gained and guaranteed for us. We are declaring that He, Jesus, is our only and all-sufficient qualification for being there before the Father.

We read; “*By one offering He has perfected forever those who are sanctified.*” (Hebrews 10:14). In other words, Jesus did what the Old Testament sacrifices could never do. He perfected us! As a result, we are safe! Everything essential to salvation is included in this one great gift of Christ, which the believing sinner receives, by faith in Christ. Every believer fits the category of, “Those that are sanctified.” To lessen Christ’s accomplishments on our behalf and to insist on a certain level of personal piety to qualify us to talk to the Father is to go back to the Law.

Leviticus 4:6 says the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times before the Lord. Since seven is the number of divine perfection we see here a pointing towards the perfection of the New Covenant. Jesus Christ has finished and perfected the work for us. He has sanctified and set us apart unto God by His blood. Every one of our sins has been purged by His blood and taken away. We are His sanctified possession.

**We are safe!**