

# The Blood of Jesus

Ephesians 1:7–12

*“In Him we have redemption through His blood . . .”*  
(Ephesians 1:7).

As we think specifically about the precious blood of Jesus, a “holy hush” falls over our hearts because we know that we are entering the “Holy of Holies” of the Scriptures.

The centerpiece of the Bible is the blood of Jesus! Nevertheless, people today are horrified by the subject of His blood. Some claim that Christianity needs new symbols. Such a view impugns the intelligence and the character of God, for God chose the blood of His Son as the means of our salvation! He made His Lamb the center of all history (Revelation 13:8). The cross is the place where we see how our sin hurt God the most; it also is the place where we see how God loved us the most (John 3:16). The theology of heaven is Christ-centered, cross-centered, and blood-centered.

## THE ENORMITY OF SIN

No book in all the Bible clashes more violently with the modern mind than Leviticus. “How did this book get

into the Bible?" we wonder. In our reading of the Bible, we usually skip it. However, this is a most important biblical book. It is where God detailed the sacrificial system of the law of Moses. It is filled with priests, sacrifices, and blood! God, in that book of law, was teaching the exceeding sinfulness of sin (Romans 7:13). It implies that God and sin cannot mix.

Sin contradicts God! It cannot be overlooked. Every sin and every impenitent sinner will be punished. Sin cannot be excused even by a divine decree—the righteousness of God prevents it.

Sin's sting is the sting of death (1 Corinthians 15:56). Forgiveness of sin can only come from the shedding of blood. Under the Law, forgiveness of sin required the blood of animals (Hebrews 9:22). The Law is our teacher to bring us to Christ, the final and full offering for sin (Galatians 3:22–29; see Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11).

The old sacrificial system of Moses, with its blood of bulls and goats, could not take away sin (Hebrews 10:4). In addition, man could not perfectly keep the Law (Acts 15:8–11), and not even the blood of mankind could atone for man's guilt. What man could not do for himself, God did for him. Robert Coleman counted 460 specific references to blood in the Scriptures.<sup>1</sup> No one who carefully reads the Scriptures can miss the fact that Jesus' shedding His blood for our redemption is at the center of Christianity. The testimony of the Holy Spirit is that Jesus' blood has created a "blood bank in heaven" that is always full. Paul said that Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1–4).

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<sup>1</sup>Robert Coleman, "The Gospel of Blood" (<http://www.preaching.com/preaching/pastissues/robertcoleman.htm>; Internet; accessed 1 December 2006).

The perfect blood of Jesus reconciles us (2 Corinthians 5:14–21), washes us (Revelation 1:5; 7:14), redeems us (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18, 19), cleanses us (1 John 1:7), justifies us (Romans 5:8, 9), sanctifies us (Hebrews 10:10; 13:12), propitiates for us (1 John 2:2), gives us peace (Ephesians 2:13–16; Colossians 1:20), and enables us to overcome Satan (Revelation 12:11). The real, historical, full, and final payment for our sins is the blood of Christ. With John we say, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29, 36).

### THE POWER OF HIS BLOOD

*We see the power of His blood in its linkage with the New Testament* (or new covenant; Matthew 26:26–28; 1 Corinthians 11:25, 26; Hebrews 13:20). Every word in the New Testament drips with the blood of Christ. When you read the Scriptures and fail to find Christ, you are misreading them. The blood of Abel cries out to God from the ground (Genesis 4:2–12; see Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:51). The blood of Jesus speaks of better things than does Abel’s (Hebrews 12:24). “Listen” to the blood (Hebrews 9:11–22)!

*We see His blood’s power in its creation of the New Testament church* (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25–28). Millions of sacrificial animals and birds were offered under the law of Moses, but man was still mired in sin. Aren’t you glad we are not under such a law system today? Animal blood could only buy some time, by rolling the sins forward for a year. The blood of Christ bought one glorious thing—the church!

The Old Testament says life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11, 14). Jesus gave His blood to release us from our sins (Revelation 1:5). He died for us on the earth so that we might live with Him in eternity (1 Thessalonians 5:10).

The price of something grows out of its value. Jesus considered His church so valuable that He was willing to purchase it with His own blood (see Acts 20:28). The local church, with all its faults, is still the most powerful group on earth! To minimize the church is to denigrate the blood.

*We see the power of His blood in the supper of the new covenant* (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 10:16–21; 11:24–30). There is one way, one body (the church), one bread, one blood, one supper, and one life! The blood is the fruit and the infinite power of the cross. The Lord's Supper proclaims Christ's death until He returns (1 Corinthians 11:26).

*We see the power of the blood in the baptism of the Great Commission* (Romans 6:1–5; Galatians 3:26, 27; Colossians 2:12). John said that three bear witness on earth—the Spirit, the water, and the blood (1 John 5:3–8). In baptism, sinners are clothed with the Christ of the cross. It is His blood that bestows upon us the right to enter heaven.

The world wants salvation without the blood, without the Bible, without the church, without the Lord's Supper, and without baptism. This is not God's plan! Our salvation comes through the blood of Jesus!

*The cross . . .  
there is no other way!*