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# Under His Blood

*“Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it” (Exodus 12:7).*

Christ died for every sinful soul. He came to earth “so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone” (Hebrews 2:9b). However, it is clear from the New Testament that not everyone for whom Christ died will be saved. Jesus depicted a broad way with a wide gate leading to destruction. He said that many would enter through it (Matthew 7:13b). As Paul discussed the invitation to come to Christ for salvation, he said that there were “not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble” who would answer the Lord’s invitation (1 Corinthians 1:26). Jesus died for all, but many will not enter into the benefits of His death and be saved. They will not submit to the gospel and live their lives under His blood. As God delivered His people from Egypt, any Israelite who did not paint his door with the blood of a paschal lamb saw the death of his firstborn son. The Israelites were given the way of deliverance, but they had to walk in it. To be covered by Christ’s blood, we must respond to His sacrifice in the way Christ has required.

Those who reject God’s offer of redemption cannot blame their lost condition on a misunderstanding of how to accept it. The way that God has chosen for us to come to His salvation is clearly described in His Word. It is presented to us from three viewpoints, each with a different emphasis on the one way of coming to it.

*First, we receive Christ’s blood by faith.* Just as the Israelite had to accept God’s plan and apply it in his home, even so we must believe in God’s Christ and His plan of redemption. Paul

said that God, through the cross, has become just and the justifier of the “one who has faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:26). He further said that, having been justified by faith, “we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). In light of this truth, every person on earth should say with Paul, “[I want to be] found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith” (Philippians 3:9).

*Second, we receive His blood by obedience.* The Israelite not only had to trust and believe in God’s instructions, but he also had to be faithful in carrying them out. Likewise, we must put our trust—a trust that obeys His words—in the Christ who died for us. The writer of Hebrews said, “Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation” (Hebrews 5:8, 9). This inspired writer used the word “obey” in the place of “believe” because believing and obeying are synonymous. Faith obeys God, and genuine obedience is motivated and energized by faith. In truth, one cannot have one without the other. James said that faith that does not obey or work is lifeless, valueless, and pointless (James 2:14, 17, 18, 26).

*Third, we receive it through baptism.* An Israelite knew that the blood that had been put on the doorposts and lintel would provide redemption for his son. He could have sung

and prayed and talked about it throughout the night; but if he did not stain the door frame with that blood, his son would die. Likewise, the blood of Jesus is not applied to us until we, by faith, fulfill God's will. Paul wrote, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?" (Romans 6:3). The baptism of which Paul wrote is obviously an expression of faith and an action of obedience to God's Word. God has always specified how we are to demonstrate our faith toward Him. For Joshua, it was encircling the city of Jericho according to His instructions (Joshua 6:3-5); for Naaman, it was dipping seven times in the Jordan River (2 Kings 5:10); and for us, it is being baptized as we become His children (Galatians 3:26, 27). Paul pictured baptism as an immersion into the benefits and blessings of Jesus' death; thus, at the moment of our baptism, we are immersed into His blood.

Assuredly, following our entrance into Christ by our faith-driven, obedient baptism into His death, we must abide in Him. Our walking in the Light, our faithful life in Him, makes it possible for us to receive continual cleansing through His blood. We need to be saved, and we need to be kept saved. John said, "But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). Our continued response to

His death is expressed by our walking in the Light. Jesus is not only our Savior who brings us to salvation, but He is our Sustainer who keeps us in His salvation!

A tract was entitled "Wasted Blood." It sought to remind us that the immeasurable sacrifice of Jesus is wasted, made to have no value at all, if one does not receive His blood so that he can be saved. This thought makes a valid point; but it is an extreme statement, for Christ's outpouring of love can never become useless, needless, or valueless. If no one ever responded to it, Christ's sacrifice would still stand as the most pivotal event of the ages because of its demonstration of God's love for us. Should the whole world spurn it, our rejection could never remove the glory from its blood and death, from its offer of grace, or from its fulfillment of God's eternal purpose.

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*By shedding His blood, Christ demonstrated to the entire world God's faithfulness in keeping His promises to us. Christ's death provided forgiveness for us and opened up a way to eternal life. God has done His part. He remains forever the eternal God who opened wide the gate to eternal life through the sacrifice of His Son. "If some did not believe, . . . let God be found true, though every man be found a liar . . ." (Romans 3:3b, 4).*