

# Precious Blood Series

Blood – the Standard of Exchange

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MorningStar Church

2012

Page | 1

## TEXT

**Ep. 1:7** "In Him we have redemption through His blood (not death, or the cross), the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

**Ep. 2:13** "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

**Lev. 17:11** for the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."

Blood is the only exchange heaven accepts for forgiveness of sin.

ILL if I want to buy a product here in the US, dollars are the only exchange accepted. If a product cost \$5 and you brought twenty dollars in pesos- it would not be accepted. You could even bring a small sliver bar- and the shopkeeper would not know how to accept that payment- dollars are the only accepted exchange in commerce. Blood is the only exchange heaven accepts for the forgiveness of sin.

**Genesis 4:3-9 Cain and Able** And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it." Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where *is* Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" (Yes, man is a relational creature)

Cain's fruit offering rejected

Abel's blood offering accepted (not likely Abel understood spiritual significance...)

V. 7 If you follow what was instructed to you, you will be accepted- if not sin (rebellion) will conquer you.

Sins (rebellion) desire is to overtake you- to rule you- but you can rule over it (God's ability & your choice)

Note: **1 Cor. 10:13** " No temptation has overtake you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (The way of escape is obedience and faith)

Cain kills Abel- God questions Abel

V. 10b the voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground."

## **Note: Blood speaks in the spiritual realm**

**Gen. 2** God created Adam & Eve

V. 16,17 " of every tree you may freely eat... for in the day that you eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, you shall surely die."

They ate, lost their covering of righteousness - which was like a shining light around them, the glory of the Lord- the Shikinah glory went out- and they now saw that they were naked.

**Gen. 3:21** Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God make tunics of skin and clothed them"

God Himself slew the first animal and shed its blood for the covering over or payment of sin.

The God took that skin and gave them clothing- He covered them.

One commentator put it this way, ' After killing the animal(s) God removed its skin from the dead body and presented them still warm and wet to our first parents."

Note: by this example the Lord impressed upon Adam & Eve the utter ugliness of sin and the wages its pays- death. [Death of the innocent for the guilty]

6 Foundational Principals from these verses: (first mention principal)

1. God requires shedding of blood for payment of sin
2. The sinner must be covered with blood
3. God provides the sacrifice
4. God Himself covers the sinner
5. The innocent dies for the guilty
6. God brings judgment upon the sacrifice.

## **Heb. 12:22-24**

"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,<sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,<sup>24</sup> to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel."

V. 24 Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant

Who sprinkled or applied His blood as the covenant maker

Abel's blood sacrifice spoke under the Old Covenant and covered over man's sin- temporarily

But the blood of Jesus still speaks loudly and clearly and it says redeemed, cleansed, purchased.... whole

As a Christian, is that your testimony this morning?

Redeemed, cleansed, purchased... Whole?

Chorus: redeemed and I love to proclaim it, redeemed by the blood of the lamb.

Redeemed and I love to proclaim it- His child and forever I am.

# Precious Blood Series (2)

Believing: in Jesus Flesh & Blood

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I. Review- we started a series last wee on the Blood of Christ. How blood in the spiritual realm is alive & powerful. And how the blood of Jesus Christ atones or cries out on our behalf if we repent & accept Jesus as Lord.

**Ep. 1:7** "In Him we have redemption through His blood (not death, or the cross), the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

**Ep. 2:13** "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

**Lev. 17:11** for the life of the flesh is in the blood

**Genesis 4:3-9** Cain and Able (God accepts Abel's blood sacrifice)

Blood speaks in the spiritual realm

**Heb. 12:22-24-** V. 24 Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant

II. John 6 is probably the most controversial teaching in the ministry of Jesus. He's going to talk about His body and His blood. Actually He's going to say you need to eat His flesh and drink His blood to secure eternal life. As strange & offensive as that sounds (it was so offensive that He lost the whole crowd that had followed Him) As strange as that teaching sounds- He was trying to impart a foundational spiritual principal on Christian life- I'm going to explain about that later- but it was not communion.

## **PRAYER**

II. **John 6-** Background

Jesus fed the 5000

Jesus sends disciples across the Sea, then meets them there

Crowds follow Him....

III. **John 6:26-27**

Crowds came because of natural (loaves) not the spiritual (teachings & signs)

Don't labor for the natural- but spiritual that produces everlasting life- which Son of God will give you.

V.28 "What shall we do that we may work the works of God?"

V. 29 "this is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

THE WORK OF GOD (then & now) IS BELIEVING (TRUSTING)!

ILL. If I said I have a Bible in my hand- you don't need to believe or trust me; you see it

ILL. If I said I am going to give an apple pie to everyone who comes to service next Sunday, what happens? You're not sure- you begin to wonder...

But some might say, Gary has never lied to the congregation before; I'm going to dismiss my logical questions- I believe he will come through with the pies next week.

Note: How about it I said I will give 10 pies to each person who attends next week??

IV. **John 6:40** and this is the will of Him who sent Me that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life and I will raise Him up at the last day. "

6:48 I am the bread of life

6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heave, if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh which I shall give for the life of the world."

6:54 "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day."

6:55 For My flesh is food indeed and My blood is drink indeed."

V. **Jn. 6:63** "It's the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life." Do you believe Him? DO you trust Him?

ILL. A family was involved in a serious accident. Mike, the younger of two brothers involved, was badly injured and needed a blood transfusion. Mike's big brother, Danny, who was almost eight, was the perfect blood type. His father sat down with him and explained that his little brother was going to die but if Danny would give his little brother some blood that mike would be just fine. Danny sat and thought for a minute and then said o.k. Dad I will do this for my brother. They took Danny into the operating room and hooked up the needle to his arm and the blood from his body began to flow to his little brother. Everything had gone wonderfully and the nurse removed the needle from little Danny's arm. Danny with a tear in his eye looked at his father and said, "When do I die?" The father suddenly realized with a shock that Danny had misunderstood his explanation of giving blood. Danny thought he was giving all of his blood to save the life of his little brother! He thought that he would die after the transfusion was over. Yet he still had agreed to help his little brother.

What love, what sacrifice.

**CLOSING: John 6. 29** "this is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

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## Precious Blood Series (3)

### Blood Test

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REVIEW: John 6

**6:29** "this is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

**6:54** "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day."

**6:63** "It's the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life."

TEXT **1 Peter 1:18, 19** "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver and gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers. But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. "

OPENING: Getting Older.... Visiting the Dr. for twice a year check up... and when you go-

Bring a report card when you visit the Dr. – not carry literally

Usually waiting there for you on a computer called a 'blood test'

Amazing how much they can tell from one drop of blood

ILL. Show list of all that can be tracked (on lab sheet)

Important blood be 'in balance'

Also important have balanced blood perspective when we approach the Word of God.

If we lose the appreciation of what Christ's blood does for us...

Or if that perspective becomes 'out of balance' our Christian walk will suffer

TRAIN III. Some years ago a terrible railroad accident occurred, killing a lot of people. A commuter train had stalled on the tracks just a few minutes before a fast freight train was due to arrive. The conductor was quickly sent to flag down the approaching train. Those on board the commuter train weren't concerned. After all, the railroad workers had everything under control. They just sat quietly, some even took a nap, while others sipped coffee and read the newspapers. Then the unthinkable happened. The fast freight was seen just yards away and still traveling fast. It smashed into the rear of the commuter train, sending wreckage in every direction and screams from dying passengers. Train cars were stacked and thrown around like toys, but under them and around them were dismembered bodies and corpses everywhere.

The engineer on the freight train had survived by jumping out of the cab of the locomotive just moments before the impact. He was brought to court in the investigation of the accident to explain why he had not stopped when he saw the conductor flagging him down.

Listen to his answer, "I saw the man waving a flag, but it wasn't red, it was yellow and yellow flags mean slow down, not stop. I slowed down, but continued forward until I saw the back of the commuter train, but it was too late to stop before we could reach the train in front of us. I could do nothing at all, so I jumped."

The warning flag was then introduced as evidence and it truly was no longer bright red. It had been red at one time, but because of long exposure to the sun and weather it had become a dirty yellow. Neglect and abuse had turned a powerful warning into a deadly mistake.

Blood of Christ not only forgives us of sin- it lifts that weight off us and gives us a perspective of the life and liberty we have been called to. Can put on the glasses of guilt- or glasses tainted with the Blood.

age | 6

## SCRIPTURES: 'Getting the big picture'

**Hebrews 10:19-22**, "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>and</sup> *having* a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." ENTER IN

The cleansing power of the blood of Jesus is limitless. There is no sin too great, a life too evil or a cry for mercy that God will not hear, and the blood of Jesus can meet every need. God says that "whosoever will" may come and drink of that living water, and that means allowing the blood of Jesus to wash over them. Whether it's a murderer on death row, or a traffic violator; whether it's an alcoholic in the gutter or a wealthy merchant on Wall Street; Jesus' blood is sufficient for all sin.

**1 John 1:7**, "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." KEEPS US CLEAN

The blood of Jesus is our bridge to Heaven. We are made close to God by the blood of God's Son. His blood bridged the gap and now we can commune with God just as Adam did in the beginning. That wall of sin that separates us from God is broken down, flattened by the power of the blood.

**Ephesians 2:13-14**, "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation", BRINGS US NEAR

In the Old Testament economy, there were daily sacrifices in the temple as well special sacrifices at the times of the great feasts. Animals were slaughtered by the hundreds of thousands, yet the scriptures tell us that all of the bloodshed by those sacrificial animals could only serve to purify the flesh so that the priests could stand before God and not face certain and immediate death.

God's holiness and glory requires perfection and nothing less than perfection can stand before him. That perfect sacrifice could only be found in the shed blood of the perfect Lamb of God. It is by the blood of Jesus that we are made perfect in the sight of God. It cleanses the heart and the soul, something that the blood of an animal could never do.

**Hebrews 9:13-14**, "For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" CLEANSSES OUR CONSCIENCE

The price of our salvation is paid in full by the blood of Jesus. We are bought with a price, the price of perfect blood sacrificed for our sin.

**1 Peter 1:18-19**, “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” **SUPERNATURAL REDEMPTION**

Only by that blood will we stand in Heaven one day. No good works of the flesh, no blood of sacrificial animals will get us there; only the blood of Jesus Christ. Through his blood he washes our sin away and makes us white as snow.

**Revelation 12:10-11**, “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

### **BOLDNESS**

CLOSING ILLUSTRATION: Dr. A. J. Gordon was the preacher of a church in Boston many years ago. One day he met a little boy out in front of the church. The boy was carrying a rusty birdcage in his hands and several little birds were fluttering around on the bottom of the cage, as if they knew they were going to be destroyed.

Dr. Gordon said, “Son, where did you get those birds?” The boy answered, “I trapped them out in the field.” “What are you going to do with them?” the preacher asked.

“I’m going to take them home and play with them and have some fun with them.” “What will you do with them when you get through playing with them?” Dr. Gordon asked. “Oh,” said the boy, “I guess I’ll just feed them to an old cat we have around the house.”

Then Dr. Gordon asked the boy how much he would take for the birds and the boy answered, “Mister, you don’t want these birds. They’re just little old field birds and they can’t sing very well.” Dr. Gordon said, “I’ll give you ten dollars for the cage and the birds.” “All right,” said the boy, “It’s a deal, but you’re making a bad bargain.”

The exchange was made and the boy went whistling down the street, happy because he had ten dollars in his pocket. Dr. Gordon took the cage out behind his church and opened the door of the cage and the birds flew out and went soaring away into the blue, singing as they went.

The next Sunday Dr. Gordon took the empty birdcage to the pulpit to use it in illustrating his sermon. Then he said, “That little boy said that the birds could not sing very well, but when I released them from the cage the song they sang was one of freedom and liberty.

ARE YOU FREE TODAY??

# Precious Blood Series (4)

The Seven Functions of Blood (Natural and Spiritual)

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2012

REVIEW:

## A. Week One:

1. **Ep. 1:7** "In Him we have redemption through His blood (not death, or the cross), the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."
2. **Ep. 2:13** "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."
3. **Lev. 17:11** for the life of the flesh is in the blood
4. **Genesis 4:3-9** Cain and Able (God accepts Abel's blood sacrifice)
5. Blood speaks in the spiritual realm / Blood is the currency of Heaven
6. **Heb. 12:22-24**- V. 24 Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant

## B. Week Two -John 6

1. **6:29** "this is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."
2. **6:54** "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day."
3. **6:63** "It's the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life."

## C. Week Three- 'Big Picture' Scriptures on the blood of Christ

1. **Hebrews 10:19-22** – ENTER IN
2. **1 John 1:7** – KEEP US CLEAN
3. **Ephesians 2:13,14** – BRNG US NEAR
4. **Hebrews 9:13-14** – CLEANSSES OUR CONSCIENCE
5. **1 Peter 1:18,19** – SUPERNATURAL REDEMPTION

Thesis Today: our natural blood does seven life-giving functions in our body and I'd like to suggest seven spiritual applications from those functions:

## PRAYER

Text **Heb. 9: 14-15** " How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant that those who are called may receive the promise of eternal life."

Introduction:

One Commentator stated, "The Bible is a book of blood and a bloody book. When we are accused of preaching a Gospel of blood we proudly plead guilty, to the charge for the only thing that gives life to our teaching and power to the Word of God is the fact that it is the blood, which is the very life and power of the Gospel. The Bible declares itself to be a living book, the only living book in the world; and it is able to impart life to those who will believe with their hearts what it teaches"



**Hebrews 4:12** says, "The Word of God is quick, powerful and sharper than any two edged sword."

The word translated "quick" in this verse is living or alive. What the Word declares here is that it is a living Word- it is alive-it's not a bunch of words on a page. It is a book that has blood flowing from page to page.

Charles Spurgeon stated, "Scripture teaches us...that the blood produces life – that life lies in the blood. Blood, therefore, is the mysterious link between matter and spirit. How is it that the soul should in any degree have alliance with matter through blood, we cannot understand; but certain it is that this is the mysterious link which unite these apparently dissimilar things together, so that the soul can inhabit the body, and the life can rest in the blood"

#### I. The Seven biological functions of the blood

1. The blood transports metabolic wastes from each cell to organs that excrete them.
2. The red blood cells transport oxygen from the lungs to the cells of the body.
3. The blood transports nutrients from the digestive system and from storage depots to each cell of the body.
4. The blood transports hormones from endocrine glands to target tissues.
5. The blood helps to maintain fluid balance in the body.
6. The blood helps to distribute metabolic heat within the body and to maintain normal body temperature.
7. The blood (white blood cells) defends the body against invading microorganisms.

#### II.

1. The blood transports metabolic wastes from each cell to organs that excrete them.
  - a. This is the first task of the blood that cleanses our 'sin nature' and gives us acceptance and standing before the Lord.
  - b. **1 Cor. 5:17** "therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new."
  - c. ILL. Red, White & Blue: Not only are the colors of our flag born in heaven, but the order in which that are spoken and sung, find its origin and significance in the banner of the Cross We do not say blue, white and red, nor name them in any other order that the natural one- 'the red, white and blue' And this is God's own plan of salvation. First sacrifice, then holiness, then heaven. Through the blood of the lamb comes salvation, purity and then paradise.
2. The red blood cells transport oxygen from the lungs to the cells of the body.
  - a. The blood of the lamb transports oxygen-the breath of life- into our spiritual cells.
  - b. **Gen. 2:7** the Lord god formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being"
3. The blood transports nutrients from the digestive system and from storage depots to each cell of the body.
  - a. The blood of the Lamb transports nutrients (food) to the spiritual cells of us and gives us life and hope.

- b. **Jn. 6:35** " ... Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."
- 4. The blood transports hormones from endocrine glands to target tissues.
  - a. Hormone- the term hormone is derived from a Greek word meaning 'to excite' Hormones do excite their targeted tissues, usually by stimulating a change in some metabolic activity.
  - b. **Ro. 12:2** "... be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
- 5. . The blood helps to maintain fluid balance in the body.
  - a. The blood of the lamb is that which maintains balance in our spiritual body.
  - b. Balance means a state of equilibrium; equality in amount; stability, harmonious proportion.
  - c. **Ep. 1: 17** "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."
- 6. The blood helps to distribute metabolic heat within the body and to maintain normal body temperature.
  - a. The blood of the lamb helps to distribute a balanced temperament within the spiritual body -especially in the midst of trials and tribulations.
  - b. **2 Cor. 1:3,4** " Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. "
- 7. The blood (white blood cells) defends the body against invading microorganisms.
  - a. The blood of the lamb is what defends us against invading enemies of our spiritual body (lust of flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life) **1 Jn. 2:16**
  - b. **Ep. 6-** the whole armor of God... waist with truth, breastplate of righteousness, feet gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit, and praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..."

III. Close

- c. READ Hymn: A Mighty Fortress is our God
- d. Charles Spurgeon "Every drop of blood which flowed out of Jesus body is still in existence, and it is just as it was 2,000 years ago wiping away the sins of mankind. The blood has been shed- the incorruptible, eternal, divine, sinless, overcoming, precious blood. It availed then, and it avails now; and throughout all eternity it will never lose its power to bring life."