

Pastor Robert Rutta

The Sacredness of the Blood

Lev 17:1-11

We need to see the sacredness of the blood – especially the blood of Christ. Throughout history God has placed a special emphasis on the blood.

In Lev 16 we are taught about the sin offering and the Day of Atonement. That was a day when atonement was made for the whole nation of Israel. Animal sacrifices were made, which pictured the ultimate death of Christ as the payment for our sin.

Remember when John the Baptist saw Jesus and said, “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)

For several thousand years the Jews had been preparing for the Lamb of God.

In Lev 17 the Lord is telling the Jews that the blood was sacred. First He tells them in v3-5 that they couldn't choose where they would offer a sacrifice. They had to follow God's plan and go to the tabernacle.

He says the same thing in v8-9.

If a person chose to offer a sacrifice anywhere else he was guilty of shedding blood and had to be placed outside of the camp.

V10 Also, if he ate blood he would be placed outside of the camp. They had to be careful to drain the blood from an animal before they ate it. That had been God's law from the beginning.

Genesis 9:1-4

1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

Repeated in Lev 7.

Leviticus 7:26-27

26 Moreover ye shall eat no manner of blood, whether it be of fowl or of beast, in any of your dwellings.

27 Whatsoever soul it be that eateth any manner of blood, even that soul shall be cut off from his people.

Repeated also in Acts 15.

Acts 15:28-29

28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

In the 1970's and 80's a **false** teaching was promoted by John MacArthur concerning the Blood of Christ.

This teaching says that it didn't matter how Christ died.

All that mattered was His death.

He taught that anywhere that you see it referring to blood you should just substitute the word "death."
He could have been strangled or hung or died by any other means – it didn't matter.

In 1976, John MacArthur said in an article he wrote entitled, "Not His Bleeding But His Dying":

He said,

"It was His death that was efficacious...not His blood...Christ did not bleed to death. The shedding of blood has nothing to do with bleeding...it simply means death...violent sacrificial death...Nothing in His human blood saves..."

In a letter dated August 29, 1986 MacArthur said, "The blood of Christ is precious-but as precious as it is, His physical blood could not save."

Hebrews 9:13-14 states, "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

In The MacArthur Study Bible (copyright 2006), John MacArthur states in his notes regarding God's use of the word "blood" in this verse that "blood is used as a substitute word for death."

In an interview conducted by Phil Johnson, the Executive Director of Grace To You (MacArthur's radio show), in an attempt to defend himself against charges of heresy regarding his views on the blood of Christ, he made further heretical statements:

"You have to stop short of saying 'We are saved by the blood of Jesus,' in the sense that there is some efficacy in the fluid that poured out of His body."

"We don't want to get caught into this bizarre notion that somehow in the actual fluid that came out of the body of Jesus there is saving power or saving efficacy."

"There is nothing in the fluid in His body that in any way in itself could save us."

"When the New Testament refers to salvation by His blood, it is not talking about salvation by His fluid; it uses blood as a metaphor or a synonym for death because it conveys the violence of it."

"Blood is a euphemism for His death."

(MacArthur teaches other wrong doctrines, such as Lordship Salvation, Calvinism, etc)

That isn't what the Bible says.

Paul admonished the elders "to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

Romans 3:24-25

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

We are "justified by his blood" (Rom. 5:9).

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins. . . ." (Eph. 1:7).

We "are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:13).

"We have redemption through his blood" (Col. 1: 14), and he "made peace through the blood of his cross" (Col. 1:20).

In Hebrews we are told that "by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9: 12).

We are told, "without shedding of blood is no remission" (Heb. 9:22).

We have "boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus" (Heb. 10:19).

Jesus suffered with out the camp, "that he might sanctify the people with his own blood" (Heb. 13:12).

John tells us clearly that "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7)

"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5).

They will sing of Christ, "thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood" (Rev. 5:9).

Let's go back again to Lev 17.

Leviticus 17:11

11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Blood is an atonement and it is sacred to God.

The life of the flesh is in the blood.

It was the sacrifice of one life for another, with the shedding of blood, that made the atonement.

God wanted them to appreciate it then, so that they would appreciate His Son when He came to earth.

In Ex 12 is the story of the Passover.

Exodus 12:13

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

The Jews were to kill a lamb and put its blood on the door posts and lintel.

God didn't say, "Take a spotless lamb. Kill it and place its dead body at the front of your door and I will pass over you."

The blood was necessary.

Hebrews 9:22

22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Just as God guarded that doctrine throughout history, we need to guard it.

His blood is sacred.

We have certain benefits because of the Blood of Christ.

I. We Are Justified by His Blood

Romans 3:24-26

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 5:9

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

We are justified by His blood.

The word “propitiation” means that God is satisfied; the payment has been made by faith in His blood.

You are a sinner, but if you have faith in His blood, God is satisfied.

Because He is satisfied, God justifies you.

He wipes the slate clean.

He makes it as if you never sinned.

He makes you pure in God’s sight.

We are cleaned and God is satisfied through faith in His blood.

II. We Are Reconciled by the Blood

Colossians 1:20-21

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

In our sinful state we are enemies of God.

Our sins are a wall between us and God.

When Christ shed His blood He broke down those barriers.

He has returned us to where we belong.

III. We Have Boldness in Prayer Through His Blood

Hebrews 10:19-20

19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

The Jews in the Old Testament had to have a high priest to intercede between them and God.

He would go into the Holy of Holies, in the presence of God, once a year with blood to make intercession.

But since Christ, our great High Priest, came, we don’t need an earthly high priest.

When Christ died the veil of the temple was rent in twain.

There is no veil between man and God now.

We can go directly to God with our needs.

We can come boldly to the throne of Grace.

IV. We Have Continuous Fellowship With God Because of the Blood

1 John 1:7

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

As we walk in the light we are to be continually confessing our sins to Him and the blood of Jesus Christ is continually cleansing us from sin.
Our fellowship with Him is unbroken.

V. Satan Has Been Defeated By the Blood

Revelation 12:11

11 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.

Victory over Satan is provided by the blood.

When Christ died on Calvary He won the victory – He just hasn't claimed it yet.

But the day is going to come when He will claim that victory and we will say that Satan was overcome by the Blood of the Lamb.

The Blood of Christ is sacred.