

VOLUME ONE

PRECIOUS  
BLOOD

THE TABLE OF THE LORD

JOSEPH A. CORTES



# Table of the Lord

## Volume 1

He is Risen . . . . .	1
The Precious Blood of Jesus . . . . .	8
Cleansing Blood. . . . .	10
Do This . . . . .	13
Living Water. . . . .	16
Blood Filter . . . . .	20
In Remembrance of Me . . . . .	23
No Blood Equals Death. . . . .	27
The Bread of Life. . . . .	34
Shedding of Blood. . . . .	38
Life is in the Blood. . . . .	43
The Provisions of the Blood . . . . .	47

# He is Risen

Open your Bibles to Luke 24:1.

I just came from a physical therapy session for my back and got here just in time to do a live program. I was thinking while lying on the table there, refreshing my memory, of the two most important points Jesus made after His resurrection, and without them, there is no Gospel. If you do not believe that Jesus died and rose again, why call yourself a Christian? You are definitely not a disciple of Jesus Christ if that is the case.

The Table of the Lord has become second nature to me and is part of the everyday things that I do and that Christ commanded us to do. In addition, bread and wine is not necessary to go to the Table of the Lord. Christ did it during supper so the disciples could remember. He was using something as simple as eating and drinking so that no matter how often we ate during day, we would stop and remember Him. Often people are taught to stop and pray before eating, but I believe we should thank Him for all things, not only the plate of food there in front of us. Am I thankful for sustenance? Sure! However, tradition and ritual is not necessary, and most of the time praying before a meal is so everyone else can see them pray and see how holy they are. Remember, Jesus said when we pray, we should go into the closet. That does not mean we cannot pray as a group or with someone else, but do not pray as a spectacle or sideshow. Keep it sincere, keep it real.

We go to the Table of the Lord because we choose to do so and it is not even necessary to use bread and wine. Christ used the bread and wine because it was something common on every table at that time, and He used it as an illustration. The bread symbolized Christ's body and the wine symbolized the blood that He would spill. The key thing to remember is what Christ was about to do. He was going to that cross to die for us, when we should have been there ourselves. Christ had no fault or sin. We should all have been the ones on the cross, but He did it for us and He wants us to remember that.

Before we take the elements, I want to review the story and the two important messages that Christ wants us to remember. This story about Christ is also in Matthew, Mark, and John, but I chose Luke for a reason. At this point in Luke, Jesus had already died and been quickly buried. Three days and three nights have past and now some disciples were returning to the tomb.

Luke 24:1 begins, *“Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.*

*And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.*

*And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.”*

The body was gone, even though soldiers guarded the tomb. If Jesus' body was gone, those soldiers would have to pay the price because it was their responsibility to protect it.

Verse 4 continues, ***“And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood there by them in shining garments:***

***And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?*** [literally, this is ‘him that liveth’]

I imagine the disciples were confused thinking, “Wait a minute, we watched Him die! He was dead!”

Verse 6 goes on to say, ***“He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,***

***Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.***

***And they remembered His words,***

***And returned to the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven*** [the other disciples, Judas was no longer with them], ***and to all the rest.***

***It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other woman that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.***

***And the words seemed to be to them as idle tales*** [They did not believe it because they also knew He died.] ***and they believed them not.***

***Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which has come to pass.”***

Peter still was in doubt. Yes, he knew the body was gone, but he wondered if Jesus really did rise from the dead or were these women grieving so much they had convinced themselves of something else, were delusional, or maybe someone took Him. These are several silly reasons many people come up with to explain the empty tomb, but the point is, the Gospels, Matthew 28, Mark 16, and John 20, all record this particular event, each in their own way, but with the same message. After those three days and three nights, we know, He is risen.

That is message number one, the first thing Jesus wanted communicated in these stories. Here in Luke, Christ used an angel to tell the message that He is risen. The angel tells them, “He is not here! All you will find in this tomb is other dead bodies, but He is not here. Don’t you remember how He told you this even prior to it happening? He said He would rise again after being crucified.” Luke 24:8 tells us, ***“And they remembered His words.”***

Now it is unfortunate His disciples did not become instant believers, but we probably would have been the same way, caught up in all the things spinning in our mind and rationalizing one reason after another. We would try to convince ourselves that no, Jesus is still dead. He had been removed from the tomb, surely He did not rise from the dead. Yes, He did! In any event, the three other Gospels; Matthew, Mark, and John, tell the same story with the first message being that Jesus is alive, or as Luke words it, ***‘Him that liveth.’***

The women who went to the tomb were believers before they were disciples. Just look at the timeline of events; the women visited to the tomb, the disciples came, and they were all amazed. Give these women credit; they believed Christ rose from the dead, and if you do not believe that Christ is alive, then do not even consider the second message He emphasized in the Table of the Lord.

As the timeline of events continue, things settle down and other disciples, beside the eleven disciples, begin a departure from Jerusalem. The next event occurs on the road to Emmaus, which is recorded in Luke 24:13, and in Mark 16. This is what Luke records:

***“And, behold, the two of them went the same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.***

***And they talked together of all these things which have happened.***

***And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.”***

Of course, they were reasoning. They thought Jesus was going to be their deliverer and new king in the here and now. Just imagine what they were saying as they tried to rationalize what happened. Perhaps they thought Christ was not what they thought He would be; that they put too much hope in Him. Even though they were disciples, they were not in that inner group of disciples, and we can only guess what they were saying.

Verse 16 tells us, ***“But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him.”***

Somehow, someway, Jesus was able to put some kind of blinders on their eyes so they could not recognize Him, but then, Jesus said something to them in verse 17,

***“And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?”***

I am sure Jesus knew what they were saying about Him. Christ did not say who He was when He walked up to them because He wanted them to remember what they heard in the light, but forgot in the dark. This darkness led to all kinds of doubts and reasons to justify and explain away their false hopes. Christ made this point for those two disciples and also for us in the future as well. We were not even there two thousand years ago; we did not even get to hear Jesus speak. We only know what is recorded here in the Bible, even though the book of John makes the claim that Christ said so much the libraries could not hold all the information. And when that was all said and done, all they had to remember, after Christ died and rose again, were the words that He taught them. Christ said He would rise, and he asks the disciples if they remember this. That is what He wants us to remember, with all trust and confidence, ***‘pisteo,’*** without a doubting mind or thought, from this day forward. Through the Table of the Lord, Christ shows us and reminds us the way He wants us to remember Him. It is as easy as sitting down and having something to eat or drink. Jesus made it quite simple, but man, through all their doctrines, has complicated the issue.

This story continues in verse 18. ***“And one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?”***

Cleopas asks Christ, “Who are you? Where have you been? How can you not know the news of what happened to Jesus, who said He was The Christ. It turns out that He died and everything we believed, we now doubt.”

Christ answers in verse 19, ***“And He said unto them, What things? [Jesus was pretending not to know about the events.] And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:***

***And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified Him.***

***But we trusted [or hoped] that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.”***

You see, they did not see Christ as a savior who made promises. They saw Him as ***“a prophet mighty in deed,”*** even though He could do miracles. I can only imagine Jesus’ disappointment. The disciples saw the three days pass, but left Jerusalem because nothing happened. What Christ so clearly said in the light, they doubted in the dark.

In verse 22, the disciple goes on to say, ***“Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished,*** [This word in the Greek literally gives the idea that they thought the women were delusional, and perhaps they were delusional themselves.] ***which were early at the sepulchre;***

***And they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels*** [rather than actual angels], ***which said that he was alive.***

***And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said; but him they saw not.”***

All they saw was an empty tomb, but forgot what that empty tomb meant; that is, He is risen, which was the first important message after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He wanted the word to go out, He is risen! Now the response to it, you would think would be overwhelming. Halleluiah! Lord where are you? I believe you did rise from the dead, but that was not the response.

In verse 24, the disciples said, ***“And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.***

***Then He said unto them, O fools*** [literally in the Greek this means those lacking intelligence], ***and slow of heart to believe*** [or pisteo; faith, trust, and confidence in what was heard to be the truth] ***all that the prophets have spoken.***

***Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?***

***And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded*** [literally, explained thoroughly] ***unto them in all the scriptures and things concerning himself.***

***And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.”***

In these verses, we see these two disciples were at their destination, but Jesus, even though He was still not recognized, gave the impression that His journey was not over yet and He was going to go on. Jesus was testing the disciples to see if they would get excited again in hearing that which was explained thoroughly about what the scriptures had to say concerning Christ. Or would they continue to believe Jesus was dead and move on with their lives. Jesus put them at the crossroads. Would they continue doubting or would the Word revive them when Christ explained it thoroughly. In verse 29, they passed the test,

***“But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us [just as John 15 says we must abide in Christ]: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.***

***And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave it to them.***

***And their eyes were opened, and they knew him;”***

They instantly recognized who He was because Christ reminded them. You have seen the pictures, the paintings, and it shows only twelve disciples at the Lord’s Table at that Last Supper, but the room was full, probably over capacity with people coming in and out. Yes, the inner circle of twelve disciples were there because we have the record of it in the Gospels. And it was recorded what was said at that table, but there were others there, too, who saw what Jesus did before He died. Now Christ was repeating the Last Supper so they would remember what they saw and what He said was going to happen. As soon as they recognized that, their eyes were opened. He is risen! They recognized the truth, it grabbed their attention, and they knew Him. Then, just at that moment,

***“...he vanished out of their sight.***

***And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?***

***And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,***

***Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.***

***And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.”***

Jesus used that Last Supper, the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the wine, as a teaching moment. It is something we can do every time we eat, or at least once a day, so we remember what He did for us on the cross. What Christ said would happen, did happen. He did rise from the dead. He is alive and well and He is coming back. If He kept the first advent promises, what makes you think He is not going to keep the second? Christ is alive and well, He is coming back!



The second thing Christ wants us to remember every time we eat or drink, whether alone or with others, is to remember, acknowledge, worship, and praise Him for what He did that day some 2000 thousand years ago. In Matthew 26:26 we read,

***“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.”***

That was what he was reminding the disciples of on the road to Emmaus. When they reached their destination, as they were going to sit and break bread, Jesus repeated this and immediately their eyes were opened after Christ reminded them of what the scripture said. Fortunately, we have the luxury to read it for ourselves, but I find it amazing how easily it is to forget to do what Jesus commanded us to do, to remember what He did for us while in this act of eating and drinking. Also, we can remember Him without eating and drinking, so we have no excuse once we know all the facts in scriptures that He has given us as a reminder. Do not forget, Christ is the ‘Bread of Life’ so abide in Him. Let us continue with the verse 27 in Matthew,

***“And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;***

***For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.***

***But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”***

Paul, in the Corinthian letter, also instructs on the Lord’s Supper. He writes in I Corinthians 11:23,

***“For I received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:***

***And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.***

***After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.***

***For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew [Literally “ye announce,”] the Lord’s death [what He did for us] till he come.”***

Christ wants us to announce to ourselves and to the unseen world that we still remember what Jesus did for us, that the devil has no more power over sin and death because Christ conquered it for us on our behalf. Christ wants us to do this until He comes. We have no excuse to forget what He did. To go to the Table of the Lord for any other reason, is to, literally, take communion unworthily. It is in verse 27 where Paul mentions the word ‘unworthily,’ which has been preached many different ways and abused even in those early church days, especially by the Corinthians. Additionally, all kinds of false doctrines have been produced when communion is a commandment to be taken as a faithful disciple. As often as we eat or drink, we are to remember Him without any special elements. Whether the meal is a turkey sandwich, beef stroganoff, wine, or water, those symbols say we are stopping and remembering what Christ did for us. It is as simple as that; to declare anything else, is to take the focus off what Christ wanted us to

remember. After Christ's resurrection, the second most important message is that through eating and drinking, a simple thing we do on a daily basis, we remember Christ.

The first message is 'He is risen!' The second is 'Remember Christ and what He did for us.' By remembering those things, one day we will also rise from the dead with a new body. Not only is Christ alive and well, He went through all that for our benefit. God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son to rescue us.

So as I laid there on the physical therapist's table, I reflected how unfortunate it is that these messages are not taught. It is not a complicated message in the gospel record; Jesus is alive and well, He did rise from the dead and He wants us to remember Him. After the resurrection, everybody was wondering what happened. The messages they received from the angels they thought were visions or decided they were delusional or having nightmares. But they also knew there was no body to be found, so somebody must have taken Him or moved Him to a different location. All these other thoughts came about and even though they wanted to believe, they were so sad and in grief, they could not believe anything else, but Jesus straightened that out quickly. After the message began to spread that He rose from the dead, He quickly showed up in person Himself to remind them and expounded on the scriptures to remind them of what He had already taught. Especially when they saw Him break that bread, they knew it was Christ Himself, so they went straight back to Jerusalem to tell the others. By the time they got there, Peter already knew and maybe some of the others.

All Christ wants us to do when we go to the Table of the Lord is remember Him; there is no other condition. The Table of the Lord is about Him and what He had done for us. Everything else can come at some other time. This act is to remember Him; He broke His body, He spilled His blood for us, and fulfilled what was prophesied in that first advent. We remember Him with trust and confidence that He did rise from the dead and understand that He wants us to remember what He did for us. He rescued us from our spiritually diseased life, gave us new hope and an eternal hope not just based on the here and now, but for eternity, to be with Him, to rule and reign with Him, and everything else He has in store in our eternal rewards.

Right now, in the here and now, know that He is alive, He did rise from the dead, and we are to remember what He did for us on that cross.

Take the bread and take whatever other element you have, I happen to use wine, and partake, remembering what He did on that cross, and that He is alive and well, just as He promised.

Thank you Jesus, thank you God, for allowing your only begotten Son to do what He did. The world did not want Jesus, but the world needed Him badly, and He gave His life for us.

Remember that as you take the bread and wine. Thank you, Jesus.

# The Precious Blood of Jesus

There is a song that ends by declaring ‘the precious blood of Jesus,’ and that is the subject of this communion.

We will begin in 1 Peter 1:18 which states, ***“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed [or ransomed] with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;”***

In other words, Peter is saying that material things come and go, rust, and lose their value over the course of time and they do not buy us eternal life. We cannot buy our way to Heaven or our way to being a free man in Christ. We cannot ransom ourselves. Man can find nothing new that will ransom us from eternal death and give us eternal life. Any of that is vain conversation. We must go through Jesus Christ. Material things are corruptible, no matter how good they might sound. There is no other way of saying it. Verse 19 makes it very clear how we become ransomed or redeemed,

***“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot....”***

Consider the word ‘precious.’ You would not think you would hear that coming from such a rugged fisherman as Simon Peter. Think about it, he was a hothead, he was rugged, but he used the word ‘precious’ a total of six times in both books of Peter. He used this word four times in 1 Peter and twice in 2 Peter. He was a rugged individual to use this delicate word.

The word has a two-fold meaning, ‘precious in value’ and ‘precious in rarity.’ The precious blood of the Lamb is of infinite value with its price far greater than any other price previously paid. However, if you do not believe Christ was the Son of God, you are not going to think that way, but it cost the Son of God His very own precious blood in perfect sacrifice. That is why Peter called His blood ***“a lamb without blemish and without spot.”***

Christ’s blood is of infinite value because there was never anyone prior to Jesus that was ***“without blemish and without spot.”*** It could be compared to a collector who has something of great value, a coin, a stamp, or an artifact, something that is one of a kind. It could be worth millions or hundreds of millions of dollars because there is only one like it in this whole world. Just the same, there is only one Jesus in the history of mankind without blemish and without spot; Jesus the Christ, The Messiah. His blood is so precious because only Jesus did not sin, whereas everyone before and everyone after has. Only He was the perfect sacrifice making His blood also precious in rarity.

As an example, here is an article that shows someone’s precious blood when yellow fever was an epidemic. It reads, ***“Years ago, the Rockefeller Report gave an account of a West African named Espy, who supplied from his veins the very first blood from which the vaccine for yellow fever was derived. Espy contracted Yellow Fever but miraculously recovered. This made the antibodies in his blood precious to those who were seeking a cure to this deadly disease. [Sin is deadly too, and Jesus had the cure; we need the covering of His blood.] Espy allowed his blood to be taken for this life giving purpose. In 1937, the yellow fever vaccine was first***

***manufactured from that one man's blood. The original strain of the virus first obtained from that humble man has gone throughout the Earth, from laboratory to laboratory, from hospital to hospital, providing immunity for millions. [In the same way, Jesus' blood provides the whole world immunity from sin.] The Rockefeller Foundation stated that through science, the blood of one man in West Africa had been made to serve the whole human race. The untainted blood of only one man could provide the cure for the epidemic known as sin that had been attached to the human race since the time of Adam. Only one man...."***

According to Peter, the precious blood of the Lamb could yield the cure, not by donating some blood, but by shedding it through His sacrificial death on the cross.

Christ has asked us to remember what He did for us 'as often as ye eat and drink.' The cup represents the blood, and the bread represents the body. Both were committed to a perfect sacrifice that ransomed us, not only in the here and now, but also for the eons of eternity ahead. We have been ransomed; never forget that.

Start making it a daily practice, at a minimum, to remember what Christ has done for us.

Take the bread and take the wine, or whatever you have in your cup, and do this in remembrance of Him.

Thank you, Jesus, for rescuing me and saving my soul.

# Cleansing Blood

This Table of the Lord message begins in 1 John, chapter 1, but before beginning the message, I want to share something with you.

This article that explains a simple experiment you can perform to “...*grasp the function of the blood as a cleansing agent. Find a blood pressure test kit and wrap the cuff around your arm. When it is in position, have a friend pump it up to 200 mm. of mercury, a sufficient pressure to stop the flow of blood in your arm. Initially your arm will feel an uncomfortable tightness beneath the cuff. Now comes the revealing part of the experiment: perform any easy task with your cuffed arm.* [Remember it is pumped-up to 200 millimeters of mercury pressure.] *Merely flex your fingers and make a fist about ten times in succession, or cut paper with scissors or drive a nail into wood with a hammer.*

*The first few movements will seem quite normal as the muscles obediently contract and relax. Then you will feel a slight weakness. Almost without warning, a hot flash of pain will strike, after about ten movements. Your muscles will cramp. If you force yourself to continue the simple task, you will likely cry out in absolute agony. Finally, you cannot will yourself to continue. The pain overwhelms you.*

*When you release the tourniquet and the air escapes from the cuff, blood will rush into your aching arm and a wonderful sense of relief will sooth your muscles. The pain is worth enduring just to experience the acute relief. Your muscles move freely, the pain vanishes, and life feels good again. Physiologically, you just experienced the cleansing power of blood. While the blood supply to your arm was shut off, you forced your muscles to keep working. As they converted oxygen to energy, they produced certain waste products ... that are normally flushed away instantly in the bloodstream. Due to the constricted blood flow, however, these [waste products] accumulated in your cells. They were not ‘cleansed’ by the swirling stream of blood, and therefore, in a few minutes you felt the agony of retained toxins.*

*Blood sustains life by carrying away the chemical by-products that would interfere with [the body’s healthy process].*

*Forgiveness [through Jesus Christ’s shed blood] cleanses [our] wasteful products....”*

Although this article describes the physical sense of it, there is the spiritual side to this as well. If you really think about it, the blood that He shed on that cross, that stavros, cleansed our spiritually diseased waste products that were toxic to our physical body and spiritual being. What Christ did for us is as real in the spiritual world as in the physical world. If you are squeamish, I do not recommend doing this experiment, but with this simple experiment, you can see once the blood supply was cut-off, simple activities will cause pain. You will feel agony if you continue the activities because your body is not able to wash away the toxins that build up during activity. In the end, your arm would probably die! This principle applies in the spiritual world; eventually you will suffer an eternal death if you do not come to realize how important 2 the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ truly is for our spiritual wellbeing. In the Bible, we see that John knew this.

1<sup>st</sup> John 1:5 reads, ***“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declared unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”*** The Greek is very clear. This light is a light that is never kindled and never quenched. The Greek also describes a darkness that leads to a ruined situation and a decaying process that happens because of the darkness.

John goes on to write in verse 6 and 7, ***“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:***

***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.”***

We need the cleansing agent of Jesus Christ because of the spiritually ruined decay of wasted life from the toxic pollution of sin, so if we are in Christ and Christ is in us, the spirit dwells in us and we have been cleansed. The Greek word for ‘cleanseth’ is ***‘katharizo’*** and means ***‘to purify from pollution and guilt,’*** in relation to what the toxins of pollution and guilt does to our spiritual wellbeing. Once we come to recognize that, we are no longer cut off; He has rescued us. His blood rushes into our spiritual being, bringing our being back to life.

We may think we are living now, yet we are all dying, even though, some of us have our eternal hope, or ***‘elpis’*** in Greek, that we will continue to live even when this flesh dies. Eventually, we will be given a new body that our spirit and soul will meet up with, and we will live forever more ruling and reigning with Christ, who has commissioned us, throughout eternity with all the rewards He will bestow on us for our faithfulness forever. And forever does not end.

On the other hand, John writes in verse 8, ***“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”*** Some people think that just because they are good they have no sin, or their sin is so little that Christ will overlook it in the Day of Judgment. But I tell you right now, I sinned. I sinned at least five times driving today to the west side of Los Angeles in traffic, and I sinned at least ten times coming back. I had to ask for forgiveness for what I thought of some drivers. Believe me; I needed that rush of Christ’s cleansing blood to remove the toxins that built up during that trip.

Verse 9 continues, ***“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just [because He paid the price] to forgive us sins, and to cleanse [or to purify us from the pollution and guilt of sin] us from all unrighteousness.”***

Some may not think I am righteous, and sometimes I might not seem like I am, but thank God, my righteousness is not on my merit, it is on His! It is His covering and His blood cleansing that I continue to trust in with confidence and faith in Jesus Christ on a daily basis.

John writes in verse 10, ***“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”*** I am not planning to do that, and hopefully, you are not either. I believe His word is in me, and let it be in you too. All He has asked us to do, besides faithing and trusting in Him, is to keep remembering what He did.

Go to I Corinthians 11:23 where Paul writes,

***“For I have received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night which he was betrayed took bread:***

*And when He had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body [the bread], which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.*

*After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood [that cleansing blood]: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

In other words, every time you sit down to eat and drink, do this as often as you do that. It is a simple act to keep your physical body alive, and remember what Christ did for you, in the spiritual sense, to give you that *‘elpis,’* that hope of eternal existence with Him forever more. And all He is asking us to do is remember Him and His powerful cleansing blood that cannot even be compare to the experiment I read to you at the beginning. His blood covered us! His blood cleansed us! His blood gave us eternal life! And all He is asking us to do is remember Him.

So now, as you take the bread, as you take the wine, remember and thank Him for going to that *‘stavros,’* that cross, and shedding His blood for you and for me.

Say, “Thank you Jesus,” as you partake.

# Do This

Open your Bibles to I Corinthians 11:20 where Paul mentioned that when ‘gathering together’ there are certain instructions. First, it is not necessary to partake of the Lord’s Supper in a group; it can be taken as an individual. Of course, the Corinthian church only wanted to include the “haves” and not the “have-nots,” and Paul deals with that problem in this chapter, but that is not the focus of this Communion message.

Paul calls it the Lord’s Supper in verse 20. When you really think about, and I have no problem calling it the Lord’s Supper, what is good enough for Paul is good enough for me. I will not change that in any way, but the phrase makes me think that although it really is the Lord’s Supper, it is really all for us so we remember what Jesus has done for us.

In verse 23, Paul continues writing, ***“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it....”*** Notice the word “it,” which is also in verse 25, at the end of the verse ***“as ye drink it.”*** There, Christ is referring to the cup, but in both instances, the word is in italics, meaning it was added by the translators. If your Bible has this word in italics, circle it both in verse 24 and 25.

I had a very interesting message from an HOF I would like to read to you. This person writes, “When you were in I Corinthians, chapter 11 earlier this evening, [referring to a previous night] I was reading along with you when you quoted verse 24 and 25. One little word added by the translator’s sure changes the focus. Jesus speaking, ‘This cup is a new testament in my blood. This do ye as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me.’ The word ‘it,’ which is in italics, added by the translators, changes the focus of His request from remembering Me whenever you drink, to remembering Me whenever you drink “IT,” meaning the sacrament. By making a special sacrament, it takes away from the everyday action of remembering what He did for us. Thank you once again for teaching us to remember Him above all.”

I like that. The focus is not on the “it.” The focus is on Him, and that is where it should be. That is why I say, ‘As often as you drink or eat.’ At the last meal, He gathered with His disciples and gave instructions about what they needed to remember from that night forward until His return. That means that we must remember every time we eat food (bread) or quench our physical thirst, we are to remember the blood that He spilled to cover us spiritually, to cover our sin, and reconcile us back to the Father.

Verse 24 states, ***“And when he had given thanks, he brake [leave out the word “it”] and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do [or ‘do this’] in remembrance of me.”***

Paul received direct revelation and instruction concerning this Last Supper and about how to observe it. That is quite clear, because Paul says in verse 23, ***“For I have received of the Lord,”*** and then quotes the Lord. If your Bible is a red-letter edition, most of the words in verse 24 to verse 25 are in red, which means those are the words Jesus spoke to Paul. ***“...this do...”*** or ‘do this’! Underline those words. They are in verse 24 and 25.



Verse 25 reads, ***“After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye,”*** [or ‘do this’] ***as oft as ye drink*** [scratch out ‘it’] ***in remembrance of me.***”

Through relating a divine command from the Lord Himself, Paul was saying that going to the Lord’s Supper is not an option; it is a command. Even though most of the church world treats it as an option, it is a command from the Lord to remember Him. If you truly are a disciple of Jesus Christ, there will be no problem following this command. Christ commanded this, not Joe Cortes or any other preacher, and we do not have an option. The Lord’s Supper should be as second nature as washing our hands or, as Jesus showed, as eating when you need to eat or drinking when you need to drink. If there is any one thing that I wish to accomplish in teaching about the Table of the Lord, it is to show you that there is not an option to this. The Lord wants you to remember Him.

Because it is a command, if you do not follow the command as ‘a good soldier of Jesus Christ,’ you are in disobedience, period! Whether you like to hear that or not, whether I like to hear that or not, we are in disobedience, and that brings in sin, period! Most ministries will not tell you this, but this ministry is not like most. This is not some daily habit we participate in because it sounds good or makes us religious. I have no interest in any of that! My interest is in communicating what the Lord has requested from us. Let me ask you this question, “Don’t you think you should communicate to Christ every day in your prayer and supplications?” Do you pray daily? Do you communicate with Christ? Do you check in, to use a simple phrase? My interest is only to bring to the world the command that Jesus gave. If that is not obeyed, it only means we will find ourselves in disobedience, and disobedience always leads to sin. I know you may not hear the message that way at the Lord’s Table. This is not about partaking “unworthily” and “unworthy,” that is for a future message, so do not confuse the two. That is not the context of what Paul was saying here.

In verses 24 and 25, we also see the words ***“in remembrance,”*** which means to consciously call to mind what He did it for us. Go back to verse 24, ***“And when he had given thanks, he brake, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you....”*** Circle these two words, ***“...for you,”*** that means me and you. These might be the two most beautiful words in the Bible. A substitutionary atonement ***“for you,”*** only achieved by the death of the spotless Lamb of God. This recollection, this remembering, this constantly consciously calling to your mind and mine, is a recollection to be celebrated, because He did it for us and we are to remember all of that when we go to the Lord’s Table.

Verse 26 goes on to say, ***“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew”*** [A more correct translation is “ye announce” or “ye proclaim”] ***“the Lord’s death till he come.”*** In both the seen and unseen world, I believe, ye announce, ye proclaim, and we are proclaiming. In a sense, we are all preachers when we go to the Lord’s Table because we are proclaiming what Christ has done every time we observe the Lord’s Supper. If you think about it, we are preaching a Gospel sermon. Showing our obedience in the partaking of communion probably communicates more effectively about our relationship with the Lord than the most persuasive words of any preacher. Think about that.

Ye proclaim or ye announce ***“the Lord’s death till he come.”*** We celebrate the Lord’s Supper expecting that someday He will come, and we are to do this until He comes. This is something

we are to do together and individually. While the Lord's Supper looks backwards to the "*staros*," the cross, and what happened to Christ on it, by announcing "*the Lord's death till he comes*" also looks forward to His crown! He is not dead! He did rise from the grave.

This observance of going to the Lord's Table is not just retrospective, but also prospective. We look back, but know what is coming still yet ahead. Let us do that, and let us continue to do that. Look back, but know what lies ahead. Know who is in control of all, including history, but more importantly, our lives. He not only wants us to remember Him, and act by proclaiming or announcing what He has done for us in the past, and what is still yet to happen in the future. That means He was alive in the past and He is still living today. Death was just a temporary thing for Christ that He went through to fulfill all prophesy. He came out of that grave. He is alive and well. So let us announce and proclaim it to Him. Let us preach that as we share with others. There is no greater message.

People tell me, "I don't know what to say to others." Do what I just instructed you, and which Paul instructed all of us to do, about what it means to go to the Lord's Table recognizing what He did. I bet you will start some conversation after the fact with those wanting to know more about Jesus if they were willing to go to the Table of the Lord with you. Then you can tell them more about why He died for us and came back to life for us, so we could have eternal life. Christianity confuses many things, but the Gospel message is not complicated, thank God!

Take this, eat this, His body is broken for you and for me. That is our instruction. "*Do this in remembrance of me.*" Also, Christ tells us the cup "*is the new testament of my blood: this do ye, [or 'do this'] as oft as ye drink, in remembrance of me.*"

Proclaim it; announce it now to the Lord first. Some viewers tonight may not be sure about the Lord's Table. Well, this is just an introduction about what it really means including all the application that comes with it. You can find other messages in the archives. For now, our focus is on Him and what He has done for us.

So take the bread, and take the wine, and say, "Thank You Jesus. I do want to remember you, as often as I drink and eat, and announce it to You and the rest of the world that I am your disciple and I will not be disobedient and will follow your command." It might look silly to the rest of the world, but thank God, you are not of this world. You are in it, but not of it. Now, let us remember Jesus.

# Living Water

Open your Bible to Jeremiah chapter 2, which is where we will focus on three sources of water in the land of Israel:

1. Cisterns
2. Wells
3. Brooks and Rivers.

The first one, cisterns, was a huge dugout collection of tanks lined with rocks used to collect rainwater during the rainy months. These are massive cisterns, capable of holding millions of gallons of water. Some still exist today in the area of Masada stronghold. However, these cisterns were the least desirable and viable water source in Israel because they could easily become contaminated or stagnant. Also, the cisterns would dry up because the rains would only happen during the rainy season. These water sources were not replenished throughout year, they were used only as long they had water in them, and often they would become contaminated or stagnant.

Wells, the second water source, were the second most viable water source in the land of Israel. Wells provided freshwater. The water was also replenished water, as long as there was not a drought that would potentially cause them to dry up depending on the length of the drought.

Brooks and rivers, which are fed by springs, are the third and most valuable water source in Israel. An example of one of these springs is the *En-gannim*. In the Bible, rivers specifically were known as '*living waters*;' waters with movement.

Occasionally I receive emails and letters saying, "*You must be baptized or you're not going to heaven! You're not going to be accepted in the kingdom of God.*" But what about the thief on the cross? Jesus said he would be with Him in Paradise before the end of the day, but he did not get baptized in water before he died. Did Jesus make an exception? Most of these people do not realize, if you are going to follow a Baptismal Doctrine, you would never get baptized in a cistern or any kind of non-moving water. Living waters represent movement; waters with movement are the most valuable water source. Jesus got baptized in moving water by John the Baptist. Yet, churches around this world baptize in a tank, a cistern. They may believe the water is symbolic, but if it is, then it is not necessary, is it? This message is not about baptism, however, so return to Jeremiah 2, where the Lord used Jeremiah to illustrate a truth about Israel's rebellion through its idolatry.

In verse 13 it reads, "***For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns....***"

Remember, cisterns contain water that can become contaminated and stagnant. To me the church world is living in that state; it has become stagnant and contaminated by silly doctrines, and cookie-cutter religious practices. And, only you can ask yourself which of these three categories

you find yourself in. Have you become contaminated by religious nonsense? Have you become stagnant? Are you seasonal, and when the water dries up, you dry up? Or, are you the third option; filled with living water that is on the move.

***“For my people have committed two evils they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”***

So let us look now at what this living water is, and who provides it. In John 7:37, Jesus makes it very clear. It reads, ***“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.***

***He that believeth [or Pisteo - he that trusts and has confidence] on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”***

Verse 39 goes on to explain what that means, ***“(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost [really ‘Spirit,'] was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”***

In other words, Christ was saying that we will be filled with living water, which Christ said is the Spirit, the Holy Spirit. All we have to do is believe, or have trust and confidence in Him, as the Scripture has said and as we just read. And out of your heart will flow rivers of the living water, the purest, most valuable water that will never dry up; it still is today.

John 4:13 is about the Samaritan woman, ***“Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drink of this water [the water from the first two categories] shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh the water which I shall give him [the living water] shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be him a well of water [actually a fountain of water, which was life-giving] springing up into everlasting life.”***

In addition to these two verses, there is more. In Isaiah 44:3, the Lord is speaking to Jacob through Isaiah and we see the relationship between the water and the spirit. Here, the Lord states, ***“For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring.”***

This is a prophecy about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and its relationship to salvation. Living Water represents the Holy Spirit. When Jesus spilled his blood, our sins were forgiven. He took that blood, and it sits there on the heavenly Mercy Seat to blot out our sins forever. Our sins cannot be found anywhere; past, present, or future. Christ spilled His blood. He broke His body. He presented that blood. But He also promised that the comforter, the Holy Spirit, would come and fill our belly with rivers of living water.

In Isaiah 12, among the description of attacks and other events that will happen across the Middle East in the future, there is a Hymn of Thanksgiving. And although these verses speak to the children of Israel, it is also a promise for anyone that has been saved by the Blood of Jesus Christ. Beginning in verse 1, we read,

***“And in that day [yet to come] thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: for though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.”***

I only can imagine what it is like to have living water flowing through me like a river. I cannot see the Holy Spirit in me, but if compared to the blood that flows through me, it never stops, it reaches every limb, it nurses every part of this fleshly body, and without it I would be dead. Likewise, without the Holy Spirit in my being, I would be spiritually dead because it flows like moving living water in my being. Even though I cannot see it or feel it, I know it is there and I know it is comforting me. There are times I question this comfort, but I know He is there. I have trust and confidence in Jesus Christ, and the comforter that He promised. Even though the Lord was once angry with me also, he is not any longer. His son took care of that. And His son promised the comforter, the Holy Spirit, would come after He ascended. I have confidence and faith that it did. And now God’s anger is turned away because He knows what Jesus did, and He knows what is inside us.

Isaiah 12:2 continues:

***“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.”***

I am thankful that God is our salvation and that He has given us the opportunity to trust. The next time someone wants you to pray over the Thanksgiving dinner, read them this chapter. Instead of some other prayer, say to them, “I want to read to you this scripture; a hymn of Thanksgiving found in Isaiah 12:1-6.

***‘Behold God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells [or fountains] of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call [or proclaim] upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.’***

That is what I have been trying to get you to do for many years now. There is no excuse why you cannot declare his doings among many people. You are without excuse. We have plenty to proclaim about His name. He is become our salvation. He has filled us with Living Waters, the Holy Spirit. When we go to the Table of the Lord and take the elements, we exalt His name, The Most High. Verse 5 tells us,

***“Sing unto the Lord; for he [Christ] had done excellent things: this is known [or make it known] in all the earth. [This is past tense. We have been saved by the blood of Jesus Christ] Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.”***

This Psalm is written for Israel, but it can be applied to our life. ***“Cry out and shout... for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.”*** He is in the midst of you right now, literally, He is in us, in our flesh. That was the promise. Do you believe He died? Do you believe He rose from the dead? Then it is hard not to believe that He has filled us with the Holy Spirit. Put your

trust and confidence in not only what He has done for you in the past, but also what He continues doing daily.

In this chapter I want remember Him differently. Usually we remember that He spilled His precious blood by presenting His unblemished body. Instead, I want to proclaim His name among anyone that will read this. Remember what He has done for us to put a song of salvation in our heart and life and fill us with rivers of living water, the Holy Spirit. Then, we too can say,

***“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid.”***

There are things that, if I allow it, would put me in a state of constant fear. But I have to remind myself at least once an hour that I serve a God who is on my side. He *is* my salvation. I must keep trusting, and not be afraid because ***“the Lord Jehovah is my strength, and song.”*** Praise be to Jesus! ***“He also has become my salvation.”*** Why would I not want that proclaimed throughout this Earth. Why wouldn't you? Look what He has done for us. He has done excellent things. So let us keep crying out. Let us keep participating in getting out the Word so others can run to Jesus to receive living waters.

Too many people, including the church world, are stuck in cisterns, contaminated stagnant water, or in wells that are seasonal and spend most of the year dry. That is why Christianity is not making an impact. Yes, many are called and few are chosen, but the ones that are even chosen are preaching a diluted or misleading message that revert people back to looking at their own merits and works to stay saved, to keep in the faith. Instead, we should keep our eyes and focus on Jesus; He will work at all the other details and changes in our life. Unfortunately, the Christian world is more concerned about our own merits. My motto is: “Let Jesus change our lives, He will do a better job.” Christians, who try to earn salvation on their own through misleading teaching, find themselves in cisterns, or dry wells. Instead, run to the living water that never dries up, that keeps providing nourishment.

We also need to remember something that Christ promised and did for us. The Holy Spirit is in me and it is in you accomplishing what *it* deems necessary in our life. We are a work in progress. The one that should be doing the work is the Holy Spirit through His Word, not through any human effort that only leads us back to the cistern, and not just any cistern, but a broken cistern where nothing can be contained and only drains out.

Let us not be empty vessels. Let us be the vessels which were promised to us, filled with the Holy Spirit, remembering who died for us, and who provided this River of Living Water, Jesus Christ. Let us be thankful as we remember what He has done for us as we take these elements.

Thank you, Jesus, for providing me Rivers of Living Water.

# Blood Filter

Today I was contemplating the blood of Christ thinking about how important it is in how God perceives us. Without it, I do not even want to know what God's thoughts are when He looks at sinful man. I was trying to find a piece of artwork to use as an example. Everything has such thick canvasses today that the paint does not bleed through the canvas. But, if you look at a picture that was painted on a thin piece of canvas, you will notice that on the back of the canvas, the paint bleeds through. All you see are these blotches and pathways where one color ends and another color begins. The back of the picture compared to the front of the picture is like night and day, complete opposites. The front of the picture is wonderful and beautiful, maybe even be priceless to you, but if you flip it over, the back of the canvas might not be very attractive or ugly, not something to gaze upon. But that is not how God, our Heavenly Father, sees us. Instead, He sees the entire painting, not just the ugly backside of the painting. He sees beauty because of what Christ has done, and that is the frame of mind I want you to put yourself in. So take the flesh out of it and know that God sees the entire front of that picture, the thing of beauty and value. He does not even try to peak at the back to see what it is like. He is not concerned with that anymore and does not need to see the rear any longer to see the blotches, the splatter, and the interconnecting pathways that really do not paint a beautiful picture.

Compare that painting to our lives. The back of the painting with all the imperfections, is the sin our lives, but God is not concerned with it anymore because of what His only begotten Son did. God knows we are sinners, but it does not matter, because of what Christ did at Calvary on the cross. God sees us as beautiful priceless masterpieces.

I remember when I was a teenager about 17 years old in the church Faith Center, where there was a youth group. I was kind of a rebellious kid, not a troublemaker, but I had a rebellious mind even though I knew I was saved by grace at this time. In this youth group, they wanted me and a few others to share our testimony about how bad we were and how Jesus saved us from the wretched life we were rescued from, but I had a problem with that. I did share my testimony once and never did it again. Even though the youth pastor asked me several more times, I would not do it because I had the good sense even back then to realize there was no reason to share my past. Why would I share with the congregation, most of whom I did not know, sins from my ugly past? I had not even lived that many years to create that many sins and now I had to share with other people what I was like. It was as if they wanted to create drama for the busy bees sitting in the congregation. For the most part, I thought they were just trying to analyze me to see if I was telling the truth or not, to decide if I really was saved by grace. I hated that. Maybe some of you who grew up around the church have had similar experiences. Why do I have to drag the past into the present? It is not Christian like and it is not scriptural. Paul says "I am the chief of sinners," but he does not dwell on it. The book of Acts only gives a very brief timeline of what Paul did before he became a Christian, a disciple of Jesus Christ, but it does not dwell on it. Yet Christians dwell on the past incorporating it into their testimony to convince somebody else that they were bad, but look what happened, so maybe it could happen to you too. I remember telling the youth pastor that I would not do that again. He would still ask me about once a month, and I would still say no. I regretted doing it the first time. Even back then, I knew that if God did not

see my sin any longer because of what Christ did, I did not need to confess them in front of everyone else. God had blotted them out of his mind. Christianity has developed stupid traditions that do not make any sense. I use common sense based on what is found in the Scriptures, not man-made doctrines.

God is not looking at the back of the painting to see the imperfections, the sins in my life. He just wants to marvel at the beautiful masterpiece. If you feel uncomfortable calling yourself a beautiful masterpiece, then you are insulting God with your self-righteous false humility. It is an insult to God and to His Son, who died on the cross. God looks at us through the sacrifice of his only begotten son, Jesus Christ who died on that cross, and He now sees the beauty because of the Son's blood covering. Although I do it less and less, the more I know concerning the blood of Christ, I know it is just natural to wonder sometimes how God looks upon us, and how he conceives us as a finished work, even though we are in the process of being completed. You might wonder how He can see through our selfish, sinful, imperfect ways and then label us as a precious and valuable prize. There is only one way that happens. I am trying to relay the simple truth of God's Word. There is only one way He can see us as a valuable prize, a precious masterpiece, and only one way. It is because He uses the filter of the blood of Jesus Christ. You heard me right. He looks at us through the filter of the blood of Jesus Christ.

I looked up the definitions for the word 'filter.' There are different types of filters. For instance, cameras have filters that change the perspective of the image when you take that picture. However, here is one definition, ***"The purpose of a filter is to clean out bad particles so that whatever the filter is cleaning will be clean."*** The blood of Jesus Christ does that! That is why God uses the filter of the blood of Jesus Christ to look at us, because Christ's blood cleansed us. It took sin away, and God does not see the sin because of the blood. When God looks at us, He does not see any imperfections, even though I am not perfect, even though I have not been perfected completely, He does not see that. You cannot tell me the blood of Christ is not precious. God no longer sees the imperfections and sins. And if God, because of the blood of His Son, does not see the sins, because it is filtered by the blood of Jesus Christ, then why do I have to stand in front of a bunch of people and tell them how bad I was and all the bad things I have done. Did they just promote themselves to God or better yet, did they just promote themselves better than God? God is not concerned with their past, only they are.

Thank God, God sees us through the filter of Jesus's blood. Our sins, our imperfections cannot be seen through the blood filter. Remember, ***"the purpose of a filter is to clean out bad particles so whatever the filter is cleaning will be clean."*** God looks at us and sees His original intent before sin. That should give us confidence to boldly approach him, because we can.

Ephesians 3:12 tells us, ***"In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him."*** This scripture not only encourages us, it says that we can have boldness to approach the Father confidently, and boldly, because in His eyes, we are perfect.

Hebrews 10:19 states, ***"Having therefore, brethren, boldness (in Greek, it is with liberty, with confidence) to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus."***



We no longer bear the evidence or imperfections of sin before God's eyes. This is not because we act perfectly, not because what we do all the time is always right, and not because we have no sin. It is because God sees us through Jesus's blood filter, which has made us a perfect thing of beauty and valuable to God forever. That is what the blood filter has done.

Let me put this another way; the next time you cut your finger, and it bleeds because you cut yourself deeply, before you rush to clean it or wrap it to wipe away the blood, look closely at the wound. Now please, do not cut yourself on purpose to see if the illustration works, just wait until the next time it happens. But, when you cut yourself deeply, try to look at the wound and you may see something remarkable; you will not see the wound because of the blood covering. Now put that in a spiritual sense of understanding of what Christ has done for us. He has covered us with his blood and our Heavenly Father does not see the ugly wound that sin created. Instead, it is covered in blood and God uses the blood filter Jesus Christ provided to perceive us as a masterpiece through our daily trust and faith in Jesus Christ.

I want to finish this chapter with an excerpt written a long time ago that is appropriate. It begins by explaining that we keep the blood covering,

***“Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all of God’s commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I have never sinned nor been a sinner, as if I have been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is accept [I prefer, ‘acknowledge’] this gift of God with a believing [really, trusting and faithing] heart.”*** That is all we have to do, and it provides so much.

Christ provided the blood filter through the blood He spilled at Calvary that God now uses to perceive us, even though we know we are flawed. That is what Paul so beautifully writes in scripture, **“there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”** God sees the painting from the front, and He likes what He sees. He does not need to look at the back and see all that messed up accumulation of colors that make no sense and add no value to the picture. It is precious blood, not only precious for us, but also precious to the Heavenly Father, because now He can commune with us once again. All because of what His only begotten Son was willing to take what we deserved.

So now, remember Him as we are commanded to do, as we take these elements and thank Him for creating the masterpiece that His Father now can gaze on, and prize as a valuable piece. Remember Jesus as we take the elements.

# In Remembrance of Me

The Lord's Supper is also a time of anticipation for the future, but in this chapter, I want to look at the past. As you know, we go to the Table of the Lord because it is important because Jesus commanded it. He made it very clear in I Corinthians 11: 24 and 25. He commanded it! And if He commanded it, we should be obedient servants and follow through on His commands. The Table of the Lord is designed as a teachable moment, when our whole being; body, mind, and soul become involved in remembering Him. As I have said, you should do this always.

In I Corinthians 11:26, Christ said, ***“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show [or announce to the world] the Lord’s death till he come.”*** And His death was not only a physical death, but the death to sin. Every time we sit down for a meal, it is a wonderful opportunity to remember what He has done for us and even though it is a command, it should become second nature to us.

The Lord's Supper is a time of remembrance of the past. It replaced the Passover meal from the Old Testament whose purpose was to call to remembrance God's deliverance of His people from Egypt. At the Passover meal, each action and every element had a purpose that was to be followed. First, after living the week with the family, the lamb was taken to the temple and killed. At the temple, its blood was poured out becoming the sin offering. Unleavened bread served during the Passover meal represented the haste in which the Israelites left Egypt. The bowl of salt water represented the tears of their time in slavery as well as the passing over of the Red Sea (actually the passing over of the Gulf of Aqaba). Bitter herbs represented the bitter life of slavery. The mashed fruit, the paste like substance made from mashed fruit and nuts, was also included to remind them of the bricks of clay they made without straw and represented the time when their burdens became really difficult. In addition, the singing of Psalms 113 through 118 and Psalm 139 were to remind the people at this Passover meal that it was God who saved them and it was God who blessed them; an essential part of the Passover meal. In addition, there were four cups of wine poured to remind the Israelites of the four promises of God found in Exodus 6 in the Old Testament. Remember, the Lord's Supper replaced the Passover meal, but these promises are the same whether you are a Jew or a Christian, whether an Israelite or not because II Corinthians 1:20 tells us, ***“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen....”***

Regarding these four promises of God, go to Exodus 6:6 and 7, and know that as we go to the Table of the Lord, we can claim those same promises not only to remember what He has done for us, but to look back at Christ as our replacement. He died on the cross and rose again to

rescue a miserable wretch like me and you to give us hope, ***“elpis”*** in the Greek, hope in eternal salvation. Our hope is in Christ Jesus.

In Exodus 6:6 is the first promise. ***“Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians....”*** Now we are not under the burdens of the Egyptians, but Egypt is a symbol of sin, and as Satan introduced sin, we can substitute 'sin' for 'the Egyptians' here. But, before that, we are told, ***“...I am the LORD, and I***

*will bring you out from under the burdens,*” which is something we were forced into. We are born into sin. There is a song titled, “You’ve Got to Serve Somebody.” Well, either we serve the devil and his minions, or we serve God and His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. He is not going to force you into it, but Satan does, and you do not even realize it if you are under his domain, his control. In verse 6, God is saying “*...I will bring you out from under the forced labor, burdens, and service...*” not of the Egyptians, but of sin. However, since Christ went to that cross, died and rose again, we can claim this promise. This is why these promises really are promises for us to give us hope and to remember what He has done for us. The Israelites would remember how God brought them out of slavery, bondage, forced service and labor into something just the opposite if they would have stayed faithful. “*...I will bring you out from under the forced burden and service of Satan;*” write that note in your Bibles. Satan is the prince of this world; the kingdoms are his and he tried to present them to Christ in the Temptation, but Christ would have none of it. God tells us “... I will bring you out from under the forced labor and service of Satan himself and all his minions.” Halleluiah, we are not under his dominion any longer!

God’s second promise is, “*...I will rid you out of their bondage....*” That is Satan’s bondage, I would say, but bondage in this verse is ‘captive service.’ If you are not covered by the blood of Jesus Christ, you are not a disciple of His and you are under Satan’s control. You are a captive servant providing service whether you realize it or not. You are a pawn in his chess match with God, but Satan will lose the match. The question is which side are you on? The side that covers you with Christ’s blood, where God looks upon you as sinless, even though we still sin? Or are you on the other side, under Satan’s control? God promised “*...I will rid you out of the captive service...*” of Satan and his minions.

Third, we are promised “*... and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm....*” Did Christ do that for us? Absolutely! He died, went to the grave, rose again, and redeemed us. He did redeem us. Not only is this a promise, but all these are things to remember, not at the Passover meal any longer, but at the Lord’s Table every time we participate in it, as an obedient disciple of Jesus Christ.

Fourth, we are promised in verse 7, “*And I will take you to me for a people....*” That is another Hallelujah, Praise Jesus verse! Christ bought us with a horrible price that nobody else could fulfill or accomplish. He left the heavenlies to be born in the flesh of human kind. He died in the same flesh; although sinless, He was the perfect unblemished lamb and He wants us to trust and faith in what He did for us, and live every day of our life, even though we might slip, knowing that He is there and return to the same path of trusting and faithing again. Christ does not let go very easily because He paid the price.

“*And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: [He is our savior]and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.*” For us, Christ brings us out from under forced labor and service of sin and Satan’s dominion that we are born into. But now, because of what Christ did, His promise is that He will bring us out from under that dominion of captive service and set us free! And free indeed did He set us. Just have the steadfastness to keep trusting in Jesus Christ every day because of what He has done for us. If you have never had another promise fulfilled in your life that you could claim through God’s scripture, this promise is more than enough.

Go to Psalm 113, one of the Psalms sung at the Passover meal that we can apply to our understanding of the Lord's Table today.

It begins, ***"Praise ye the LORD [or "Halleluiah" in some versions]. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.***

***LORD from this time forth and for evermore.***  
***unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised."***

***Blessed be the name of the  
From the rising of the sun***

Verse 5 continues, ***"Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, [No one else could have come but the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ, to do what He did. That is why this was promised repeatedly throughout the Old Testament that a redeemer was coming.] Who humbled himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth! He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifeth the needy out of the dunghill;"***

The 'poor' written of in verse 7 is not the poor person on the street with no money or no place to live. No, the 'poor' here in the Hebrew is *'one who is weak, one who is low.'* This verse should read, ***"He raiseth up the weak, the one who is low."*** Before we understood what Christ did for us, we were below bottom. We were damned! Think about it. We were damned, not just in the here and now, but throughout eternity. And now, understanding what Christ has done for us, and because faith cometh by hearing, and hearing the Word of God, we are persuaded to trust and have confidence in Him who raised us from a spiritually weak condition that kept us at a low point. This condition is indescribable, if you really think about it, because I do not know if anyone could describe what eternal damnation would be like, but Christ rescued us; He raised us. He raised from the grave to give us hope that we can be raised from the spiritually wicked condition that keeps us at a low, beyond low, condition, to one that sits praising and understanding what a privilege and a benefit we received because of His wonderful sacrifice.

Read verse 7 again. ***"He raiseth up the weak, or one who is low, out of the dust,"*** Literally, some translations say 'ashes,' although I like 'rubbish.' That is right; He raised us out of the rubbish, the spiritual dumpsite, and now, we are restored and in spiritual restoration growing in Him.

***"He raiseth up the weak, or one who is low, out of the rubbish, and lifteth the needy,"*** those subject to spiritual oppression and abuse under Satan's bondage. That does not mean Satan will stop spiritually oppressing you once you have been spiritually restored, but now we have tools to combat his strategies and attacks. That is why one of the first things I did was preach on spiritual warfare in Ephesians chapter 6. That word "needy" in the Hebrew is quite descriptive. You would never think it by just looking at it in the King James or any other version, but it describes someone who is subject to oppression and abuse needing help and deliverance. Whether you have been spiritually restored or not, when you go to the Table of the Lord, it is a time to remember that Satan had you under his control and in his dominion as a pawn. That state of oppression and abuse meant you did need help and deliverance, and thank God, we received it. That is something to remember when we go to the Table of the Lord.

In Exodus 6:8 there is an additional promise, ***"And I will bring you into the land ... and I will give it to you for an heritage [inheritance literally]: for I am the LORD."*** Today, we are not that concerned about the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob once you have been

spiritually restored and follow Jesus Christ as a disciple. What I claim, however, is the same promise that states “...*I will give it to you for an heritage...*” We could call it our citizen card for the heavenlies that means we will be there eternally, wherever ‘there’ is, or wherever Christ places us. We will not be in eternal damnation because we have inherited what we have our eternal hope on, and that is in the future, not the here and now. What is promised to us in the future cannot even compare to what people struggle with in the here and now.

With that, we go to the Table of the Lord using the Passover meal, including the four cups of wine, as an illustration. Then we can look back and say, “Hey! It was true then and it is true now, even more so, because of what Jesus Christ did for all of us who would trust and faith in Him.” He has raised us up when we were weak and low, a spiritual despot. He has rescued us from oppression and abuse. We needed help and deliverance and He provided. There are so many things that we can remember and pull from God’s word. Those Old and New Testament saints looked back at that Passover meal and understood that now Christ is our Passover. We have so much more we can remember and actually apply a deeper meaning to these promises than even the children of the Israelites. At that time, they were applying the promises to the here and now, but we can apply them to our life here and now, and in the future. He is in us and we are in Him. Why would we not remember Him as often as ye eat and drink? Why?

Thank God, He was there when we were spiritually oppressed and abused by spiritual evil. Thank God, He rescued us because He knew we needed help and deliverance. I have told you before my definition of love because other definitions do not really describe it sufficiently. Some of those definitions you could apply, but I love that Christ and God had the love to give us what we needed. He knew what we needed and He knew it would rescue us, deliver us. Christ gave us what we needed, not what we wanted. The world did not want Jesus; the world did not want Him as their savior. They thought they could do it by their works, and they still think that today, but it is by and through Jesus Christ only.

So, as we go to the Table of the Lord, and we take the elements, and declare, announce, to the world that we do remember what Christ has done for us. He has rescued us from oppression. He has rescued us from abuse. He has rescued us when we needed deliverance, when we needed help. Thank you Jesus for doing all that for us, and we look forward, into the future, to spend our eternal life with you. Take the bread and wine now, in Jesus’ name.

# No Blood Equals Death

Before going to I Samuel 5 for this Table of the Lord, I will share with you some very general, but brief information concerning the Ark of the Covenant, which relates to this message.

*This article states, “The central object of the tabernacle was the Arc of the Covenant. This was an oblong box made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold. In this box together with a pot of manna and the rod of Aaron reposed the Law of God which demanded death of the Israelites. They had broken the law even before Moses had brought it down from the mountain, and that broken Law demanded death. God had made a provision whereby the guilty ones could be spared from death and the penalty of the law. This provision was a mercy seat which rested on top of the arc which contained the Law of God. This mercy seat was a cover made of beaten gold with two Cherubim overshadowing it. This mercy seat was of no avail until the High priest had taken blood from the altar and sprinkled it on the mercy seat over the arc and then when Jehovah came down upon the arc in the Shekinah cloud, He did not see the law but instead the blood and the law was satisfied. And God was reconciled and instead of the curse of the Law He now brought the blessing of the blood for He said ‘When I see the blood I will pass over you.’ There can only be one escape the curse of the law and the penalty of sin and that is the blood. Take away the blood and death falls. Remove the blood from the Bible and it dies as surely as when you remove the blood from human body. There can only be one place of shelter and that is under the blood. Remember that there can only be one place a shelter and that is under the blood.”*

This message may not seem like a communion message, but first go to I Samuel 5, and we will get there. Previously, in Chapter 4, the Philistines captured the Ark of God, and at the end of chapter 4, was Eli’s death. Then in chapter 5, God judged the Philistines for taking the Ark.

Verse 1 begins, *“And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer onto Ashdod.*

*When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon [a famous idol temple at that time], and set it by Dagon.*

*And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon [one of the gods they worshiped] was fallen upon his face on the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again.”*

Their idol fell. I know some people may say it was just a coincidence, or it might have been a minor earthquake, or strong winds, but he fell in front of the Ark and the Ark did not fall.

Verse 4, *“And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him.”*

The idol fell again in front of the Ark, but this time he lost his head and his hands.

Verse 5 reads, ***“Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon’s house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day.”***

These people were very upset by this. You would think that it would be a perfect opportunity to convert, leave Dagon on the floor, sweep him up, or throw him out. But they continued to reject God in the face of evidence. It was easier to put Dagon back together than to submit to the true living God and now the only thing left of Dagon is a stump.

Verse 6, ***“But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof.”***

Some like to make this sound better by saying ‘boils,’ but God gave them hemorrhoids that lead to boils. Just think how painful that would be; hemorrhoids that become boils, and probably not small boils or hemorrhoids either. I imagine they were very large. They were in serious trouble that affected everyone from Ashdod even to the coasts thereof, according to verse six.

Verse 7, ***“And when the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, The ark of the God of Israel should not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god.”***

What a perfect opportunity for them to send the Ark back, and stop fighting the Israelites. They missed the opportunity in understanding the God they serve, who He is, and how powerful He is. He was certainly powerful enough to give them some awful large oozing hemorrhoids.

Verse 8, ***“They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? [Because it has power with Israel, but look what it was doing to us; we cannot live this way] And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. [‘Let’s give it to someone else that is also an enemy of Israel. Let this be their problem.’] And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about thither. And it was so, that, after they had carried about, the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction [Gath did not fare any better than Ashdod]: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great, and they had emerods in their secret parts.”***

Maybe the people of Gath thought the people in Ashdod were just making this up or it was not really from God, but both small and great, they all had it, and they had it in their ‘secret parts.’

Verse 10 goes on, ***“Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. [You would think they would learn by now.] And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people.”***

At least they understood. They probably had heard the stories coming from Ashdod and Gath about what happened when they seized the Ark that belonged to Israel, and God was not very pleased. In fact, God demonstrated He would destroy their false gods and He would give them problems to deal with; large hemorrhoid boils. As a result, in verse 10, the people of Ekron do not want the Ark, and in verse 11 we read,

***“So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.”***

You would think these Philistines would get the message to not mess with Israel, God's chosen people, but in verse 12,

***“And the men that died not were smitten with emerods: and the cry of the city went up unto heaven.”***

In the end, these Philistines finally returned the Ark back to Israel. We learn in Chapter 6, verse one, ***“And the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.”*** Just think about it, it took seven months for them to figure this out, while people were dying and suffering from hemorrhoidal boils.

In verse 2, ***“And the Philistines called for the priests the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the LORD? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.***

***And they said, If ye send away the ark of the God of Israel, send it not empty; but in any wise return him a trespass offering: then ye shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand is not removed from you.***

***Then said they, What shall be the trespass offering which we shall return to him? They answered, Five golden emerods, and five golden mice, according to number of the lords of the Philistines: for one plague was on you all, and on your lords.***

***Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, [I wonder who was chosen to pose for that!] and images of your mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel: peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land.”***

Now here is where the advice fails. I can understand that God would ***‘lighten his hand off you,’*** but ***‘from your gods’?*** Do you think that God will lighten up on that? He is the God that said, ‘Do not put any other gods before me.’ He will not lighten his hand off false gods or false religions.

But, verse 6 continues, ***“Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?”*** [He is reminding them of the stories about what the God of the Israelites did.]

***Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine [literally, nursing cows], on which there had come no yolk, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them: And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him for a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.***

***And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, then he had done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that smote us: it was a chance that happened to us.*** [They put this new plan to the test.]



*And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home:*

*And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods.*

*And the kine took the straight way to the way of Bethshemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Bethshemesh. [I am sure they could not wait to have this punishment removed.]*

*And they of Bethshemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it.*

*And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Bethshemite, and stood there, where there was a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD. [At the end of the journey, there was a burnt offering and a treasure offering.]*

*And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Bethshemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD. [So far, so good.]*

Skipping to verse 17, we read, *“And these are the golden emerods which the Philistines returned for a trespass offering unto the LORD; for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Askelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one;*

*And the golden mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both of fenced cities, and of country villages, even unto the great stone of Abel, whereon they set down the ark of the LORD: which stone remaineth unto this day in the field of Joshua, the Bethshemite.”*

You are probably wondering what this has to do with communion. Why are we reading this story about the Philistines that captured the Ark, where one city after the other was punished with hemorrhoids, boils, and death because they had possession of the Ark? Ultimately, they finally understood and sent the Ark back to the Israelites with burnt and treasure offerings. And once the Israelites again possessed the Ark, they also offered offerings. But, something happens here in this story; it takes a turn for the worse. In the next verse, many preachers do not understand the significance of the Ark of the Covenant and the mercy seat. Why in the world did God smite the Bethshemites in verse 19?

*“And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD....”* They just took a peak, what is wrong with that? Maybe they wanted to check and make sure all the items were inside this Ark. What is wrong with just peeking?

However, in Numbers 4:15, there are instructions about the Ark. It reads, *“And when Aaron [the High priest] and his sons had made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation.”* Other scriptures also give instructions. For instance, Numbers 4:20 says, *“But they shall not go in to see when the holy things are covered, lest they die.”* While I was researching these scriptures, others come to the conclusion that if you take Numbers chapter 4, and other areas of God’s Word in the Old Testament as well and rebel against the instructions that I just read to you in Numbers 4:15 and

4:20, that you will be punished, and death will be the punishment. Their conclusions are just about obedience. God said it, and if you violate what God said, you will die. So, the Bethshemites knew this punishment, but they took a peek anyway in verse 19.

***“And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men [50,070 men]: And the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter.”***

Preacher after preacher focuses on obedience when it comes to this verse. I am not saying that they should have not been obedient, but *why* should they be obedient? Yes, we know that God wanted them to be obedient. He said, do not do it, but they did it anyway, so they died, and not just one or two people died. Their action affected over fifty thousand men. ***“And the people lamented.”*** Just think about it; they did not even get the benefit of just having hemorrhoids or boils, God struck them dead.

This story has everything to do with communion. Remember, it was the mercy seat on top of the Ark, like a covering or lid with items inside. But that lid sat as a covering. Blood was sprinkled on that mercy seat and there can only be one place of shelter, and that is under the blood. In verse 19, we could tell ourselves that they were just disobedient, so God smote them dead. Yes, they were disobedient; but something additional went with that. We could be dissident and not be smote to death. It happens every day by people not covered under the blood. We also see that in the Old Testament over and over. People not covered by the blood of animals were disobedient, but they did not die because of their disobedience and sin. So why did this happen in I Samuel 6:19? Why did God smote to death over 50,000 people? And let me tell you right now, I believe the Philistines also looked inside that Ark. The Ark was in five different cities, not to mention with the people that captured it. They probably looked themselves, and even though they faced God’s wrath and punishment, it was nothing like what these Israelites faced. God’s chosen people had the Ark back in their hands and they suffered far more because of disobedience, but also something far greater than that happened. For just an instant, the blood was removed from over the Law.

Inside the Ark sat the broken pieces of the law. The mercy seat and the cherubim were the covering with the blood sprinkled by the High priest. The people, who should have known better, lifted off the lid removing the blood covering from over the law. And what did God do? God looked upon the law, without the protecting covering of the blood. We know Jesus’s blood is far more precious than the blood of the Old Testament animal sacrifices because His is sinless blood. These Bethshemites, because of their obedience to God in their sacrifices, could have covered their sin and had a covering over the law, which they could not keep, even though they tried hard. That is why the High priest in the Old Testament sprinkled toward the mercy seat the blood of the sacrifices. That action was a type of looking forward to what Jesus would do for everyone. When He covered us with His blood, He would cover the law, and the law is dead because Christ covered it once and for all. No matter what happens, His protecting blood covers us, and there is no longer eternal death.

However, in I Samuel 6:19, God looked upon the law without the protecting cover of the blood and it created a situation where people died. They had removed the blood from over the law. It

saddens me that the significance of what really happened here is not preached. The Lord smote 50,070 inhabitants of this city of Bethshemesh and I think we are given this record to emphasize the fact that without His blood, there is no remission. That precious blood is the only guaranty from the curse of the law, death, and even the wrath of the true holy God. Just imagine, over fifty thousand men slain by the wrath of God, because they looked for only a brief moment upon the Law of God, without the covering blood. God provided a provision, a way of escape for them, but do not lose the significance of why the blood is here in the first place. This illustrates the plan of salvation and points forward to the true Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood alone was able to make eternal atonement for sin.

In the Old Testament, if you study the scriptures, this cannot be overlooked. It is a fact that the blood sprinkled upon the mercy seat in the Tabernacle had to be applied again, and again, decade after decade, century after century. The high priest on the Day of Atonement would repeat that ceremony sprinkling fresh blood on the Ark. The blood of bulls, goats, and lambs could not atone for sin, but it pointed forward to the one that would come in the end of that age to put away sin by His sacrifice. Only Jesus Christ could do that.

Fortunately, we are not faced with a situation like these Bethshemites in Israel. We do not have to worry about peeking under the mercy seat, unless you want to go back and live the law. You might not die now, but you are just as good as those who were trying to be redeemed with corruptible things. God's Word is not corruptible; man could not live it, which is why they became corruptible. Silver and gold, merit, or good deeds will not buy our way. As I Peter tells us, it is only through the precious blood of Christ, that we do not see spiritual corruption. We do not have to worry about peeking in to see if the law is still there. Jesus covered it for us. He fulfilled the law and we live through Him, on what He, not only came to do, but also succeeded in doing.

Unfortunately, too many Christians that want to somehow go back to the law. They may understand grace, but they also say we have to live the law, which is the equivalent of removing the cover to peek and see if the law is in there or not. When we remove the covering from the Ark of the Covenant's mercy seat, we remove the lid sprinkled with blood that covers the law that we cannot keep. If you think you can keep the law, you are not practicing Christianity as defined in the New Testament. You diminish what Jesus Christ did on the cross and you diminish why He rose from the dead, which was for our benefit. We must realize that without blood, there is no remission of sin. We no longer must sacrifice animals year after year. Christ, in Hebrews, said He did it once and that is all that was necessary to be covered by His blood. His blood covered the law once and for all, so do not go back and follow the law. However, Jesus did give some commandments in the New Testament. Love was one of them. We are to love one another, and obviously love God as the true and only God.

I want us to look at this story and the next time somebody tries to get you to practice some element of the Mosaic Law, tell them that you will not remove Jesus's covering blood from over the law that He fulfilled. It covered my sins, and provided me eternal life. Do not fall into that trap of Satan, which takes us back to before what Christ came to fulfill. Following the law demeans everything that Christ did for us. I have no desire to look in the law, to peek at it, without the protective covering of the blood. We can look back at the Old Testament, read about

it now, and realize we are covered by Christ's blood. I do not need to keep that law any longer. His grace is sufficient; His blood is sinless.

It was because of Adam's sin that the punishment came to all of us; and since Adam, there never was a sinless man, with sinless blood. That is why we needed Jesus; His covering and removal of all of our sins. Whether I keep the law or not, I know Christ has already kept it for me. Tell the 'peekers' of the law to get lost. We will not revert and demean our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and His precious blood. In the Old Testament, the blood covering over the law was needed, and when that covering was removed, death resulted. When we take Christ's blood away, only one thing is certain, eternal spiritual death. That is why it is important to have that blood covering. That is why Christ asked us to remember what He did for us. Only His spilled blood and only His body could cover us eternally.

So thank Him for doing so as we take these elements. Do this and thank Him every day, several times a day, and remember Him. Christ said this and did this while the disciples were taking the meal with Him. When you eat, remember Him. Make that a practice in your life and remember Him, always. The elements are really not needed, but, if you want to take it with the elements, remember Him, always. Remember His mercy. Remember that He covered the law and removed our sins, once and for all.

Say it, "Thank you Jesus. Thank you Jesus for your blood covering."

# The Bread of Life

Paul writes in I Corinthians 11:23 to 25,

***“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread:***

***And when he had given thanks, he brake, and said Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.***

***After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink, in remembrance of me.”***

In these verses, the word ‘it’ was added by the translators, so we do not read that word.

Now, go back up to verse 24 and look at it again. ***“And when he had given thanks, he brake, and said, Take, eat: this is my body....”*** Christ is speaking of the bread, of course, but I have a cracker and a little wine when I partake. And as I have said before, these elements are symbolic of what Jesus was trying to put into practice with His disciples and Christians ever since. In this verse, Christ was saying, “As often as you eat, remember what I did for you. My body was broken; my blood was shed for your benefit. He died but, He also came out of the grave and Jesus lives.”

In verse 26, Christ tells us He also wants us to announce not only the Lord’s physical death, but death to sin “till He come,” which I have had you write in the margins of your Bible. That means we are to do this ‘till He comes in these last days no matter when we lived in the last 2000 years, but also to the very end when He comes.

To tell the truth, we do not even need these elements, because they are just reminders. In the New Testament time that Jesus lived, it was very common to have bread when they would ‘sup.’ However, this was not the kind of bread or crackers we have today that can be bought at the store. It was a different type of bread, whether it was leavened or unleavened. This bread was very nutritious and was included in every meal because it was 70% to 80% of the calories and nutrients of the meal in comparison to the bread we eat today. Because of that, Jesus knew there would always be bread at the table for His disciples. Also, because they did not have the luxury of clean water, wine was the beverage of choice. That is why He used these elements of food and drink. They were reminders for us. So when we partake in this daily action of eating stop and remember Christ. First and foremost, we are to remember that He died to give us salvation, but He rose again from the grave to give us eternal hope in addition to salvation.

Verse 24 tells us something else as well. It says, ***“And when he had given thanks, he brake, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken....”*** At the crucifixion, Jesus did not have a broken bone in His body. Yes, it was bruised, it was battered beyond recognition and it was pierced. In this verse, He is saying ***“...take, eat: this is my body....”*** Now, the Catholics think that through their “hocus pocus” they can provide communion. I was a Catholic growing up and they teach that the bread and wine are the literal blood and the literal body of Jesus; they call it transubstantiation. The wafer did not taste very good either, and as a boy I would always go back

to my seat making faces. I guess I was rebellious in one way or another and I would wonder that if this was Jesus' body, why it tasted bad. My point is, Christ said, ***“Take, eat: this is my body ...”*** Are we eating Jesus' flesh? No! And to have a better understanding of this, go to John 1:1, which reads,

***“In the beginning was the Word [logos in Greek], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”***

Moving on to verse 14 we read, ***“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”***

These verses are telling us that the Word was God and the Word was made flesh. It is important here to know that when the Word was made flesh, John is referring to the glory of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth, Jesus Christ.

John 6:30 goes on to say, ***“They said therefore unto Him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see and believe thee? what dost thou work?”***

***Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.***

***Then Jesus said unto them, [Jesus, the Word who was made flesh] Verily, verily I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.***

***For the Bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.***

[We know this because we read back in John 1:14 that ‘...*the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,)*’ which was Jesus Christ.]

***“For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and which giveth life unto the world.***

***Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.*** [They wanted to eat that bread too.] ***And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”***

In verse 47 to 58, Christ goes on to say, ***“Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.***

***I am that bread of life.***

***Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.*** [They became content to fill their bellies, or ‘soma’ in the Greek, but that bread did not fill their spirit.]

***This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.***

[This does not mean we must eat Jesus to avoid a spiritual death.]

***I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*** [He will give His ‘soma,’ His life, for the world.]

***The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?***

***Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.***

*Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, has eternal life; and I will raise him up in the last day.*

*For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.*

*He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.*

*As the living Father has sent me, I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.*

*This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna [physical bread] and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.”*

So what bread is Jesus talking about? We definitely cannot eat His physical flesh. Unlike the Catholic doctrine, Jesus is not saying that at Communion, the wine literally turns into His blood and the bread literally turns into His flesh. Instead, the bread and the wine are reminders of what He did for us and we are to feast and dine on that!

Verse 53 says, “... *Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you,*” and when we put all of this in context, it is not difficult to understand how we can eat the flesh. John 1:14 states, “*And the Word was made flesh....*” Jesus is reminding us to devour His Word so we have spiritual life, and eventually a new body to go with that spiritual being and soul throughout eternity.

First, we are to remember what His death and resurrection meant, how it benefits us, and we are to be thankful and praise Him for it. Second, when Christ says, “You need to dine on me,” He is saying, “You need to dine on the Word.” There is no separation. In John 1:1 we are told, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.*” That Word is Jesus. And Jesus said in John 6:53, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man....*” The only way, in the spiritual sense, that we can eat the flesh of the Son of man is by nourishing on His Word. Returning to I Corinthians 11:24, Christ said, “*Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.*” By doing this we are not just remembering what He did at Calvary, but also what Christ proclaimed and what men, guided by the Holy Spirit, proclaimed in the Bible. He wants us to feast on that, and when we do that, we take Christ in; we are literally eating Jesus, not in the flesh, but in the spirit. It is not complicated, even though many preachers have made this complicated.

Furthermore, I announce to you, we do not need the elements. But, if the elements are what help us to remember what Christ did for us on Calvary as well as the instructions He has given us in the Bible, that He wants us to dine on Him, and the way that is possible is through the Word of God, then so be it, use these elements.

Often, I find myself without these elements nearby, but I still stop and remember the things I just proclaimed to you. The church world has tried to make this a super-spiritual act that can be done only in a building somewhere. God forbid you did this in your home or anywhere else because the priest must literally take the elements and make it into Jesus’ body and Jesus’ blood. That is nonsense! The basic reason we go to this table has been lost, but I want you to remember why we come to this table. We come to dine on Jesus and thank Him for what He did for us on Calvary. Do not forget that.

Christ said, ***“Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”*** Then, He took the cup and said, ***“... This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as you drink, in remembrance of me.”***

Tell the Lord, “We remember you, Lord; what you did for us on Calvary, your death, and also your resurrection for our benefit. We remember your instructions, that you want us to feast and dine on your Word.

Do you understand that? Remember Him now and every day, as often as you do the simple act of refueling your body with food. Remember what He has done, and what He has told us to do. We are to do what keeps our mind on Him, which is going to and feasting on His Word, which is feasting on Jesus. Now, partake with me in Jesus’ name.



# Shedding of Blood

Open your Bibles to Genesis, chapter 3. Have you ever spoken to people who are familiar with the first few chapters of Genesis and asked, “What was the first event that caused blood to be shed?” Most of the time, the generalized Christian population will say it was when Cain spilled Abel’s blood, but that is not the case. There is another instance before that, before Cain ever murdered his brother Abel and spilled his blood.

The story of man’s fall is in the first seven verses of Genesis 3. It is a very familiar story to most, whether they are Christian or not, and it begins in verse 1,

***“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God hath made. And he said unto the woman, Yea hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”***

***And the woman said unto the serpent, We may of the fruit of the trees of the garden:***

***But of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.***

***And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:***

***For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.***

***And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.***

***And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”***

God knew what was going through Adam and Eve’s minds when He spoke to them. Do you really think that just because they saw themselves physically naked they concluded they were physically ugly? They were human, made by God, in such a way we cannot even compare to people of our time. I do not think they were embarrassed because they saw each other’s private parts. I am going to be graphic to make a point. Just imagine those of you who are married, when you first saw your spouse naked. This is going to make some uncomfortable, but just imagine. I will be honest with you, when my spouse first saw me naked, I was not embarrassed, I was in love! I was a young man and in physically better shape. If you are realistic, you understand what I am saying. Now, as I get older, things change and I cannot even imagine what I will look like when I am seventy or eighty. If the Lord has not come back yet, I will need all the fig leaves on the fig tree! I will not want anybody seeing what I have underneath my clothes; we get old, we get wrinkly. I am not trying to be funny; I am trying to make a point. Even though that is what they did, Adam and Eve were not trying to cover their physical nakedness, but their spiritual nakedness, an experience they never had before. They covered themselves because what they perceived was so much different from what they perceived before they ate that fruit. They were

in a panic, but covering themselves did not help. They knew they were disobedient and in a state of rebellion against God. The spiritual awareness of that situation made them quite desperate and afraid. Verse 8 goes on to say,

***“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.***

***And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?***

***And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”***

They felt naked even when they had those fig leaves covering, so it was not the physical nakedness they were ashamed of, but the spiritual nakedness they found themselves in.

Verse 11 tells us,

***“And He said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”***

Furthermore, in verse 12, the man said, “The woman made me do it. She gave it to me and I ate it.” Then, in verse 14, God begins to pass down some judgments and every human, from that point on, was born into sin.

This story, because of what Adam and Eve did here in these verses, reveals to us the necessity of a blood sacrifice. Fig leaves are not enough. A blood sacrifice is necessary to atone for sin, but the first occurrence of blood shedding was not with Abel. The first time actually was while they were still in the garden, when God sacrificed an animal to provide a covering for Adam and Eve’s spiritual shame. It is obvious in the story that in verse 7 the fig leaves were not sufficient for a covering. In verse 21 we read,

***“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”***

The skins were from animals for a tunic or undergarment to clothe them. It is obvious these skins came from animals. They must have been killed so their skins could become this covering for the spiritual nakedness of Adam and Eve, which lead them to be ashamed of their physical nakedness. Because of that, God made a covering using animal skins, and then He drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden. These tunics, these coverings, these animal skins, became a covering that provided a covering for both their physical nakedness and their spiritual nakedness. In contrast, those fig leaves, back in verse 7, were enough to cover their physical nakedness, but would not suffice to atone for sin, or enable Adam and Eve, or anyone from that point on, to have a restored relationship with God. In Genesis 4:1, the story continues,

***“And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.***

***And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper [or feeder] of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.***

***And in the process of time [A better translation is *at the end of certain days.*] it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.”***

Oh how wonderful. Here comes Cain, bringing an offering from the fruit of the ground to the Lord. However, did Cain know better to bring a different kind of offering besides from the fruit of the ground? Absolutely, but that is not what he did.

***“And Abel, he also brought the firstlings of his flock and of the fat [or the choicest, not a sickly or small animal] thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:***

***But unto Cain and his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.”***

Cain and Abel both brought their offerings. We see one sacrificing an animal to the Lord, and it was acceptable to the Lord, while the one offering crops, Cain, was not acceptable. God already established the pattern that I believe He taught Adam and Eve. Moreover, from that point on, until Jesus would come, animals had to be sacrificed at a certain time, or at the ***end of certain days***, that God established, to atone for sin. However, it was only a temporary solution. Cain knew better than to offer what he did, but he chose not to be obedient and have his sins atoned for so he could have a right relationship with God. Cain made that choice, and it was a wrong choice, a bad choice, an evil choice. For Cain and Abel to have that right relationship, to be acceptable before the Lord, their sins needed to be addressed, and their sins could only be covered through a blood sacrifice.

In Hebrews 11:4, we read, ***“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrificethan Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. ”***

Faith in this verse is *‘pistis,’* which means *‘the hearing of and being persuaded by,’* in this case, their parents, who taught them that this is what God said to do for their sins to be atoned for and to have a right relationship with Him. Therefore, Abel, persuaded by what his parents probably taught him, put his trust and confidence in what was true so he acted upon that, but Cain did not. Furthermore, Abel’s sacrifice was more excellent than Cain’s because Abel offered what was required for atonement. Because of that, Abel ***“...obtained witness that he was righteous,”*** or ***“right with God.”***

It is only through a blood sacrifice that we can be right with God. In Hebrews 9:22, Paul writes, ***“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”*** It also says in Hebrews 10:10, ***“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*** The words *‘for all’* was added by the translators, although it does fit correctly here. We do not have to kill animals any longer, but without the shedding of blood, as in Hebrews 9:22, there is no remission of sin, period. Therefore, from the time of the rebellion of Adam and Eve, while they were still in the Garden, sacrifices had to be made to atone for sins from that point on, so they could have a relationship

with God. Innocent blood had to be shed. Cain refused to participate in that and it did not make him right with God, as Abel was. Abel who, by faith in what he was taught and what he acted upon, had trust and confidence about what he heard and was persuaded by, so that he could be right with God. That is why his offering could be a more excellent sacrifice. Prior to Jesus, innocent blood had to be sacrificed for the sins of humanity and it was done through the blood of animals.

In Genesis 4:6, we read, ***“And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?”*** Cain was furious that his offering was not accepted. To him it was good enough, but he was a big pouter! The Lord goes on to say in verse 7, ***“If thou doest well, [meaning Cain’s offering based on what his parents had taught him in order to obtain righteousness] shall not thy be accepted [or lifted up]? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.”***

That is what Christ did for all of us! He lifted us up above eternal death. He snatched the keys to the grave away from Satan. Christ said this would happen through His death, and it only needed to happen once. It was through His resurrection, that if we faith and have confidence in Him and His atoning work for us we are right with God, because He covered us and removed our sin. In addition, our heavenly Father sees us as sinless and blameless. Of course, that did not satisfy Cain. He just became more furious. Then, as he was talking to his brother in the field, ***“...Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him.”*** Anyone that does not accept the atoning work of Jesus Christ today or for the last two thousand years, is just slaying themselves and writing their own obituary, “Damned for eternity” like Cain.

These sacrifices were not a permanent solution to sin, but merely a forerunner to the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus would pay on that cross. Christ was a sinless man, who died for the sins of the world. That is why we faith in Him and do not have a problem going to this table and doing what He commanded us to do, ***‘do this in remembrance of Me,’*** when we take the bread and wine, or whatever we drink. I have said before that we do not even need these elements; we could go to the table without the elements and still remember Him for what He did for us. The reason why, I believe, Christ used these elements in the Upper Room prior to His death and why Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians is because we must eat and drink to stay alive. Therefore, these elements act as a reminder that we are to be thankful for what Christ did for us.

We only have two choices. Either we will remember Him as Abel, an obedient disciple or servant of Jesus Christ, or we will be like Cain. If you chose to be Cain like, you adopt all evil and take sides saying, ‘I chose not to faith in Christ.’ You are saying that you really do not believe He came in the first place to be that ultimate sacrifice as promised throughout the Old Testament. No longer do we need to slaughter animals because Christ was the one slaughtered for our benefit. It should have been us on that cross but instead it was Christ, and He only had to do it once. From that time on, either you will be Cain like, or you will be Abel like.

By faith, Abel did what he was instructed to do, and we are instructed to remember Him also. And as we remember Him, we are announcing His return, as I have preached so many times. We are not just faithing in what He did for us in the atoning work. Thank God, that was done and it covers us daily, but we are also faithing that He is returning, and He is returning soon. Our first

day of eternity will happen, because ***“Thus sayeth the Word of the Lord,”*** in so many places and so many ways. We are announcing to the world, “We believe in Jesus Christ, that He died and rose from the dead for our benefit, and He is coming back again!” Until then, He wants us to feast on His Word, our true bread, that we should thirst for and drink it in to make us a more committed and determined disciple of His. We are also to become a servant or disciple to enlist others, as Paul says in I Timothy. We are to thank Jesus as often as we eat and drink, or more often, if you want to! There is nothing wrong with that at all, but at the very least, remember Him. You must take care of yourself to stay alive; so remember who gave you spiritual life and the opportunity to live forever with Him.

Now, as you take the bread and the wine rejoice and be thankful for what His atoning work truly provided for us today and every day until He comes back for us. Do it now in Jesus’ name.

# Life is in the Blood

Open your bible too, I Peter 1:19; I am going to read first from an author who begins, *“The blood that courses through our veins is a common denominator for all humanity. It is through blood that every human being has physical life.* [It is my opinion that we also need a soul as well.] *In 1628, a physician ... Dr. William Harvey ... proposed that life is in the blood.* [That is found in Leviticus 17:11, ‘... the life of the flesh is in the blood...’] *The discovery of how blood circulates was perhaps the most significant medical breakthrough of the seventeenth century. This knowledge was essential for understanding of how the human body functions, as well as the healing of disease.*

*Yet the crucial fact that the life of the entire body is derived from its blood was clearly stated in the Bible thousands of years earlier. God told the Old Testament patriarch Noah, ‘Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.* [You can eat the flesh, but do not drink the blood.] *Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother, I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.’ (Genesis 9:3-6).*

*The various compounds and chemicals that make up the physiology of blood operate in a way that is still not fully understood, even with our modern medical advances. Human blood and its functioning in the body is a subject so complex that an entire medical specialty- hematology- is dedicated to its study.*

*This mysterious fluid [the blood] circulates around the entire body approximately every twenty-three seconds. It is constantly in motion, circulating in the heart, arteries, capillaries and veins.*

*Life, that mysterious something which scientists [with their test tubes and modern instruments] have never yet been able to define or fathom, is said by God to be in the blood of the flesh, so that there can be no life without the blood.*

*... In the human body, there are many different kinds of tissues. We define them as muscle, nerve, fat, gland, bone, connective tissues, etc. All these tissues have one thing in common: they are fixed cells, microscopically small and having a specific and limited function. Unlike these fixed tissues, the blood is fluid and mobile, that is, it is not limited to one part of the body but is free to move throughout the entire body and supply the fixed cells with nourishment and carry off waste products.*

*The average adult has ten pints of blood in his body. Normally, seven percent of the body’s weight is blood. Blood is produced in the bone marrow, and it recycles and cleanses itself hundreds of times a day. It circulates through the body, pumped by the heart and oxygenated by the lungs. It delivers nutrients and oxygen, as well as hormones and other substances, to the cells and takes away carbon dioxide and other waste products. Disease-fighting agents in the blood attack and destroy invading germs. [There is a war going on in there!]*

*Blood, therefore, gives us strength. It makes growth possible. It is the protector of the body. It fights illness and disease. It is the body’s front line defense against germs, bacteria, and harmful microorganisms.”*

That is what we know about the blood in humans today, descendants of Adam, but what did Adam have in his blood that could have been different? God created Adam to never die, but after sin was introduced, that changed. Did his blood change? Moreover, since we are descendants of Adam, did Adam and Eve's blood change after the fall? That is something to wonder about.

***“It [the blood] provides an organized resistance against anything that is harmful to the body. It plays a vital role in our immune system and in maintaining a relatively constant body temperature. It is [necessary for] health and well-being.***

***A donation of healthy blood is a tremendous blessing to the sick. Approximately thirty-two thousand pints of blood are used in the United States every day of the year. The Red Cross says that an American needs a blood transfusion for medical treatment every two seconds. Blood transfusions are needed for surgeries, for the treatment of accident victims, and for people with circulatory problems. Good health is not possible with poor blood, and blood transfusions save literally thousands of lives each year.***

***Blood is a miracle fluid that only God could make. Though science doesn't fully understand how blood functions, it is clear that, without blood, life ends. For example, in general, when a muscle stops working, the rest of the body keeps working; but if the blood fails, the entire body dies. Blood contains that indefinable ingredient that gives life to every cell in the body. The Bible reveals the importance of this vital 'river of life' that flows in our bodies. God has assigned to blood a certain sacredness that is mysteriously connected to life by His own decree:***

***This shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall eat neither fat nor blood. (Leviticus 3:17) [That was part of the Law, which we do not live under any longer.]***

***Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, the blood is the life; you may not eat the life with the meat. You shall not eat it; you shall pour it out on the earth like water. You shall not eat it, that it may go well with you and your children after you, when you do what is right in the sight of the LORD. (Deuteronomy 12:23-25)***

***Blood is precious and vital to life, but the blood we have today is not the same blood that God originally gave humanity. [To Adam and Eve.] When mankind rebelled against God, its very nature became corrupt and its blood became tainted.”***

That is another thing to be angry with Adam and Eve for. Because we are offspring of Adam and Eve, our blood automatically when we are born, is tainted. Our blood is not the original vital fluid that God originally created for Adam and Eve before sin was ever in their lives.

***“Adam's sin... brought sin and sickness into human blood. If Adam had not sinned, he would not have died. But by his sin, he introduced death into the human family.[That is physical death and spiritual death.]The human body, therefore, became subject to corruption and decay, and death ultimately comes to each one of us.***

***Since the LIFE is in the blood, according to the Scriptures, and the wages of sin is death, sin affected the blood of Adam and caused him to die. [Something changed when Adam rebelled.] Because [all men are descended from Adam and] the blood of all men partakes of the sin of Adam, it can only be cleansed by the application of sinless blood, for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”***

Christ came, died, and spilled His blood, just as was promised. He was that unblemished lamb. Animals sacrificed prior to that event were just a temporary situation, and had to be sacrificed repeatedly through the years, through the centuries, and through the millenniums until Christ came. Once He came, He only had to be sacrificed once; that was all that was needed. His blood makes atonement for the soul.

This is why we need to know that in I Peter 1:19, Christ's blood is called 'precious.' Now, our physical blood is still tainted and we still die a physical death because of Adam's sin. However, we become spiritually alive when we trust and faith in the precious blood of Jesus. Spiritually, we are alive forevermore. Yes, the body dies and decays and if Jesus does not return soon, we will all face that, but we have this hope, or '*elpis*,' of eternal life with a new body that will never die a physical death. Christ's blood is so "precious," as I Peter says, because we no longer live under the curse that began with Adam when he rebelled.

Christ wants us to remember Him always so we have hope, which is why He used the supper as an opportunity to teach His disciples. Christ knew we must eat and drink every day, so when we do, remember Him. It is sad that some churches only go to the Table of the Lord once a month and do not teach their saints what a wonderful opportunity they have to do what Christ commanded us to do, which is remembering Him always. Christ wants us to remember Him during breakfast, lunch, and supper!

So while you are remembering Christ, remember how precious His blood is. We do not face a spiritual death any longer if we put our faith and trust in what Christ's blood did for us. Our physical blood unfortunately is still tainted, because of Adam's sin, but that does not stop us from living eternally. Satan did not accomplish what he thought he would. He did accomplish Adam's sinful rebellion and brought death, but as the New Testament says, "***O death, where is thy sting...***" because death does not have that "sting" any longer. Now we have hope of the continuance of life and someday a new body. We will not die when this flesh dies.

I Peter 1:18 begins, "***Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed [a better translation is ransomed] with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversations received by tradition from your fathers....***"

This verse is telling us that redemption and eternal life cannot be bought. In addition, at our death, if we are not abiding in Christ, we are not only facing a physical death, but also a spiritual death. We are also told in this verse that we cannot talk our way in heaven with 'vain repetitions' or by living the doctrine or traditions our father's believed in, which often cannot even be verified in the Word of God. All of that only results in a spiritual death and a tormented soul.

Verse 19 gives us hope, however. It reads, "***But with the precious [the precious!] blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot [just as promised], Who verily was foreordained [or foreknown; a joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation] before the foundation [or the throwing down of seeds] of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe ['pisteo,' trust and confidence] in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope ['elpis'] might be in God.***"



Yes, the blood is precious. Our words would probably fall short if we tried to define or describe how precious Christ's blood is. It is like a lamb without blemish and without spot. Christ took our spiritually tainted blood in spite of rebellion and substituted our spiritually tainted blood with His blood, which was not tainted, and is still not tainted to this day, and never will be tainted, to give us that '*elpis*,' that hope for eternal salvation, spiritually and eventually physically; all of that because He spilled His precious blood. We still have tainted blood, but because what Christ has done for us that is not what God the Father sees. He only sees the blood of Jesus running through our veins, which gives us the promise that we will never face a spiritual death. And because we are in these last days, some of us might live long enough that we might never face a physical death. If that is not precious, then I do not know what is.

Remember every time you go to the Table of the Lord, even without a glass or a piece of bread, stop and remember what He did for you. The elements of bread and wine are not required to remember what Christ did for us. We can remember Christ without them. Christ was just using the example of "when you do this, remember Me." Do not get stuck in man-made traditions because it is how the church has always done something. Show me in God's Word, "Thus sayeth, you do it this way!" You cannot.

Christ's blood is precious and gives us eternal life. The tainted blood will give us physical death, but His blood runs through our veins. We always hear in the Christian world, "I want to be covered by His blood." I do not just want a covering, even though that is in scripture and that is verifiable; I want Christ's blood running through my veins, because it was His blood that was acceptable to His Father, and the price paid to give us eternal life. That is what makes it precious, two thousand years ago, and even today. Therefore, when you take the elements remember Christ and thank Him for the spilling of His blood, that precious blood that only He could spill for all of us.

Thank you Jesus for doing that for us and let us never forget or demean it in any way, as that Corinthian church did, who took their focus off of Him and used it as an occasion for the flesh. All these man-made traditions about the proper way and how often to take communion are no better than what the Corinthian church did. That is what Paul wrote about to them. They took the focus off the precious blood of Christ and put it on some stupid routine. The focus must remain always on Christ and nothing else. So when you go to the Table of the Lord, remember how precious His blood is. Claim that it may run through our veins until the day He comes for us or takes us home. Take the elements now in Jesus' Name.

# The Provisions of the Blood

Open your bibles to Matthew 26. Tonight we are going to look at the provisions Christ's blood provides. Nothing breaks down the walls that divide people like Jesus Christ's blood. It melts the most callous, vengeful, revengeful, spiteful, murderous heart ever known to mankind. It touches broken hearts and despised hearts. The Christ that came and died on that cross, who spilled His blood, brought us hope; brought us cleansing; brought us deliverance. Those are just some of the many wonderful provisions that His blood provides, that we can see throughout the Gospel record.

Open your Bibles to Matthew chapter 26:26, which begins,

***“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.  
And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;  
For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”***

Circle that phrase, ***“remission of sins,”*** the first wonderful provision. This verse tells us we receive remission, forgiveness, of our sins. In the Greek, it means that we are *‘released from bondage, pardoned, let go as if they had never committed a sin.’* We receive remission, forgiveness, of our sins and Satan does not have his evil grip on us anymore. Tell me what else, but the Blood of Christ, could provide that wonderful provision that releases us from bondage.

That is the first provision on the list of provisions the Blood provides. It is why Christ commands us that as often as we eat and drink, to remember what He did, but also what He provided for us as a benefit. It was remissions of sins, which releases us from bondage because we have been pardoned. Now, as Christ looks at us and God looks at us, because of what Christ did, it is as if those sins had never been committed at all. That is true liberty, true freedom; everything else pales against it.

The second provision is found in Revelation 1:5, ***“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood....”***

This wonderful provision is ***“washed.”*** ***“Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood....”*** That word ***“washed”*** refers to someone bathed before burial, but in our case, it is just the opposite. Christ bathed, baptized us in His blood to bring us life, and the baptism we should look for is the one that is ***“bathed in the blood.”*** It is a wonderful provision provided to us. ***“Unto him that loved us, and bathed us,”*** not as a dead person but one that is now spiritually alive, because our sins have been washed away by Jesus Christ's blood. That is the second wonderful provision.

The third provision is in Ephesians 1:7, ***“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”*** [Christ's grace.]

Now the phrase to focus on in this verse is, ***“In whom we have redemption,”*** or ‘a releasing effected by a payment of ransom,’ which gives us liberation. If you recall, Paul wrote, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because we have been bathed in His blood. Our sins are forgiven, but even more, God looks at them now as if they were never committed in the first place because of what Christ did for us. Moreover, that releasing effected by a payment of ransom, gives us liberation. That is a wonderful provision! Why would we not want to remember Him as often as we eat and drink, especially if we remember the provisions His blood provided, the blood that redeemed us and provided the payment of ransom that liberated us. This word, redemption, is also found in Colossians 1:14, that says, ***“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”*** Once again, this word means the same thing as in Ephesians 1:7. We have remission, we have been washed, and now we are redeemed!

To continue, go to Romans 5: 8, ***“But God commendeth [or committed to the care of]his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”***

Justified is the important word in that verse. We are ***“saved from wrath through him,”*** because we do not want God’s wrath on us, but we will have God’s wrath if we keep denying Jesus Christ, if we do not believe He is the only begotten Son that came, died on that cross, spilled His blood, and paid the ransom for our redemption. If we do not have trust and confidence in Christ Jesus, we will have God’s wrath, either in this world or in the next. However, those who do put their faith in Christ Jesus and His redemptive work are, as it says here in verse 9, ***“justified by His blood,”*** or “right with God.”

Reading verse 9 again, we see, ***“...being now right with God by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath....”*** Write these provisions down, save them on your computer or phone. Remember them and thank God for the wonderful provisions He allowed His Son to provide for us to make us right with the Heavenly Father. When going to the Table of the Lord, or stopping to remember (you do not need the elements as I have said), stop and recognize what He did for us. Pull out these wonderful provisions and say, “Even though we were not right with God because of the sin Adam allowed into human life, thank you Jesus. Thank you Jesus for making us right with God, our Heavenly Father.”

Returning to Ephesians, go to chapter 2, verse 13 to see another provision:

***“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”***

In this verse, we see Christ’s blood makes us ***“nigh,”*** in addition to saving us and washing us clean. It is amazing! Anyone who teaches on the Table of the Lord, and does not cover these wonderful provisions scripture gives us, is leaving out important elements of what Christ wants us to know when we remember what He did for us and why He did it. Read that verse again.

***“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made near by the blood of Christ.”***

We are made near. There are times I think God is so distant from me, but then I remind myself of these provisions and I know He is not! Thinking God is far off is the devil talking. Rebuke that thought! Tell him, “Get behind me, Satan, because that is where you belong!” Christ’s blood makes me near, not just to him, but also to the Heavenly Father. We might not be able to see them, but I know they are near. If you do not believe that, then you probably do not believe that Jesus Christ came out the grave. I faith in His blood, and His blood says He is near and so is the Heavenly Father. The next time you feel alone, the next time you feel there is no one there to help, the next time you feel abandoned, remember, they are near. Do not forget that wonderful provision.

Moving on to Colossians 1:20, this provision begins:

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

The word ‘peace’ in verse 20 is the focus here. Paul writes, ***“And, having made peace,”*** meaning we *‘have established harmony.’* It would be like a group of singers who have talent. They are a beautiful thing to listen to, in contrast to a group who do not have ability, who sound just awful. Just the same, we were in dis-harmony with God, but Christ established us again in to harmony with God the Father through His blood! Verse 20 also tells us, ***“...of his cross... to reconcile...”*** which is to *‘bring us back to a former state of harmony,’* back to what God had established with Adam before he sinned! When Adam sinned, there was no longer any harmony, then Christ came, and having made peace, or having established harmony through the blood of His cross, He brought us back to a former state of harmony, with God, in the spiritual sense. In the flesh, we are still fighting the disease of sin, but in the spiritual realm, we are brought back to a former state of harmony through the blood of Jesus Christ, which established that harmony. Make a footnote in your Bible to remember that one: “Established harmony once again with God the Father.” There are so many provisions His blood provided, that unless you have a very good memory, it is difficult to remember them all. That is why I suggest you start writing some of these down, so each time you go to the Table of the Lord you can remember Him and what He did for you.

Now, go to Hebrews 9:14. It tells us,

***“How much more shall the blood of Christ [more than animal sacrifices in the Old Testament], who through the eternal spirit offered himself without spot [or fault] to God, purge your conscience from dead works....”***

In this verse, ***‘purge’*** means *‘to cleanse from the guilt of sin.’* In other words, Christ cleansed our conscience. That is why I come against the condemners of this world, both the Christian and non-Christian; it does not matter! There is no condemnation because He cleansed us from the

guilt of sin. Not only that, Christ also cleansed, “...*your conscience from dead works,*” that is, spiritually dead works. Make a note of that additional wonderful provision. He cleansed our conscience; we are free from the guilt of sin. Yet, so many in the Christian world say, “I did this and I did that and asked God for forgiveness, but I don’t think He can forgive me.” Satan has convinced the church of some stupid ideas. If any preacher tells you that God cannot forgive you, run as fast as you can from that church. If some Christian “friend” thinks they know the scriptures, rebuke him or her and say, “Until you straighten out and understand what the blood does, I don’t want to hear any more of your nonsense.” Christ’s blood cleansed our conscience free from the guilt of sin, so do not let anyone else put that guilt back.

The next provision is found in Hebrews 13:12. Here we read,

***“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.”***

In this verse, the word “*sanctify*” means “*holy and set apart.*” Now, if you do not feel ‘holy,’ thank God we cannot get holy by our works; Christ’s blood provides that holiness. Our good works are not enough! It comes through the blood of Jesus Christ and no other way. The point is, these wonderful provisions come only through the blood of Jesus Christ, and that is why we need to remember them. We are the people this verse is speaking of, the ones faithing and trusting in Jesus Christ, and we are made holy and set apart for His purposes and God’s purposes. Remember that and say, “Thank you Jesus, for setting me apart and making me holy through your blood!”

Another provision is also in the book of Hebrews, Chapter 10, verse 19:

***“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.”***

Some translations have the word “liberty” instead of “boldness” in this verse and that is fine, as long as they add, “*liberty with confidence.*” This verse could also read, “***Having therefore, brethren, liberty with confidence to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.***” Only the high priest in the Old Testament could enter into the Holy of Holies. Now, Jesus Christ is our High Priest and He has provided us with the liberty or with the confidence that we too, can enter into the Holy of Holies and commune to the Father, and He will listen, and He will hear, because of what His son provided for us. The spilling of His blood ransomed us, redeemed us, back to the Father.

Moving on to 1 John 2:7, this refers to the provision of cleansing. It reads,

***“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 cleanses us from all sin.”***

That word “*cleanses*” is ‘*katharizo*’ in the Greek, and means ‘*to purify from the pollution of guilt, of sin, continually.*’ This happens continually, it is important to understand that, because verse 8 goes on to say,

***“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”***

In other words, we will still sin and fight against that old nature, but we have this confidence also that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sins. It purifies us from the pollution and guilt of sin continually. That is what that word means in the Greek. We have ongoing cleansing from sin. Hallelujah! I know I need a lot of ongoing cleansing from sin just with dealing with the medical world because of my ailments. In the last 7 months, I have cursed doctors and nurses and therapists, just to name a few. However, I know the Son of God, Jesus Christ, cleanses me from sin if I keep trusting and faithing in Him, even with my downfalls. I am purified from the pollution of guilt and sin continually! Not just for this sin, or for that sin, or the sins I do not know about. All of our sins are covered, all of them! If anyone tells you anything different, they are not preaching the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are preaching another gospel about another Jesus, not the Jesus that we serve and understand through the scriptures.

The last provision is in the book of Revelation 12:11.

***“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.”***

This verse tells us that we overcame the enemy. We can overcome the enemy no matter what he throws at us; all those fiery missiles, darts, or arrows, we can overcome by the blood of the Lamb.

To review these provisions, we now know:

- 1) We receive the remissions of our sins.
- 2) We are completely washed of our sins.
- 3) We are redeemed.
- 4) We are right with God again, and we are regarded as innocent before God.
- 5) We are brought near to God.
- 6) We have peace with God. We have established harmony again with God through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- 7) We are cleansed in our conscience by the blood of Jesus Christ.
- 8) We are made holy and set apart for God by the blood of Christ.
- 9) We have liberty and confidence to approach God in the Holy of Holies to ask for His help.
- 10) We have continual ongoing cleansing from the pollution of guilt and sin.
- 11) We can and will overcome the enemy by the blood of Jesus Christ.

These are wonderful provisions, and even though I only shared eleven of them, there are more. I want the enemy to know he is defeated! Make of list of these provisions, put them on note cards and begin memorizing them. Think of things you had to memorize for school, how much more important it is to remember the wonderful provisions of Jesus Christ’s spilled blood.

There is power in the blood, yes there is! There is wonderful working power and the enemy hates it when it is remembered because he knows it defeats him. Start making it a practice to go to the Table of the Lord. These provisions are in scripture and Christ wants us to remember what He has done for us. He wants us to acknowledge Him. The more we focus on that, the more we will

start trusting and faithing in all the promises in God's Word. Then, He will see us through, because we remember what He has done for us.

Tell Him, "Thank you Jesus for providing your word, so we could remember what you have done for all of us. The enemy in the spiritual unseen world does not stand a chance against the blood of Jesus Christ. Thank you Jesus for providing that for us."

Take the elements now and remember Him!

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In 2 Corinthians 9:7 it reads, "God loveth a cheerful giver." The Greek word for cheerful is Hilaros which means when someone is prompt to do something; they are ready in mind, with a joyful heart. In the Septuagint, it also means to cause to shine. Today I am looking for Hilaros Givers who are ready and full of joy for the opportunity to cause others to shine by hearing, learning, and growing in God's Word. Join with us today and participate as a Hilaros Giver. If you wish to participate, use the following link <http://www.teachingfaith.com/giving>

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