

“What Do I Do About The Blood of Jesus?”  
Mt. 26:26-30; Selected

He is risen! [He is risen, indeed!]

The path to the glory of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, that we celebrate next Sunday, winds its way through the gruesomeness of the betrayal of Jesus, His six trials, His scourgings, His humiliation, His difficult journey through the via dolorosa (way of the cross), and His crucifixion. This is now called Passion Week. The first event of that week, which begins today, is called Palm Sunday because this is the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey and was hailed as King [Mt. 21; Lk. 19]. This was a day of great excitement and celebration. As the week went along, the mood and tone changed from celebration to crucifixion. I encourage you to spend some time this week reading the Scriptures and thinking about what Jesus did for you during this week [Mt. 26-28; Lk. 22-24; John 13-20].

This morning I focus our attention on Thursday night. It was at this time that one of the most important and well-known events that identifies Christianity in the eyes of the world was begun. We call it The Lord’s Table or Communion; others call it the Eucharist. Turn with me to Matthew 26 and let’s put this event in its proper context. READ MATTHEW 26:1-30.

You have just heard Jesus say the contents of the cup symbolized the shedding of His blood, which would be done in a very short while. [ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, “**Drink from it, all of you; <sup>28</sup> for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.** Matthew 26:27-28 (NASB95)] Now turn with me to JOHN 19:31-35, emphasis on v. 34. And then vs 38-42 tell us how Joseph of Arimathea removed and buried the body of Jesus. Here is an interesting legend that had its beginning right here.

### **Legend Of The Cup**

The ancient legend of the Holy Grail tells how Joseph of Arimathea, who got permission from Pilate to take the body of Jesus down from the cross and bury it, caught in a golden cup which Christ had held at the Last Supper the blood which flowed from a wound in his side. This cup he carried to Glastonbury, on an island in Somerset in England.

There he formed an order of Knights whose work it was to protect the precious blood. The chief of these knights was made their king. At certain times the king unveiled the golden cup that held the precious blood, at which times a glorious and radiant light fell on the faces of all who stood about, filling them with rapture and enduing them with strength from on high. Only the pure in heart could look upon the cup and behold the wondrous light which streamed from the precious blood.<sup>1</sup>

This legend tells us what, possibly, Joseph did with the blood of Jesus. But today’s question is *what do you and I do with or about the shed blood of Jesus? Of what use is it in our lives?*

Some people try to get rid of the blood. Some people refer to Christianity as a “slaughter house” faith because of the emphasis on the shed blood of Jesus from the cross, and they turn away in disgust.

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<sup>1</sup>Tan, Paul Lee: *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations : A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers.* Garland TX : Bible Communications, 1996, c1979 #4081

A few years ago a group of Methodists were so indignant about the blood that they tried to remove the word blood from all the hymns and ended up with a badly cut up hymnal.

One translation of the Bible has removed as many references to the blood of Christ as possible. They have substituted the word “death” or “die” for the word “blood” as often as possible.

So what is your response to the blood of Christ?

To help crystallize and clarify an answer to that question, follow me through the NT for eight ways the shed blood of Jesus is important to our lives.

But first, here is a summary of what the NT says about the blood of Jesus:

There are at least 43 references to the blood of Christ in the New Testament, all testifying to its great importance in the salvation and daily life of the believer.

Judas the betrayer spoke of it as “**innocent** blood” (Matthew 27:4) and Peter called it “the **precious** blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:9). It is the **cleansing** blood in 1 John 1:7 and the **washing** blood in Rev. 1:5, stressing that it removes the guilt of our sins. Paul calls it the **purchasing** blood in Acts 20:28 and the **redeeming** blood twice (Eph. 1:7); Col. 1:14, see also 1 Peter 1:18–19, Rev. 5:9), thus declaring the shedding of His blood to be the very price of our salvation. Therefore, it is also the **justifying** blood (Rom. 5:9) and the **peacemaking** blood (Col. 1:20). Its efficacy does not end with our salvation, however, for it is also the **sanctifying** blood (Heb. 13:12). Rev. 12:11 says, **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 is the last reference in the Bible to the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ; here it is the **overcoming** blood, enabling believers to withstand the deceptions and accusations of Satan. There is infinite and eternal power in the blood of Christ, for it is “the blood of the everlasting covenant” (Heb. 13:20). The first reference in the New Testament to His blood stresses this aspect. Jesus said, at the last supper: “**This is my blood of the new testament (same as ‘covenant’) which is shed for many for the remission of sins**” (Matthew 26:28). Let no one, therefore, ever count the “blood of the covenant an unholy thing” (Heb. 10:29), for the blood of Christ is forever innocent, infinitely precious, perfectly justifying, always cleansing and fully sanctifying<sup>2</sup> and powerfully overcoming all forms of sin.

Now here are eight things the Bible says about our response to the shed blood of Jesus.

#### BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS

1. By the blood of Jesus we learn **FEAR of sinning**. If I reject, ignore, or treat lightly or fraudulently the blood of Jesus, I sin against His blood and will stand in judgment for this.

- Judas’ last words were “**I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.**” Matthew 27:4 (NASB95)
- **Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.** 1 Corinthians 11:27 (NASB95)
- **How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?** Hebrews 10:29 (NASB95)

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<sup>2</sup>Galaxie Software: *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*. Biblical Studies Press, 2002; 2002

2. By the blood of Jesus we **FIND eternal life**.

- So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.”<sup>54</sup> “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” John 6:53-54 (NASB95)
- Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, Romans 6:8 (NASB95)

3. By the blood of Jesus we **FACE a new owner**. Owners have more rights, say, and control than non-owners. When we apply the blood of Christ to our lives, we are no longer the owners of our lives, Jesus is. We need to mentally plant a BIG SIGN in our minds, heads, and hearts that says UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP. We are no longer ours, but His.

- “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, ...the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” Acts 20:28 (NASB95)
- knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,<sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ. 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NASB95)
- Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?<sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NASB95)
- And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” Revelation 5:9 (NASB95)

4. By the blood of Jesus we **FORM a new life**. By the blood, we are given the power and authority to live a new kind of life. We need to apply the worship song to how we live our lives when it says “it’s all about you Jesus; I’m sorry for what I’ve made it, it is all about you”. We are the ambassadors for Christ in this world. When we wear His name, we represent Him regardless of what we do. Our lives are about Him, not us.

- “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.” John 6:56 (NASB95)
- Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?<sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.<sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, Romans 6:3-5 (NASB95)
- “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” Galatians 2:20 (NASB95)

5. By the blood of Jesus there is **FAVOR with God**. There are a number of things that come under this heading. When we understand, accept, and remember these things, they bring rest to our souls, satisfy spiritual hunger, and quench spiritual thirst. We cease our spiritual struggle and rest in His grace. It is really wonderful to live and rest in grace. Listen to this great list.

- In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. Ephesians 1:7 (NASB95)

- For all who believe are... "being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith." (Romans 3:24,25, NASB95) The phrase "displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood" means that God brought us into His good graces and favor through the public display of Jesus' shed blood.
- "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him." (Romans 5:9, NASB95)
- "But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:13, NASB95)
- "how much more will the blood of Christ... cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14, NASB95)
- "And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." (Hebrews 9:22, NASB95)
- the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7, NASB95)
- " Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus," (Hebrews 10:19, NASB95) let us do so! [Oh, this list is worth the price of admission alone! And yet there is more!!]

6. By the blood of Jesus we **FUNNEL glory to Jesus**. The psalmist said it succinctly: *Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.* (Psalm 150:6) The Apostle Paul echoes with "But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross [blood] of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Galatians 6:14, NASB95) Oh, I fall so short here! I have made a prayer out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse of the hymn **O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES**, written by Charles Wesley, 1707–1788. I find the story behind this hymn quite fascinating.

Soon after their graduation from Oxford University, John and Charles Wesley decided to sail to America, the new world, to try to minister to the rough colonists under General Oglethorpe in Georgia and to evangelize the Indians. The Wesleys soon became disillusioned with the situation there, however, and after a short time returned to England.

As they crossed the Atlantic, John and Charles were much impressed by a group of devout Moravians, who seemed to have such spiritual depth and vitality as well as genuine missionary zeal. After returning to London, the Wesleys met with a group of Moravians in the Aldersgate Hall. Here in May, 1738, both brothers had a spiritual "heart-warming experience," realizing that even though they had been so zealous in religious activity, neither had ever personally known God's forgiveness or real joy. From that time on their ministry displayed a new dimension of spiritual power.

"O for a Thousand Tongues" was written by Charles in 1749 on the 11th anniversary of his Aldersgate conversion experience. It was inspired by a chance remark of an influential Moravian leader named Peter Bohler, who expressed his spiritual joy in this way: "Oh, Brother Wesley, the Lord has done so much for my life. Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise Christ Jesus with every one of them!"

These words of personal testimony by Charles Wesley have provided a moving vehicle of worship for God's people for more than two centuries:

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread thru all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease, 'tis music in the sinner's ears; 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; He sets the pris'ner free. His blood can make the foulest clean ... His blood availed for me.<sup>3</sup>

7. By the blood of Jesus we have **FINAL victory**. It is the blood of Christ that brings us final victory over sin, society, and Satan.

“And they [the saints] overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. Revelation 12:11 (NASB95)

”” After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;” because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.”” (Revelation 19:1-2, NASB95)

”And a voice came from the throne, saying, “Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.”” (Revelation 19:5, NASB95)

” And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.” (Revelation 19:11-13, NASB95)

### **The Sufficient Blood**

His blood is so sufficient  
He tells us in His word  
On the mercy seat in heaven  
It was put there by our Lord.  
It stops the accuser of the brethren  
As he walks before the throne  
Our God just points to the blood  
And Satan knows He cares for His own.  
It's sufficient for any situation  
To nourish, to cleanse, and keep.  
Oh, magnify your name my Lord  
My soul with rapture leaps.  
Can my sins though oh so many  
Make this blood of no avail  
Once I've named the name of Jesus  
In my heart, I cannot fail.  
His word has proclaimed it  
The work begun in me  
Will someday be completed  
When His dear face I see.  
And when I dwell in heaven  
As the ages roll along  
Oh, that precious blood of Jesus  
Will be my victory song.

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<sup>3</sup>Osbeck, Kenneth W.: *Amazing Grace : 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions*. Grand Rapids, Mich. : Kregel Publications, 1990, S. 274

8. By the blood of Jesus we **FOCUS our message**. We are to preach Christ crucified. Paul writes, **but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness**, 1 Corinthians 1:23 (NASB95)

<sup>2</sup> **For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.** 1 Corinthians 2:2 (NASB95).

We are to “proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes”

<sup>26</sup> **For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.** 1 Corinthians 11:26 (NASB95) <sup>16</sup> **Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?** 1 Corinthians 10:16 (NASB95)

There, you have 8 ways the blood of Jesus has influenced life from the first to the 21 century.

What do you do with or about the blood of Jesus? Does it have this kind of influence on your life? Let me share with you how deeply this thought touched one man’s life.

Pastor and hymn-writer Isaac Watts [1674-1748] was deeply moved as he contemplated the shed blood of Christ as he prepared a communion service for his church. The result was the hymn

### **WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS**

The hymn was originally titled “Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ.” Noted theologian Matthew Arnold called this the greatest hymn in the English language.... The unique thoughts presented by Watts in these lines certainly must have pointed the 18th century Christians to a view of the dying Savior in a vivid and memorable way that led them to a deeper worship experience, even as it does for us today.

Young Watts showed unusual talent at an early age, learning Latin when he was 5, Greek at 9, French at 11 and Hebrew at 12. As he grew up, he became increasingly disturbed by the uninspiring psalm singing in the English churches. He commented, “The singing of God’s praise is the part of worship most closely related to heaven; but its performance among us is the worst on earth.” Throughout his life, Isaac Watts wrote over 600 hymns and is known today as the “father of English hymnody.” His hymns were strong and triumphant statements of the Christian faith, yet none ever equaled the colorful imagery and genuine devotion of this emotionally stirring and magnificent hymn text.

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me most—I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down; did e’er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small: Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Can you, and will you, say with Isaac Watts: “my soul, my life, my all”? <sup>4</sup> What response do you make to the blood of Jesus?

[Move to the communion table. If you know Jesus as your personal savior, you are invited to eat at His table....]

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<sup>4</sup>Osbeck, Kenneth W.: *Amazing Grace : 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions*. Grand Rapids, Mich. : Kregel Publications, 1990, S. 106