

Good Friday 2012 – It’s About The Blood

Our punishment was endured, our debt was paid, our salvation was secured
That’s the result of Good Friday; That’s the result of Christ’s death on the cross
Which the NT writers often speak of, in terms of blood

Which is shocking, b/c in most instances blood is not good; It signifies death
And among the ancients, it was an ominous symbol of violence, wrongdoing, guilt, and
punishment; And still is to a great degree

But in the Bible, the shed blood Christ is the very heart of our salvation
Without it, we couldn’t be saved, and wouldn’t be saved
Heb 9:22 says – *Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins*
No blood, no forgiveness; No blood, no salvation

Especially when you consider all that the blood does; Starting with the fact, that . . .

1. We’re cleansed by the blood (1 Jn 1:7)

It’s the first of 8 truths regarding the blood of Jesus, that are spelled out *explicitly* in
the Bible; Truths worth remembering *all* the time, but especially on Good Friday
And while I don’t have time to fully explain each one, I do want the number and
significance of these things, to overwhelm your soul

1 Jn 1:7 says – *If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one
another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

In relationship with God, from the get-go and as we go – we’re cleansed by the blood
Purified, white as snow; Washed in the blood of the Lamb

- Which reminds me of that old hymn – *Are You Washed In the Blood?* Remember that?
“Are you washed, in the blood, in the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb”
Better yet, give a listen, and feel free to sing along if you’d like
(**Video – Are You Washed In The Blood?**)
- The sad part about that, is that I had to go back to a hymnal published in 1942 to find it
B/c some churches found the reference to blood, offensive to their enlightened
sensibilities; Let me tell you something – offensive or not . . .
No blood, no salvation; No blood, no cleansing; Don’t be offended, be thankful

2. We’re freed by the blood (Rev 1:5-6)

Rev 1:5 says – *To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood [6] and
made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion
forever and ever. Amen.*

It’s not just that we’ve been *washed* of our sin, but freed of its power to stain our soul
Freed of the consequences; Freed of the bondage that sin imposes on our lives

3. We’re justified by the blood (Rom 5:9)

That is, we’re declared righteous in God’s sight, b/c of the life Jesus gave on our behalf
IOW when God looks at us, he sees us in light of, and through, the death of his Son
Just as if we’d never sinned; Rose colored glasses at their best

That’s **Rom 5:9**, where the Apostle Paul says – *We have now been justified by his blood
And **since, therefore**, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be
saved by him from the wrath of God.*

When we put our faith and trust in Jesus, we were justified by his blood, and saved from
God’s wrath toward us, b/c of our sin
Once again, it’s about the blood

4. We’re ransomed by the blood (1 Pet 1:18-19)

That is, we’re paid for, rescued, exchanged – by the blood

1 Pet 1:18-19 says – *You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your
forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious
blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

We weren’t ransomed from the throes of sin and darkness, or the lure of materialism, or
the grip of lust, or the futile ways of your past – by money
Something that changes in value, loses its value, or perishes altogether – including
silver and gold
Rather, we were paid for with something of infinite value, that never wanes – the blood
of Christ

- And one of the coolest things about this, is that we normally think of a ransom as
reflecting the value of the *prisoner*
You know, the higher the ransom paid, the more valuable the person must be
Like when the Israeli’s recently exchanged 1000 Palestinian prisoners, for one Israeli
prisoner; Reflecting his great value to their country

But in our case, the great ransom *God* paid, reflects not our *value*, but his *love*
It was b/c of his great love, not our great value, that God paid such a great price
God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son; Not so *valued* the world
And it’s reflected in the ransom he paid – *the precious blood of Christ*

5. We’re redeemed by the blood (Eph 1:7)

Whereas ransomed focuses more on the *price* that was paid to win our release, redeemed
focuses more on the result; As in the deliverance itself, and ensuing restoration
Like when the Israelites of old were redeemed from their slavery in Egypt, or their exile
in Babylon – they were delivered and restored
Just like we’re redeemed from our slavery to sin – we’re delivered from it, and restored
to a right standing with God

That’s the idea of **Eph 1:7** which says – *In him we have redemption through his blood, the
forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace*

Through faith in Christ, we are delivered from a life of sin and futility, and restored to a
life of righteousness and purpose
B/c Jesus, according to Heb 9:12 – *entered once for all into the holy places* [the
presence of God], *not by means of the blood of goats and calves* [like was done under
the OT Law] *but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.*
We’re redeemed by the blood – forever; it’s eternal

Not only that, but . . .

6. We’re reconciled by the blood (Col 1:19-20)

Col 1:19-20 says – *In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, [20] and through
him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace
by the blood of his cross.*

Implying that there's a problem; That in *our sin*, and God's *holiness* – we're at odds, we're enemies (Rom 5:10)

But Jesus made peace between us, and reconciled us to God, by shedding his own blood
Or, as Paul says it in Rom 3:25 – God put Jesus forward as a propitiation, a peace child, an appeasement of his own wrath, by killing him; by shedding his blood

- So try to get your mind around this, especially if you've heard this a hundred times, and see if you don't just fall to your knees in awe
God, sacrificed his own flesh and blood if you will, to appease, not someone else's wrath, but his own wrath . . .
And to remove his own curse for our sin . . .
And make peace with people like us who don't want it sometimes . . .
And reconcile with the very ones who rebelled against him in the first place

It's unthinkable; And so contrary to our sin nature, we can barely fathom it
If I'm mad at you, I expect that *you're* going to do something to appease *me*
I'm not doing something to appease you; I didn't wrong you, you wronged me
And I'm certainly not going to punish one of my daughters, my own flesh and blood, for what you did and what you're doing
I'd just as soon let it go; If that's the price, if that's the way to peace – their blood . . .
I'd just as soon compromise my righteous anger for your sin, and show grace that way

But not God; He can't; In his perfection, his perfect holiness – he can't, and won't, compromise one attribute, in order to satisfy another
He won't compromise his holy repulsion toward sin, and his demand for justice, in order to show his grace (Prov 17:15); He can't, and he won't

Which is why he gave his one and only Son, and in one fell swoop – appeased his wrath *and* offered his grace, at the same time; reconciling us in the process
A perfect solution, from a perfect God, who can do no other

7. We're **brought near** by the blood (Eph 2:13)

We don't just *feel* good about each other, having been reconciled – we're *near* to each other

Eph 2:13 says – *In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

Separated in our sin by a great divide, an infinite chasm – we're brought near by the blood of Jesus, and our sin is left there; as far away as the east is from the west
So near, we're brought, that God adopts us into his family – giving us the right to be called children of the living God

8. We're **sanctified** by the blood (Heb 9:13-14)

We're set apart to live a life of holiness and Christlikeness

That's the idea of **Heb 9:13-14** – *If the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh [he's talking about the old way of being right with God, under the Old Covenant], [14] how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

How much more will the blood of Jesus sanctify us, consecrate us, purify us, mature us, grow us, set us apart – to serve God?

Way more, don't you think? About as more, as the blood of Jesus is more holy than the blood of animals; More effective than the blood of goats
More precious than the blood of bulls

- It's about the blood – the life Jesus gave (**Summary**; Servers)
And as we share in The Lord's Table to remember it – take some time to *thank* him for it, and *reflect* on it, and *worship* the One who shed it
And when the time comes, I'll lead us in eating and drinking together

But whatever you do, don't cheapen it by partaking in a cavalier manner
Or profane it, by participating with un-confessed sin in your heart
Better to let the bread and the cup pass – otherwise you risk bringing judgment on yourself the Bible says

But that's not God's intent; His intent is that you would get right with him, and then eat and drink to show it
Proclaiming his death, his shed blood, for the forgiveness of your sins
B/c remember – without it, there is none; Hymnal or not

- In Luke 22 the last supper with Christ is recorded; And it says in v19 . . .
He took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
IOW this broken bread, is symbolic of his suffering on your behalf
Do this he said, eat it – as a means of remembering it

Then Jesus took the cup and said – *This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.*

IOW the contents of the cup you hold are symbolic of Christ's *blood*, his death – that guarantees his new promise of salvation
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me (1 Cor 11:25)

Prayer – *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, [21] equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*
(Hebrews 13:20-21)

Worship – Oh Praise The One; Jesus Paid It All

Close – God bless you; You are loved