



The Voice Of Truth

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"Nothing but the Blood of Jesus"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (**Romans 3:23**), wrote the apostle Paul. Sin then, for all accountable persons, is a fact and a reality. "For the wages of sin is death" (**Romans 6:23**). Sin separates one from God (**Isaiah 59:1-2**). Is there any hope for man? How could man be brought back in favor with God? Nothing but the blood of Jesus could do it! "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (**Romans 5:10**). Knowing the results of sin as we do should bring us to the realization of the great need of the blood of Jesus Christ, since nothing but the blood of Jesus is the remedy for sin. "What can wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus." Let us look at some of the benefits of the blood of Christ.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus provides for man's redemption. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (**Ephesians 1:7**). To "redeem" means to buy back. Christians have been "bought with a price" (**1 Corinthians 6:20**), and that price is the blood of Jesus Christ. We have been redeemed "-with the precious blood of Christ" (**1 Peter 1:19**). Jesus paid His own blood. The church was "purchased" with the blood of Christ (**Acts 20:28**).

Nothing but the blood of Jesus provides for man's sins being washed away. "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (**Revelation 1:5**). Because Christ loves us, He washed us from our sins. The means by which Christ released us from our sins is by His blood.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus provides for man's justification. "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (**Romans 5:9**). To "justify" means to declare one free of guilt, being guilty, man is in need of justification. Nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ will take away the guilt of sin.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus provides for man's reconciliation. "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (**Romans 5:10**). The word "reconcile" means to be brought back to agreeable conditions. Man, who became God's enemy because of transgression, was brought back on friendly terms with God, through the blood of Jesus Christ.

We know that the blood of Jesus is essential to

man's salvation; then how can one contract the blood of Christ? Jesus shed His blood in His death (**John 19:34**). The only blood that can save and cleanse us is that which He shed in His death. And the only way we can reach that blood is said to be when we are baptized into His death! Paul in his epistle to the church in Rome pens the following words. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (**Romans 6:3-4**). Until one is baptized into Christ (**Galatians 3:26-27**) and His death (**Romans 6:3-4**), he has not contacted the powerful, cleansing blood! Some people say we don't need to be baptized, that we are saved by grace only, and I would agree that we are saved by grace (**Ephesians 2:8-10**). Question: Where is grace found? "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus " (**2 Timothy 2:1**). Grace is found in Christ! How do we get in Christ? One is baptized into Christ (**Gal. 3:26-27**). No sectarian preacher can point to a single passage that shows entrance into Christ by another means than baptism! "*What can wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus.*" We have access to that blood!

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

BETWEEN the atheist who would not dream of financially supporting the church and the Christian who will not financially support the Lord's church?

BETWEEN the skeptic who does not believe the Bible and the negligent Christian who never reads it?

BETWEEN those who do not believe in Bible classes and those who choose never to attend a class?

BETWEEN the atheist who does nothing to build up the Lord's church and the Christian who finds fault with others, but does nothing himself?

BETWEEN a man of the world, and a person in the church who lives like a man in the world?

BETWEEN a man of the world who lives for self and a person in the church who lives for self, not God?

These are tough questions for Christians who live in a tough world. The fact is Christians make no difference until they are different. Again, **WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?**

Some go to church just for a walk;
Some go there to laugh and talk;
Some go there for observation;
Some go there for speculation;
Some go there to sleep and nod;
We should go there to worship God!

What a man possesses is not as important as what possesses him!

"QUITTERS in the church are like motors. They start sputtering before they miss, and MISSING before they quit!"

Do You Just Belong?

Are you an active member?

The kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meeting and mingle with the flock?

Or do you stay away to criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?

Or are you satisfied to only just belong?

Think this over, my dear friends:

I know you won't go wrong.

Are you an active member, or do you just belong?