



# The Voice of Truth



October 11, 2009

## "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**). Ques-

tion: 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! ♦

## Baptism Saves Us!

By Jimmy Pettigrew

*"That aforetime were disobedient, when the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water" (1 Peter 3:20).* Having affirmed that salvation in the days of Noah was through the water of the flood, Peter now draws a comparison with the water of baptism: *"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21).* Salvation offered through water in the days of Noah is exactly parallel to salvation offered through water baptism. Baptism is the antitype of the waters of the great flood.

The water itself had no saving power in the flood, nor does it have any saving power today. The saving power for Noah was his obedience to God's Word. Today people obey the Gospel plan of salvation culminating in water baptism, and God likewise saves them through water.

Baptism is between the sinner and salvation! God has placed baptism squarely between the sinner and every spiritual blessing. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).* The word "all" means "of every kind." Not one spiritual blessing is to be had outside of Christ. Salvation is "in Christ" (2 Timothy 2:10); grace is "in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:1); if one is in Christ "he

is a new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17); and this "newness of life" follows baptism (Romans 6:4). Baptism into Christ saves us (1 Peter 3:21; Mark 16:16). Baptism into Christ washes away one's sins (Acts 22:16). Baptism into Christ is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Baptism into Christ makes it possible for one to go to heaven (John 3:3-5).

Since ALL spiritual blessings are IN Christ, it is evident that we do not have access to them while OUT of Christ! The only way to get into Christ is to be baptized into Him (Galatians 3:27)! If one has not been Scripturally baptized, then he is not in Christ, and he cannot receive even one spiritual blessing.

Man did not place baptism between the sinner and salvation: this is the work of God! Man cannot change it. ♦

## "Some Sinner's Prayers"

By Jarrod Jacobs

I am sure we are familiar with the old doctrine that says if we just pray a prayer to God, saying words to the effect, "God be merciful to me a sinner, please forgive me", then we will be saved from sin. This has been a popular doctrine in our world for many years.

Often, when refuting this, someone might be tempted to say that there is no such thing as a sinner's prayer found in the Bible. That statement is not entirely accurate. While there is no where in the Bible where we see non Christians commanded to pray a certain prayer in order to be saved, we do see where there were sinners who prayed to God! Does this surprise you? Let us study the Scriptures and see.

## Saul's Prayers

When we read about the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, the account begins by telling us he was traveling toward Damascus in order to receive more authority to put Chris-

tians in prison and persecute them for their belief and obedience to Christ (**Acts 9:2, 22:5**). While on the road toward Damascus, *“Suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do”* (**Acts 9:3-6**).

Blinded after this experience, Saul reached Damascus with the help of his friends. He then fasted and prayed for three days and nights (**Acts 9:9-11**). In other words, this sinner was praying for three days! There, in Damascus, a “sinner’s prayer” took place as Saul’s prayers ascended to God for those three days.

### Cornelius’ Prayers

**Acts 10-11** records the conversion of a Gentile, a centurion named Cornelius. The Bible describes this man in glowing terms. He was, *“a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always”* (**Acts 10:2**). Notice this sinner was faithful in offering prayers to God. From the description of Cornelius, I understand him to have been praying for much longer than three days, like Saul. Yet, there came a day when an angel spoke to Cornelius and said, *“Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God”* (**Acts 10:4**). Here was a man in sin who had offered prayers and God sent an angel to say that his prayers were not in vain.

### What Kind Of Prayers Were These?

Now that we have established that there were “sinner’s prayers” in the Bible, the question is just what kind of prayers were these? Were these prayers akin to “God save me”? Or, “God be merciful and save my soul”? No, they were not.

How can I say this? I say it based upon the evidence. When we read **Acts 9** and **Acts 10**, neither of these praying men thought he was a saved person because he had offered prayers to God. In fact, the men understood clearly that they needed someone to tell them what to do to be saved (**Acts 9:6, 10:5-6, 30-32**). Then later, the message coming from the mouths of Ananias and Peter to Saul and Cornelius was a message of their need for being saved from the sins they had committed; not that they were saved already based upon their offering prayers (**Acts 9:6, 22:10, 16, 10:6, 30-32**). Notice that neither man protested or contradicted the words of Peter or Ananias, saying, “I am saved already, I’ve been praying to God.” Rather, they understood they were lost, and listened intently to the truth in order to do what they were taught (**Acts 26:19, 10:32-33**). In fact, in the case of Cornelius, he invited *“kinsmen and near friends”* together so they could hear and obey the truth as well (**Acts 10:34**)!

So, what kind of prayers were offered by Saul and Cornelius? Put simply, I don’t know what these men said. I do know, however, that whatever they said resulted in getting the preacher and the sinner together! Notice that neither Jesus that Saul saw on the road, nor the angel in Cornelius’ house, told them what to do to be saved. It has always been God’s intention that His plan of salvation be spread man-to-man (**I Cor. 1:18-23; Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15**). While the prayers of Saul and Cornelius did not save them, their prayers did result in their salvation, because God in His providence made a way by which the preacher talked to the sinner and told him what to do to be saved (**Rom. 10:13-16; Acts 10:47-48, 22:16**).

### Conclusion

Now that we know what kind of “sinner’s prayers” are found in Scripture, let us be busy looking for those who are lost (**I Tim. 4:16; II Tim. 4:2**). Who knows, but your interest shown and focus on the Bible will be an “answered prayer” for them!

*Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦*

## Ten Reasons for Studying the Bible

By David J. Riggs

1. The Bible yields food for the soul. It has the milk necessary for the spiritual growth of the babe, and strong meat to sustain the older, mature Christian. (See **1 Pet. 2:1-2; Heb. 5:12-14**).

2. A knowledge of the truth and obedience to it is necessary to be made free from sin. (See **John 8:31-32; 1 Pet. 1:22**).

3. The Bible reveals God's view of man. It enables the student to see himself as God sees him, for the Bible is God's mirror of the soul. (See **James 1:21-25**).

4. A working knowledge of the Bible arms one against the difficulties and hardships of life. It has a message to cover every condition and problem. It can be used in every emergency from the cradle to the grave. (See **Rom. 15:4**).

5. The knowledgeable Christian is able to comfort and edify the discouraged and brokenhearted. (See **Col. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:14**).

6. The Scriptures contain all good works that are pleasing to God, and give all things that pertain to life and godliness. (See **2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3**).

7. One must study the Bible to have the approval of God, to be a ready workman, and to handle correctly the Word of truth. (See **2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:15**).

8. A knowledge of the Bible is the only safeguard against fatal error. (See **Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1**).

9. The Scriptures are able to build us up

and to give us a home in heaven. (See **Acts 20:32; 2 Tim. 3:15**).

10. The Bible will be our standard of judgment in the last day. (See **John 12:48; Rev. 20:12**). Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs/> ♦

## The Empty Pew

The empty pew speaks volumes concerning one's:

1. Desire to serve God.
2. Desire to worship God.
3. Desire to learn more of God.
4. Desire to be an example to others.
5. Desire to change one's life.
6. Desire to raise one's children in the Lord.
7. Desire to be morally right in God's sight.
8. Desire to save one's own soul.
9. Desire to save the souls of others.
10. Desire to put the kingdom of God first in one's life.

Do not let the empty pew speak against you at the judgment day! Plan now to make sure your place is filled each time the saints meet. ♦

## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

**Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

**Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

**Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

**Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

**Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

#### How to Contact Us

Telephone: (920)499-5677  
E-mail: [hillcrestcofc@live.com](mailto:hillcrestcofc@live.com)



#### Our Address

1621 Hillcrest Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54313



#### Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am  
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am  
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

[www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com](http://www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com)