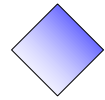


The Voice of Truth



November 10, 2013

"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 to 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! ♦

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“The Truth About The Lord’s Supper”

By Jarrod Jacobs

Did you know that back in 2011, one of the Super Bowl ads was “pulled” due to its offensive nature? The commercial that was not allowed to air opened with a “preacher” worrying about how the “flock” was dwindling and the bills were growing. So, he prayed and got “inspired” to provide Doritos and Pepsi Max for the Lord’s Supper. When folks learned of the change that had been made, the lines were extended out the door for people to “partake”, while the “preacher” rejoiced at his “inspired” decision and all of the money rolling in. From what I understand, there was a “Catholic” and “Protestant” version of this commercial made.

While I am happy that this commercial was pulled from the Super Bowl ads, the reason I know about its existence is because it made its way to the internet! Therefore, folks still saw it “world-wide.”

This is just one of a number of examples of how people are bound and determined to make light of and even ignore the Lord’s ways. In the context of the Lord’s Supper, we see men twisting Scriptures by either refusing to take the Lord’s Supper every first day of the week (**Acts 2:42, 20:7**; etc.); or they engage in the opposite extreme by offering the Lord’s Supper multiple times during the week and on “special occasions”, like weddings. The television commercial referred to above is just another example of people making light of something that belongs to God. To borrow a phrase, we understand that men are not making fun of us, but they are making fun of God (**1 Sam. 8:7**)! Yet, it is still a tragedy and a sin! In light of this event, let us search the Scriptures and learn what has been revealed from God concerning the Lord’s Supper. What is the truth? What place does the Lord’s Supper have in our lives today?

The Lord’s Supper Is A Memorial

Before Christ’s death upon the cross, He instituted a memorial by which His people are to remember Him. This memorial is described in **Matthew 26:26-28**. *“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. 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.”* (Parallel passages: **Mk.**

14:22-25; Lk. 22:15-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-30)

Notice that this memorial is a divinely prescribed memorial because Christ instituted it. It did not originate in the mind of man! In fact, it had never been taught nor talked about in all the Bible until this time! Too, this memorial is one that continues in the Lord’s kingdom. If, as some say, the Lord has not yet established His kingdom, then the Lord’s Supper ought not be observed by anyone today. Yet, we see the first century Christians observing the Lord’s Supper (**Acts 2:47, 20:7**). Obviously, they understood the Lord’s kingdom was in existence, and taught that this is so (**Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9**). His kingdom exists today, fulfilling prophecy that had been written down before Christ came to earth (**Dan. 2:44**)!

This memorial reminds us of the Lord’s sacrifice, and ought never be taken lightly, ridiculed, or belittled! Just as we are sober and reverent at the memorials of men (Pearl Harbor, Arlington, etc.), shouldn’t there be an even greater sense of reverence, soberness, etc., when observing this memorial of Christ’s death?

The Lord’s Supper Consists Of Specific Elements.

The TV ad we mentioned above depicted a man “inspired” to change the elements of the Lord’s Supper and substitute other things. In so doing, this man sinned. When we read from the inspired (**II Pet. 1:20-21; Jn. 16:8-13**; etc.) writings, specifically, the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul, we learn that the elements comprising the Lord’s Supper are unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (**Matt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:15-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-30**). Just as we could not observe the Lord’s Supper on any day other than the first day of the week (**Acts 2:42, 20:7**), so also we cannot substitute these elements for other things.

You see, when God has been specific on a matter, then we have no right to change or substitute anything. This was true when God specifically told Noah to build an ark of gopher wood (**Gen. 6:14**). No substitutions were allowed in the type of vessel made, or the type of wood used! It was true when God demanded specific sacrifices as described in the book of Leviticus. No substitutions in the sacrifices were accepted by God. It was true when Naaman was told the way to cure his leprosy was to go wash in the Jordan River seven times (**II Kings 5:10**). No substitutions to this

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plan were accepted by God (**II Kings 5:12**)! In like manner, when it comes to the Lord's Supper, since the Lord has been specific about the elements (**Mk. 14:22-25**), the day of observance (**Acts 2:47, 20:7**), the meaning behind it (**I Cor. 11:24-25**), etc., how can we accept any substitute? We can't!

Christ has been specific as to what He wants when it comes to observing His memorial, His supper, and we need to respect His will!

The Lord's Supper Is A Communion.

The apostle Paul wrote, "*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*" (**I Cor. 10:16**). To speak of a communion is to speak of a partaking, a sharing, a partnership, or fellowship. Thus, when Christians are worshipping on the

first day of the week and partaking of the Lord's Supper, we are sharing together with the Lord. This is one way that we are in fellowship with Him! What a wonderful and special blessing this is! Truly, we draw closer to God when we worship Him in spirit and in truth (**Jn. 4:24**)! Therefore, how sad it is that folks have tried to cheapen this experience through changing the elements, or through changing the day of observance, and similar things. This is a sharing together that Christians do with Christ the world over, since we are together in the kingdom, now (see: **Matt. 26:28**)!

Conclusion

In light of this Scriptural evidence, let us respect the Lord's plan for our partaking of the Lord's Supper. Man may use TV, the internet, radio, etc., to make light of this act of worship, but we know the truth! Let us keep these things in our minds as we worship Him today.

Credit: The Old Paths - 9/22/13 ♦

THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

1. There is an eternal kingdom.

2 Pet. 1:11; 1 Cor. 15:50; 2 Tim. 4:18; Luke 23:42

2. It will be ushered in at His Coming and Judgment.

2 Tim. 4:1; Matt. 25:31-34

3. There are only two alternatives.

Mark 9:43-48; Matt. 8:11-12; Luke 13:23-30

4. The rich will hardly enter it.

Matt. 19:24-26; Mark 10:23-27; Luke 18:24-27

5. The poor, rich in faith, are heirs of it.

James 2:5

6. The wicked shall not inherit it.

1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-6

This includes the wicked in the kingdom.

Matt. 13:31; ex. Matt. 22:11-13; 25:26-30

7. What must we do?

Do the will of the Father - Matt. 7:21-23

Continue in the faith - Acts 14:21-22

Give diligence to add the virtues - 2 Pet. 1:5-11 ♦

Sin will take you farther than you
Ever wanted to go.
Keep you longer than you ever wanted
To stay and cost you
More than you ever wanted to pay. ♦

Are You Heaven Bound?

By David J. Riggs

It matters not what else you do in life, if you miss heaven you have been a complete failure. You might gather about you great riches and fame and leave thousands of friends to mourn your departing, but if you are not ready for heaven you have been a miserable failure. On the other hand, you may die in a charity home for the poor and be buried in a potter's field without a single friend to mourn, but if you receive heaven, your life has been a marvelous success.

You can't afford to miss heaven for if you miss it, you miss all. It is the place of eternal rest (**Heb. 4:9-11**) where pain, sickness, and death will not be known (**Rev. 21:4**). It is an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that does not fade away (**1 Pet. 1:4**). It is that city built by the living God (**Heb. 11:10**).

You don't have to miss heaven. Humbly submit yourself

to the will of God (**Matt. 7:21**). Let His Word guide you (**2 Tim. 3:15**) and let no one beguile you or your reward (**Col. 2:18**). Overcome temptations (**James 1:12**) and suffer for His cause with rejoicing (**Matt. 5:11-12**). If you do these things, heaven will be yours someday for the God of heaven who cannot lie has promised it.

I quote a few words from some of our songs: "I am going to a city where the streets with gold are laid, where the tree of life is blooming, and the roses never fade. Here they bloom but for a season, soon their beauty is decayed; I am going to a city where the roses never fade." "I am bound for the promised land, promised land, I am bound for the promised land; O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land." "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun; we've now less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."

Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs/> ♦

THE ONE BODY

The church is the body of Christ, "And he is the head of the body, the church (**Col. 1:18**). There is only one body, one church. *"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all"* (**Eph. 1:22-23**). The New Testament teaches that there is only one body; this one body is the church. We are "fellow heirs of the same body" (**Eph. 3:6**). We are "reconciled to God in one body" (**Eph. 2:16**). Christ is founder of only one church. *"Upon this rock I will build my church"* (**Matt. 16:18**). Jesus did not say that we would build a church, His church or one of His churches. He said, "I will build my church." The word "church" signifies singularity. Jesus did not build many different churches, but one! None should encourage any to seek the church of your choice, but the church of Christ's choice, that is, the one that is Christ-built, blood-bought (**Acts 20:28**), the one in which He is the Saviour of (**Eph. 5:23**).

Since there is one, and only one church and since Christ saves only those in that one church; thus, if one living to-day is not a member of that church (**Rom. 16:16**), then he is not saved. ♦

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

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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