

THE POWER IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS

INTRODUCTION

I met with Ryan earlier this week, we were speaking about a crusade we are planning in the month of April. We started discussing one of the sermons I preached last year about "Moving On". Sadly for Ryan who was working for Standard Bank at the time and whose motto at the time was "Moving On", this sermon proved a challenge – that was not what he wanted to hear that day – He wanted to hear about Jesus and His shed blood.

As I pondered Ryan's words, it made me think that it's a while since we have focused on the blood of Christ Jesus, shed for us. The more I thought about it, the more excited I became, and so I felt it's time, time to lift up the name of Jesus, time to declare the wonder of His sacrifice and time to rejoice in the power of the blood of Jesus Christ which He shed for you and I. This morning I want to remind us of the POWER in the BLOOD of JESUS CHRIST.

MESSAGE

French philosopher Voltaire and American President John Adams are famous for their criticisms of Christianity because they thought it was a "bloody religion," with all its wars, its frequent mention of blood, and the bloody death of its founder, Jesus Christ.

What is it about blood, which we normally think of as grotesque, that has caused Christians in every generation to actually celebrate it?

How many hymns and songs have been written throughout the ages about the blood of Christ? We sang some of these this morning.

- Nothing But the Blood; Are You Washed in the Blood?; Oh, the Blood of Jesus; There is Power In the Blood.

Here's another one: **Sing – The blood that Jesus Shed for me.**

WHY DOES THE BLOOD OF JESUS HOLDS SUCH A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF BELIEVERS?

Here are five things from the Bible that help us to see why the blood of Jesus holds such a special place in the hearts of believers:

1. THE BLOOD BREAKS THE SEPARATION FROM GOD CAUSED BY SIN

In our Life Group study on Wednesday night, we spoke about forgiveness, about Romans 3:23 which tells us that ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We need God's presence but because we are ALL sinners, we are in a predicament because our sin separates us from Him.

Isaiah 59:2(NKJV) But your iniquities have separated you from your God;

And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

Something had to break that separation, and it did! It was the BLOOD of Jesus Christ. When we read in Hebrews, we no longer see separation, instead we see a bold entrance into God's very presence:

Hebrews 10:19-20 (NLT) And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. 20 By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place.

- We can enter God's presence boldly.
- We can enter because of the blood of Jesus Christ.
- In God's presence, we can speak to Him when we are struggling.
- In God's presence, we can tell Him we love Him.
- In God's presence, we can cast our cares upon Him.

Ephesians 2:13 puts it so beautifully: "But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to Him through the blood of Christ."

Before Jesus shed blood, all mankind knew was separation, but in the New Testament is a new statement ... **Romans 8:39** "Nothing can separate us from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord".

- ***Are you feeling far from God today?***
- ***Is the weight of sin and the condemnation of the enemy causing you to stay away from the sweet presence of God?***

This morning, you can throw aside that guilt and shame, confess you are covered by the blood of the Lamb and boldly come in worship before the Lord's throne!

2. FORGIVENESS OF SIN

In addition to being able to enter into God's presence through the blood of Christ, because of the blood, we are also forgiven of our sins.

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

God gave the punishment that we deserved to Christ, accepted Christ's sacrifice for us and so He has forgiven us for our sins. Jesus explained this to the disciples when He inaugurated the New Covenant communion:

Matthew 26:28 (AMP) for this is My blood of the [new and better] covenant, which [ratifies the agreement and] is being poured out for many [as a [substitutionary atonement] for the forgiveness of sins.

They were sharing the Passover meal, and He was telling His disciples that just as the blood of the lamb delivered the Hebrews from the death of the firstborn in Egypt, so His own blood would deliver the people who were covered by it from the judgment of God on the last day.

Revelation 1:5b (NKJV) ... Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

The Blood of Christ has washed us clean! We sing these beautiful words:

*What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Oh! Precious is the flow, That makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus...

- ***Do you know the joy of forgiven sins today?***
- ***Have you truly taken hold of the sin-forgiving power in the blood of the lamb that can wash you white as snow?***

3. CONSCIENCES CLEANSED

Through the blood of Christ, Christians receive the cleansing of their consciences.

Hebrews 10:21-22 (NLT) And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. **For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean**, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

Hebrews 9:14 (NKJV) how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Wow! The blood of Christ is sprinkled on our innermost parts. It has cleansed our consciences from the dead works of the past, and makes it possible to enter God's presence without any sense of guilt or shame.

- ***Do you have a guilty conscience? Let Jesus sprinkle it with His blood.***
- ***Do you have dead works in your past? Let the blood of Christ remove all your guilt!***
- ***Does your past make you feel unworthy of God? We can go right in to be with Him because the blood of Christ has cleansed our conscience.***

4. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST SANCTIFIES US

Hebrews 13:12 (NKJV) Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

Sanctify is a big word – let's look at it in context:

Sanctification means "**the state of proper functioning.**" To sanctify someone or something is to set that person or thing apart for the use intended by its designer. A pen is "sanctified" when used to write. Spectacles are "sanctified" when used to improve sight. In the Christian sense, we are sanctified when our lives are lived as God according to God's plan and purpose.

The blood of Christ sanctifies us, it enables us to live the holy, set apart lives that we are called to live with **continual victory over sin, becoming more and more like Christ!**

God is calling his people be holy as He is. Without holiness, no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). As Jesus sanctifies us daily, He makes us holy and enables us to live holy lives just as the Father requires!

- ***Are you struggling with your daily walk? Does holiness seem far from you? Allow the blood of Christ to sanctify you and then live the holy, victorious life you have been set apart to live!***

5. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST MAKES US OVERCOMERS

Revelation speaks much about the persecution of the saints as well as the fact the our enemy, the accuser continually accuses us before our heavenly Father.

Because of Christ's sacrifice and the pouring out of His blood on our behalf, we can trust in the righteousness of Christ and not our own righteousness when we are accused by our enemy.

Revelation 12:10-11(NKJV) 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Charles Spurgeon spoke these comforting words:

I know what the devil will say to you. He will say to you, 'You are a sinner!' Tell him you know you are, but that for all that you are justified. He will tell you of the greatness of your sin. Tell him of the greatness of Christ's righteousness. He will tell you of all your mishaps and your backslidings, of your offences and your wanderings. Tell him, and tell your own conscience, that you know all that, but that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, and that, although your sin be great, Christ is quite able to put it all away.

- ***Has satan been coming and accusing you of being a sinner and not good enough?***
- ***The blood of Christ made you good enough. When you trust in the blood of Christ, and you testify that Jesus Christ is your Lord and saviour, no weapon formed against you will prosper and no tongue raised in accusation will stand!***

CONCLUSION

Today we have heard of the power of the Blood of Christ Jesus:

1. Power to break the separation from God caused by our sins.
2. Power to forgive our sins.
3. Power to give us a clean consciences.
4. Power to sanctify us.
5. Power to make us overcomers.

And I would add this morning, the power to heal us – by His stripes we have been healed (Isaiah 53)

This blood came at great price, this blood is precious, this blood is indestructible:

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV) knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Let us appreciate, honour and revere Jesus and His precious blood shed for us. Let us step for with bold faith and take hold of the power in the blood of the Lamb. Let us experience a fresh encounter with Christ Jesus today as we immerse ourselves once more in the life-giving, healing, sanctifying, conscience cleansing and devil defeating powerful blood of Jesus Christ.