

# The Old Paths

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## “The Blood Of Christ”

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**O**ur Lord shed His blood on the cross over 2000 years ago. Yet, it has the same power it has always had. It has cleansing power, the likes of which has not been equaled by man. Let us study about our Lord’s shed blood and what it means to people today. Certainly this is a subject worthy of our study.

### **Christ’s Blood Remitted Our Sins.**

Perhaps we are aware of this, but it would do us good to consider some pertinent passages on this subject. First, Jesus Himself said His blood would be shed “*for many for the remission of sins*” (Matt. 26:28). The word “remission” means, “*freedom; (fig.) pardon:-- deliverance, forgiveness, liberty*” (Strong’s). Can we think of anything more wonderful than liberty? There are many today who would love nothing more than to live in a country where they could experience freedom. Yet, more important than political liberty is the fact that we have liberty or freedom from sin because of the shed blood of Christ! This is truly a gift from God.

Read Paul’s words as he stated the importance of Christ and His shed blood. “*But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all*

*and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus*” (Rom. 3:21-26).

Put simply, Paul was saying that there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for “*all have sinned.*” This being true, our Lord justified all and became the “*propitiation*” (sin offering) for all mankind through the shedding of His blood. Therefore, as we believe in Jesus Christ, doing what He has said to do in order to be saved (Rom. 10:16; Acts 2:36-38), we can have forgiveness of sins (liberty) because He shed His blood for us! What a wonderful thing for men to consider! Without the blood of Christ, there is no salvation. Paul also made it clear that Christ’s blood brought about the forgiveness of sins when he wrote to the Ephesian and Colossian brethren (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14).

Peter told the “*strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia*” that they “*were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and*

*without spot*” (I Pet. 1:18-19). This same truth applies today. Our redemption does not come through physical power or prowess; nor can we “*earn*” our way into Heaven. Redemption is not realized because we live in the U.S., nor because we are blessed financially by God. Redemption is not something we have based upon the color of our skin. Rather, Christ’s shed blood has made it possible for all mankind to one day see Heaven! The question is whether or not we are willing to do what is necessary to receive that remission of sins, made possible by the blood of Christ!

Another text worthy of our study is John’s words in the book of Revelation. “*John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood*” (Rev. 1:4-5). Truly, we cannot say enough about what the blood of Christ means to every man and woman on earth!

### **Christ’s Blood Purchased The Church.**

We know that Christ promised to build His church in Matthew 16:18. Paul declares that Christ’s church was purchased when He shed His blood on the cross. This fact is recorded in Paul’s meeting with the Ephesian elders at Miletus. He said, “*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood*” (Acts 20:28). Paul later wrote to the Ephesians and told them that Christ “*loved the church, and gave himself for it*” (Eph. 5:25).

“*Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.*” (Jer. 6:16)

After learning this, how can anyone belittle the importance of the Lord's church with a clear conscience? Jesus Christ thought the church was so important He died and shed His blood to purchase it (Jn. 19:33-34). If it was that important to Christ, it must be that important to me! If the Lord saw the church as a prized possession, I am not going to belittle her! Let us make sure that we hold the Lord's church in high regard. Something that is this precious, this valuable, deserves our honor and our respect!

Seeing that these things are true, it is no coincidence that when one becomes a Christian, being washed in the blood of the Lamb, he is also added to the Lord's church at the same time (Rev. 1:5; Acts 2:47)!

### ***Christ's Blood Can Be Counted Unholy.***

After Christ has done so much for us, we see that there are some who would count Christ's blood as "unholy" or common (Heb. 10:29). Who are these people? They are the ones who would "*sin wilfully*" after receiving "*the knowledge of the truth*" (Heb. 10:26). The word "wilfully" is defined as "*voluntarily; willingly*" (Strong's). Therefore, when one will voluntarily forsake God's laws, whether it be in forsaking the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:25, this is in the context); whether it be in filthy language (Eph. 5:4); whether it be in lascivious actions (Gal. 5:19-21); whether it be in vain worship (Jn. 4:24; Matt. 15:9); whether it be in drinking/drugs (I Pet. 4:3-4); etc. When we leave the commands and precepts of God in disobedience, we are guilty of counting Christ's blood as unholy or common.

This is why we need to be reminded daily to stay faithful to

the Lord God (Rev. 2:10). We need to be "*steadfast and unmovable*" (I Cor. 15:58). We need to continue to "*walk in the light, as he is in the light*" (I Jn. 1:7). One way we do this is by remembering who we are, and remembering where we once were. Paul reminded the Ephesians of this, telling them they were once "*dead in trespasses and sins*" (Eph. 2:1). At one time they were "*without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, ... having no hope and without God in the world*" (Eph. 2:12). He then reveals that it was the blood of Christ that made them "*nigh*" to God (v. 13)!

Since we were once in the same position as the Ephesians, let us never consider Christ's blood unholy or common through willful sin; but let us live according to the will of God as Christ did (Jn. 12:49-50) so that one day we can be with our Lord in Heaven for eternity! How wonderful is the power of the blood of Christ!

### ***Conclusion***

There have been volumes written concerning the blood of Christ, and yet the story never grows old. It never grows old because there are men and women still in sin (Rom. 3:23). So long as this is true, there will be a need for the redemption made possible by Christ's blood. Have you come in contact with the cleansing effects of Christ's blood? You can do so today through baptism (Acts 2:38)!

## **"I May Be Old-Fashioned, But..."**

Selected

I still like to hear an audible "amen" by the men in the congregation after a public prayer.

I still like to hear men use plenty of Scripture when they preach.

I still like to hear a congregation of people lift their voices when they sing God's praises.

I still like to hear the terms "Brother" and "Sister" used when addressing members of the body of Christ, instead of Mr. and Mrs.

I still like to see people who are so obsessed with the work of Christ in the community that they develop a sense of loyalty to the home congregation.

I still like to see young people sit at the front of the building at every service. I still like to hear young people say "Yes sir" when addressing adults.

I still like to hear people say, "If God wills" I will do this or that, suggesting a conscious realization of their dependence upon Him at all times.

I still like to see people who are so much in love with Christ and His church that they are persistent in inviting others to share with them in the grace of God by participating in the worship services and Bible classes.

And it still saddens me to see many who are miserable with their religion because of a lack of real commitment.

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**Sunday Evening Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **6:00 pm**

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study** \_\_\_\_\_ **7:00 pm**

Don't forget the call-in radio program on **WBIO, FM 94.7**, Sunday afternoon from 12:30-1:00 pm. **Call: 683-5200** with your Bible question.

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