

THE BENEFITS OF THE CROSS

The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia S09A (Ref #3 Rdg.) 0801 21P

There is always a need to get a clearer understanding of the value and the meaning of our benefits of the great work done for us on Calvary's Cross. God has made it quite plain throughout His Word and has given many examples of what the Blood means and stands for.

It is the foundation of all blessing and Satan knows this too. He is doing his utmost to cover up and belittle all the great blessings we have and trying to nullify this great Work. Satan knows that the moment a person understands what that great Work means, they are free. He wants to keep them in the dark concerning it, so he can oppress them and rob them of all the great blessings provided by the Blood of the Cross and eventually destroy them for time and eternity.

Satan has gotten the so-called Christian world away from what the Blood means and stands for. So, any religion that does not base its hope on the Blood of Christ fully, is a counterfeit.

The moment we understand what the Blood really means and stands for, accept it and take it as His Word directs, the power of God is there waiting to deliver us. That's what Paul meant when he said in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "*The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*"

The Blood of the Cross has cut the cords of sin and has set us free, and we have peace with God through that great Work. Romans 5:1, (KJV) "*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

The Weymouth's translation says, "*Standing then acquitted (or declared not guilty) as the result of faith, let us enjoy peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

The question is not how we are to get our victory but to understand that we already have it. That is, we are to sit back and accept and enjoy all the blessings that God is waiting to give us, all through our Lord Jesus Christ. That is His promise.

We have been set free by the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross from being in bondage to Satan, spiritually, from bondage to trouble of any kind. From sickness, disease, poverty, every bond has been broken. We are justified by faith, acquitted, we are fully delivered, all through that great work done for us on Calvary's Cross. Let us therefore, *enjoy peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Satan has to convince us that it is all right having a little oppression or some sickness before he can oppress us—he has to get us away from the cross. But we must remain firm and steadfast, we are justified by faith, exempt from all oppressions of the devil, by faith through our Lord Jesus Christ and the work that He has done for us on the Cross.

It is mentioned in many parts of Scripture, how efficacious the Blood really is and how God manifested His power when the meaning of the Blood was understood. One example is the children of Israel, down in the land of Egypt. This is one of the best examples in the Bible that teaches us how God regards the Blood.

This points us directly to Calvary's Cross and how that Blood gives a complete deliverance from every power of sin and all the works of the devil. How we are free from all sickness and trouble of every kind with full protection from them.

Israel was in bondage for a long time down in Egypt. They had gotten away from the blood sacrifices that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were under and got into a false system of religion. It appears that they were trusting in man and going to the churches down in Egypt, which brought them into poverty and distress that was totally intolerable.

That is why Joshua wanted to be sure of their trust in God when they were about to enter the promised land, he asked them to “choose this day whom you will serve, are you going to serve the gods of the other side of the river, or are you going to serve the Lord? But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Satan likes to get people into places where the Blood is lost sight of, they feel lost and burdened down, but God wants to get us to the place ‘where our yoke is easy and our burden is light.’ That is what Jesus told us in Matthew 11:28-30. That is God's plan, just opposite to what the children of Israel were going through.

God allowed terrible plagues to come upon the land of Egypt. Pharaoh would say one day you can go, but the next day “You shall not go.” Then he would say, “You can take your wives and your children but let your flocks and herds stay.”

Satan works in the same way, if he can't get all of you, he will want as much as he can get. He wants us to be anything but clean cut with a total surrender to God and His will.

Moses replied, “We must all go, our men, our wives, our children, our cattle. There shall not be a hoof left behind.” That was a firm decision, not giving in, in the faintest, a full and total victory. That is to be our decision, firm and final, not giving in to anything less than a full and complete victory.

Pharaoh kept changing his mind and life was utterly miserable for the Egyptians, and yet he would not let the children of Israel go. But there did come a night when he didn't change his mind about letting them go.

God told Moses, “There is one more plague coming and Pharaoh is going to thrust you out.” You will not be held back, you will not be frightened, the Egyptians will help you to get out.

Then He told Moses, (Exodus 11:5-7) *“About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.”*

God then told them what they were to do, Exodus 12:5-7, *“Ye shall take a lamb without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. (vs. 13) And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the*

houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”

The Blood of Jesus Christ says the same to us today as the blood of that little lamb said to the Israelites. The power of Satan is broken, and he or any of his agents cannot move their tongue against any of us. Satan is a paralyzed, defeated foe.

Hebrews 2:14, *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;”*

We need not only to really understand what that great work on the Cross means but also to keep it always before us. Paul said in Galatians 6:14, *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”*

That was Paul’s conception of Calvary’s Cross. The whole world and all of its diseases, sicknesses, troubles, distresses, and strife are as powerless to harm me as one lying in their grave. That is what the Blood of Christ has done for us today. If the blood of a little lamb, just a type of Jesus Christ, down in the land of Egypt, could bring about such manifestations of God’s power, then the Blood of Christ will bring that much greater deliverance and protection from every evil thing.

We must pray and ask God to inspire us and enlighten us to all that He is trying to show us, of all that His Son went willingly, to that Cross to do for us. We don’t have to try to build up some big faith within us, it is nothing that we can do, but a full dependence on the Blood of Christ that brings results.

Just like the cripple at the Beautiful Gate in the third chapter of Acts. Peter said to him, *“Look on us! Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, I give thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”*

What did Peter mean? He could have said, *“Through the merits of the Blood on Calvary’s Cross you are free, you are strong and well.”* The man believed what Peter was telling him, and he jumped up and began walking and leaping and praising God.

Then the people around Peter and John began looking on them as though they had some certain power about them. When Peter saw this, he replied, “Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?”

May God protect us from ever thinking that man has any power of themselves. Yes, it is nice to know sometimes that someone may be praying with us when going through trial, but we are never healed because of someone else’s prayers, it is like Peter told the people in Acts 3:16, “*Through faith in His name, (and believing what the Blood on the Cross has really done for us,) hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*

It is all because of the Blood, never anything in us. Just like the Israelites, when the blood was on the lintels and side posts of their doors, they could eat and act like well persons. Surely, there must have been many kinds of sicknesses and diseases among them with about three million people. God didn’t tell them how to get their healing—He said, you are well, eat your supper with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and eat it in haste.

The 105th Psalm says, “He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.” They were perfectly well people and had all that they could need all because of the blood of a little lamb which is just a symbol of the real Passover Blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary’s Cross. If they had all that they could use and were perfectly well under the blood of a little lamb, how much more right do we have to everything because we are under the Blood of God’s dear Son.

The First Century Gospel

Church/Philadelphia