

"WHAT JESUS' ATONING BLOOD" (REALLY MEANS TO ONE IN CHRIST)

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It does not matter how often we read or hear God's Word, each time we take time to consider it, we should receive new light and spiritual strength from it. The Truth of God's Word becomes more plain, clearer, and more valuable to us, and brings greater spiritual results.

When we first start out in the Christian life, we do not have that clear understanding of the Truth. When I started in the Christian life many years ago (the late Pastor said), "the Truth of God's Word did not mean one thing to me." What I felt and what I saw meant everything, and the thoughts that Satan put into my mind meant a lot" (until God taught me to reject them). However, "if God can get anyone to hold steady in faith, and they will confess and forsake their sins, surrender their life to God without reservation, and (we emphasize that), that surrender is final, the Holy Spirit will then take possession of that person's life. He (God) will begin to lead, guide, and teach them until He brings them to have clear under-standing of His Word as it is written (and that is most 'valuable').

In reality it is 'all-important' and 'spiritually valuable', (and absolutely necessary), for each one of us to receive a clear understanding of what God is telling us in His Word about His Son's atoning Blood. Then we must believe it, so that we can live out His Word in our life of trust on His 'Promises', and on the power of His Blood which supports those Promises.

At times we may need to remind ourselves, that in God's New Covenant Plan, He does not ask us to do one thing in our own strength, nor to understand things in His Word with our own intellect. He does, however, tell us to be willing to listen to His Word, and be willing to follow the teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 9:35) "Then there came a voice from within the cloud: "This is My Son, My Chosen One: listen to Him."

If God can find a person who is willing to listen and do as He asks (trust on Him and hold steady regardless of the circumstances), His Spirit will lead them to understand and believe on His Word as it was written for us to follow by faith. (John 16:13) "But when He has come--the Spirit of Truth--He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak as Himself originating what He says, but all that He hears He will speak, and He will make known the future to you." We cannot truly comprehend how spiritually valuable that is

in a true Christian life of faith on God's Word (to understand what Jesus' Blood sacrifice should mean to us).

The cause of all our troubles in the Christian life, is not knowing and not doing according to God's Word. "The devil cannot lay a finger on any human being until they become un-Scriptural", (when they take themselves out from under that covering Blood of Jesus Christ) (by their own choice to not obey God's Word). When we go against His Word, we forsake the love and mercy that He extended to us through the atoning sacrifice of His Son in our behalf. (Mark 3:35) "For wherever there is one who has been obedient to God, there is my brother, my sister, and my mother."

Satan cannot harm a person who lives (and walks) according to God's Word, because His Truth is our shield and buckler. (Psalm 91:4) "He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His Truth shall be your shield and buckler." (Protector)

This is not to infer in any way that a person not in perfect obedience to the Word of God is on their way to the Lake of Fire. When we first come to God, we are ignorant of the full Truth and spiritually blind concerning the real depth and meaning of His Word (and we do not learn it all in a day). After fifty years in the Truth of God, His Word is still becoming clearer and more understandable than ever before in our Christian life (the late Pastor said). It is not that we did not know anything about it before, but as we hold steadfast and grow in the Truth, God's Word will open up to us faster and more clearly than before, and we will be enabled to see and follow it out as it is written. This, of course, will always be to the glory of God "Who gives that spiritual increase."

God does not condemn us because we do not know everything about His Word when we begin our 'life of trust' on His Word, and on the power of Jesus' Blood. (Matt. 12:20) "A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out, till He leads Justice to victory."

However, to start out right, we have to be repentant, and be surrendered into God's hands, .pardoned and cleansed, and with the Holy Spirit in control of our life, then He will do whatever is needed (spiritually in our heart), (because that is the expressed purpose of the Holy Spirit coming into this world) "to lead us into all Truth." That means He will enable us to learn all about what God's Word says and be inspired to believe it and obey it.

We will never enter into our full inheritance in Christ, and never be made ready for Eternal Life, until we allow God to do the spiritual work needed in our life to make us Scriptural in everything. That means a final decision on our part to trust in the 'living God' for everything in our life, however, it will result in perfect happiness and perfect protection, and it will mean that the devil is defeated and will not be able to rob us of our 'atonement rights'. Rather, it will mean everything we could want spiritually,

physically, financially, in our home-life (and in every other way),... and, most importantly, it will mean our real preparation for Eternal Life with God's Spirit as our personal Teacher!

It can take many years for us to learn these things and to have clear knowledge of God's Word, and what the Blood of Jesus Christ really means to a true believer, but when we have truly surrendered our life to God and started right in the Christian life, we will then have the promised Holy Spirit to teach us. He is the Master Teacher to do that work in our heart, and He is the only One we should ever look to as our Teacher. We cannot let any man (or Church) get between us and God as our Teacher. God uses men to plant the Word (and to water it), but that is only a small part in proportion to what the Holy Spirit does to remove trust on the self-life from our heart, and to prepare us for Eternal Life (which is something only God can do for us).

The Holy Spirit will use every circumstance in our life, everything that touches us, every time we are attacked by the devil, and every temptation or battle we go through, to prove to us that "all things work together for good to those who love God". (Rom. 8:28).

We are to be conformed into the very image of Jesus Christ, Who told us (Matt.5:48) "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." (Also, Rom. 12:2 instructs us) "be transformed by the entire renewal of your minds, so that you may learn by experience what God's will is-(that will which is good and beautiful and perfect.)"

So, it is vitally important that we have clear understanding of 'WHAT IT MEANS TO BE UNDER THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST', so that we may rely on the power of His Blood to bring us successfully through every trial or test of our faith. In reality, every human being in the entire world is under that Blood. His Blood should be on every door by faith, just as real in God's sight as it was for the Israelites on that Passover Night in Egypt, because Jesus Christ died for the whole world (not just for Israel).

We have all read about what the blood of a sacrificed animal meant to Israel when they obeyed God and placed it over their doors. But Jesus died for the whole world and He placed God at our side and at our service. To place ourselves in faith under His Blood, means just as much to us today as it ever meant at any time in the Bible. It is a positive fact (which we can prove for ourselves), that when we find out and accept what the Blood means to us, we can claim everything that it means as a present-day possession, and it will become a reality in our life because that is what the Bible teaches.

We need to consider what the Blood of Christ means to our spiritual life. Most of us have read that the Blood means perfect health and protection of our bodies (so much so that a dog could not bark to disturb man or animal). Nor could the terrible pestilence enter their homes. That is real protection! (Exod.11:5-7) "and all

the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the hand-mill, and all the firstborn of the animals. `Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. `But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel." (That is what it meant to be under the blood of an animal).

We must all realize that everything in a true Christian life has a 'spiritual basis', so that is why we need to consider what the Blood of Christ means to our spiritual life. Divine healing is founded on real spirituality, just as financial victory and blessing. God's financial plan for a Christian is one of the greatest factors in the 'death of self' (and development of the Christ-life in our heart), as well as development of real faith and real knowledge of God. With each answer to prayer financially, also for healing, deliverance from persecution (or otherwise), we come to a better knowledge of God and His love for us, and of how His Holy Spirit will direct us with our decisions and actions, if we will follow as He directs us to the right path to follow, or the correct and Scriptural decision to make on every issue.

To follow God's financial plan, does indeed help to eliminate and remove self-dependance from our heart (which we must allow God to remove), so that we can enter the Kingdom of God 'like a child'.

We need to understand that the evil nature of 'self' which we inherited from Adam, is the cause of all the trouble we have ever had in our life. Every ache, pain, or burden; every trouble in our home, or upsetting thing that Satan ever used to disturb our peace, was the result of that evil nature of 'self' in our heart. "As long as there is any of that evil nature in us", "there would not be any need for Jesus Christ dying for us. It would not be of any use to try to live the Christ-life"(if we are not willing to allow the Holy Spirit to remove the evil nature of self from our heart). (Mark 10: 15) "In solemn truth I tell you that no one who does not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will by any possibility enter it."

The Holy Spirit taught Paul what the evil self-nature is all about. The Spirit can teach us the same thing, if we will submit to following His guidance (and not stubbornly go our own way when the Spirit shows us the right thing to do, or a right decision to make). Paul explained (Rom.8:6-7) "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God,... nor indeed can be."

God has tried to reveal to us by teaching and example from Genesis to Revelation, that Jesus Christ came to deliver us from that rebellious inward enemy, (that evil-nature which we inherited

from Adam). Any religion that would approve of one particle of that nature being left in our heart, is a false religion from the devil.

We can be easily tempted to think or say, "Oh it won't matter" (if we just use a little bit of human effort to get what we want in our own way) (or, by some effort of the self-life still in our heart). But that is not what God's Word tells us through Jesus Christ and the apostle Paul (and many others), about what Jesus' Blood has done to take that "sinful nature" out of our heart.

Many of the prophets warned of dire results of trusting on the evil nature of self and the devil. (Jere.17:5-6) "Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes". (vs.7-8) "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river,". (vs.9-10) "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings."

The devil does not care how religious we look or sound, what we profess, or how much outward religion we have, just so we keep that evil nature in our heart and go into eternity un-prepared. Satan deceived the Catholics to teach that there is a Purgatory (and they claim) that a person has another chance to get right with God in Purgatory. He deceived the Presbyterians to say that we sin in thought, word, and deed until we die, and then death is to be our deliverer. Wouldn't that be some poor excuse for a Savior? There is no Scripture to support either of those falsehoods that the devil uses to deceive people, to think that it doesn't matter if the sinful and rebellious self-attitude is still in a person's heart.

It isn't any wonder they have come down to that low level of unbelief and wrong doctrine (and they still go around saying 'I am a believer'), because they never had the Truth, and never knew what 'the Truth' is. They never taught what the "Blood of Christ means to a true Christian", nor that God's Word is to be obeyed in everything that we do. They do not think it is necessary, but the Bible says it is necessary. (1 John 2:3-4), "And by this we may know that we know Him- if we obey His commands. He who professes to know Him" (saying they are a believer), "and yet does not obey His commands, is a liar, and the truth has no place in his (or her) heart."

A true believer should keep separate from those who only profess to believe, but who are trusting on plans devised by men, inspired by self, Satan, and from unbelief, and, who engage in worldly activities which feed the evil nature still in their hearts. (2 Cor.6:17 instructs believers), "'Come out from among them and separate yourselves,' says the Lord." (The Lord cannot say it much plainer than that).

