

The Meaning of the Atonement

PART 1

S027 25 1102C

We desire to consider a few remarks on what the Blood really means. We do not think, or even suggest, that this subject will be exhausted in this lesson. However, we cannot know too much about the Blood; what it means, what it stands for to us personally; that we might see that anyone who grasps—even to the slightest extent—what the Blood means will immediately be delivered from their sins, sorrows, diseases, and difficulties, or whatever trouble they may be in.

We just have to understand a little what the Blood really means, or stands for; that is the reason we desire to take up this phase of God's truth, because it is the great end of our salvation; it is the one essential thing we need to know that we may thoroughly understand God's plan; everything else takes its place, God's power begins to work the moment we understand, in any way, what the Blood stands for. It brings righteousness, it brings peace, it brings health and protection.

The enemy could not bring one cold or cough, or any other disease upon us, if we understood what that Blood stood for. No child could say one cross word in any home; they could not be disobedient, if the parents understand what that Blood means. If we really ever grasped what the Blood means, we would have perfect peace in our home-life.

It is the same in our financial affairs; there would be an abundance of financial prosperity. Perfect victory must come to everyone who believes what that Blood stands for. We want to get a better understanding of our privileges and possibilities and blessings provided through that Blood; what we may expect if we really believe the statements concerning it.

In **Isaiah 53:1** we have a statement which will be the foundation of our study and meditation.

It is a very remarkable statement; it asks a question, and also suggests the answer. *"Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?"*

Who hath believed what God has to say about the great sacrifice, or the shedding of the Blood and the breaking of the body of His Son? *"And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?"*

This is a very significant statement. Have we ever grasped the meaning of it, that the moment we really believe and accept the plain, matter-of-fact statement that God tells us about the Blood; that His Son died on the Cross for us, and just what that Blood means to us, then that very moment God's arm is moved in our behalf; God's power begins to work to give us the benefits of the results of that work. Now we have the same statement in other language in **1 Corinthians 1:18** — *"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God."*

This means from the very moment that we accept the statements of this Word about the Cross, its true meaning, what it stands for—that moment the power of God sets us FREE; that power begins to work at once for us. We have the same thought in **Hebrews 10:14**— *"For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified."*

God has made this provision, and it is all ready, all finished; because Jesus Christ said on the Cross— *"It is finished;"* so this verse is very significant. The Book of Hebrews is called the Atonement Book of the Bible; the Book in which Isaiah's prophecy is brought out in greater detail, enlarged upon and magnified. It is a very significant Book and contains remarkable statements and wonderful Truths to set people free in everything and in every way.

In **Hebrews 10:10** it is written— *"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."*

We have perfect righteousness, perfect peace, perfect and free access to everything that God has. Now let us consider the sin question. Let us notice for a moment how the Blood sets us free from sin. The very moment we grasp that fact and its relation to our sins, that moment they drop off.

In **Genesis 4:4** we have a very significant statement— *"And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering."*

In other words, the Lord accepted that offerings, it was all God required from Abel; the blood of a little lamb. Over in **Hebrews 11:4** we read what God had to say about that blood— *“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”*

Abel accepted that statement and received perfect righteousness and full deliverance from the guilt and power of sin. He offered blood as an offering, as a type of Jesus Christ on the cross; and this is what brought the righteousness. He had testimony borne unto him that he was righteous.

God did not say— “You have to cry, plead, and coax for forgiveness.” He said— “All you are expected to do is to accept the offering that I have provided, which is the Blood. The Blood is all I require; it is enough for your pardon and cleansing; it is all I require for your righteousness, for the fulness of every power in you.”

If we accept that Word as our only hope, we have pardon and cleansing. Our acceptance is the only plan upon which God’s power can come in and make us what we ought to be. If we think we have to cry and work up a big faith, or do anything like that to be made righteous, we are much mistaken; we cannot do anything along this line; we must base our hope of righteousness on the Blood of that Lamb, which is enough for us and all that God requires; it is all we need today for righteousness— to accept God’s statement concerning the Blood of His Son, which says our sins are forgiven, when we ask, because of that Blood— not because of anything we have done, or ever can do. Our hearts are cleansed because of that Blood.

We receive forgiveness, pardon, and cleansing, and the gift of righteousness because of the Blood of that great Passover Lamb alone— not for any other reason— nothing we have done, no prayer we have offered, but because we have based our hopes on the Blood of that Lamb.

This statement is brought out more clearly in **Hebrews 9: 13-14**.... *“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh; how much more shall the blood of Christ,*

who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

If Abel’s lamb would bring pardon and cleansing, without merit or price on his part, how much more will the Blood of Jesus Christ do the same for us today? That is what Paul is trying to bring out with this Scripture. This is also brought out in the teaching of Philip to the eunuch in the 8th chapter of Acts. The eunuch was reading from a roll in **Isaiah, 53**, where the prophet was speaking about the coming Messiah.

“He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth. In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation?” (Verses 32 & 33) Philip joined the eunuch in the chariot and asked him if he understood what he read, to which he replied— *“How can I, except some man teach me?”* He was an educated man from Ethiopia, but very ignorant concerning the interpretation of the Scriptures. He held a high position worldly speaking, but Divinely speaking he knew nothing; he did not know whether the Prophet was speaking about himself or someone else.

Philip began to teach him from the Scriptures, stating that the Prophet Isaiah was teaching concerning Jesus Christ, God’s Son, the Messiah, Who came to this earth and spent three years and a half, was hanged on a Cross and slain, in order to pardon our sins, cleanse our hearts, to fill us with God’s righteousness; and that whosoever believed that He hanged there and died for them would receive deliverance from their sins, if they believed and were baptized, and would be brought into union with Jesus Christ. As they went on their way, they came to a stream of water and the eunuch asked if he could not be baptized.

Philip answered, *“If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’”* (Verse 37)

Philip really meant to say— “If you really believe, with all your heart, that Jesus Christ died for your sins, and you accept Him and His Blood as your only hope, you may.” He was baptized at that place and went home a delivered man. He

did not get down and coax and plead with God to forgive him, because he was a bad man. He had a right to ask for forgiveness, but that is not the whole attitude we are to take. We are also to BELIEVE that through that Blood there is remission of sins. Peter stood up before those hard-hearted Jews and preached— *“Repent and be baptized every one of you In the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* (Acts 2:38)

“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.” (Acts 10:43)

Whosoever believes what the Blood stands for, what it was shed for, will be justified. All we have to do is to believe God’s testimony concerning the Blood.

Let us consider Cornelius In the 10th chapter of Acts. He was ready to do anything, but he was not called upon to do anything but believe God’s testimony about the Blood of His Son. Peter came and spoke to him about Jesus hanging on the Cross. Beloved, you know believing is just the opposite from what we desire to do. Peter told Cornelius if he was willing to BELIEVE the bare facts concerning the Blood and would repent, he could be delivered. That is the reason we are justified through faith, because unbelief is the foundation of all sin; repentance, and believing are the foundation of righteousness.

The greatest repentance you can do is to believe the statements of God’s Word, which is the foundation of repentance—to be willing to believe the plain statements of God’s Word. It is all right if you say— “I will not do that anymore,” but it would not set you free from sin; but when you have settled it to BELIEVE God’s statements concerning the Blood, you are FREE because that Blood has cut the cords which bind you to sin and the power of Satan; you are delivered from every sin. That is the best repentance you can do—to be willing to believe God’s Word as it is written.



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