

# The Blood of Jesus Christ

*What does it mean to you today?*

**No man's biographer in this world has given such an emphasis to the last week of a person's life as the Gospel writers did to Jesus's life.** 29 out of 89 chapters (about 30%) in the gospels are devoted to the last week of Jesus' life. John 13-19 describes sunset to sunset, the last 24 hours in the life of Jesus.

The entire Bible is focused on the death of Jesus. Therefore we find the disciples preaching Christ and him crucified along with it the message of the resurrection.

See the focus is the same for all the gospel writers:

A third of Matthew, from Matthew 21-28;

A third of Mark, from Mark 11-16;

A quarter of Luke, from Luke 19-24;

Nearly half of John, from John 12-20; focus on the last week of Jesus' life. **You cannot miss this emphasis of the gospel writers; can you?**

Jesus died for you. He took your punishment upon himself on the cross. He became cursed for you. He died in your place. He died as a substitute for you. "He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:5). **He shed his blood for you.**

There are many things about the blood of Jesus you need to know. It will take a lifetime and all eternity to appreciate the preciousness of his blood. But let us start here and now.

The following benefits and applications of the blood of Jesus in your life are discussed in this brief article:

- Is the blood of Jesus your song? It is the eternal **song** of heaven!
- You are **redeemed** by his blood.
- You are **cleansed** through his blood.
- You are **sanctified** through his blood.
- You are **reconciled** to God through his blood.
- God has **covered** your sin through his blood
- You have **access** to God at all times through his blood.
- You have **victory** over Satan through his blood.
- You are **justified** through his blood.
- You have **forgiveness of sins** through his blood.
- You have **protection** in his blood.

## # Is the Blood of Jesus Your Song? It is the Eternal Song of Heaven!

The favourite title that John uses for Jesus Christ is "Lamb" or "Slain Lamb" in the Book of Revelation. He uses that title no less than 26 times. It reminds us of the words with which John the Baptist introduced Jesus Christ: "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29b)!"

When you consider the fact that Jesus is referred to as Lamb only once in the OT in Isaiah 53, twice in John's gospel Chapter 1 and once in 1 Peter; this emphasis in the Book of Revelation should not be missed.

John sees the shed blood on the cross as the central point of our faith. Therefore he writes: "To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood (Revelation 1:5b)."

John describes the new song sung when Jesus takes the scroll whose seals no one else in the entire universe is found worthy to open. In that song we find the blood of Jesus the chief focus: "You were worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God . . . (Revelation 5:9).



Again we find a huge multitude of people in heaven no one can count (Revelation 7:9). An elder tells him that these people have come out of the great tribulation and that they have washed their robes and made it white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14).

So you find that the blood of Jesus is in focus always in heaven. And you need not wait till reaching heaven to sing those songs praising the blood of Jesus. These are some songs you can learn to sing or even meditate on in your quiet moments each day:

What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. – Robert Lowry.

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing pow'r?  
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? -- Elisha Albright Hoffman.

There is a fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;  
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,

Lose all their guilty stains: -- William Cowper

Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come! -- Charlotte Elliott  
[This song was widely used as the altar call song in Billy Graham Crusades.]

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suff'ring and shame. – George Bennard  
[One stanza in particular begins with the line: In the old rugged cross, stained  
with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see].

There is power, power, wonder-working power  
In the blood of the Lamb  
There is power, power, wonder-working power  
In the precious blood of the Lamb  
(This is the chorus of the song, "Would you be free from the burden of sin  
written by Lewis E. Jones)

## # You Are Redeemed by the Blood of Jesus

This is a term that can be understood in the context of a slave-market. The word Redemption means "especially of purchasing a slave with a view to his freedom (W. E. Vine, An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words)." Now God did not need to pay Satan anything to set us free. Instead it was the demand of the Law that he fully met.



**What the Law said about sin** can be stated in these verses: "For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a)." "The soul who sins is the one who will die (Ezekiel 18:20a)."

How **Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the Law** is expressed in Galatians 3:13: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.' "This means that we are set free through the death of Jesus from the impossibility of keeping the demands of the law (see also Galatians 3:10, 11).

Now look at ***the following verses which clearly connect redemption with the blood of Jesus:***

“In him we have **redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7).”

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with **the precious blood of Christ**, a lamb without blemish or defect (1 Peter 1:18, 19).”

The above verses clearly teach that nothing else other than the precious blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, can set you free. Riches, money, and wealth cannot save. **Paul having understood the huge price Jesus paid for your redemption** said “You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body (1 Corinthians 6: 19b, 20a).”

## **# You Are Cleansed through the Blood of Jesus**

We all love to have a **brand new beginning** in life. The first thing to do to have a new beginning is to accept that we are sinners. Christ died for sinners (Romans 5:8). Therefore you can look to him in faith and be saved.



Even after we accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, **we do sin**. So the Bible warns us not to say we have no sin. That makes God to be a liar (see 1 John 1:8 and 10). But then the Bible says, “If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin (1 John 1:7).”

Two things need to be noted. One, we have to agree with God the truthfulness of what he has shown as wrong and sinful in us. That is the meaning of walking in the light. The second thing is that cleansing promised is from all sin (not particular sins). That means **there is no sin of yours that cannot be cleansed by the blood of Jesus**.

David in an earlier generation understood his need to be cleansed. Therefore he prayed, “Create in me a pure heart O God (Psalm 51:10a).” The answer to that prayer is found for you today in the precious and cleansing blood of Jesus. His blood is the fountain of cleansing that Prophet Zechariah foretold (Zechariah 13:1). **Are you washed clean by the blood of Jesus?**

## # You Are Sanctified through the Blood of Jesus

Many believers are satisfied with the initial experience of forgiveness which is called "born again" (John 3:3) experience. It is like laying the foundation of a building and then forgetting all about constructing the house.



**Sanctification refers to the moment by moment cleansing we all need through the blood of Jesus.** Imagine you taking a walk on the road. When you come back home even though you didn't deliberately touch any dirt, lot of dust and other matter will have accumulated in your body mixed with your sweat; isn't it? Likewise as we live in the world do many things we happen to see and hear defile our mind and spirit.

**Often this defilement discourages us.** Then we need to consciously seek the cleansing through the blood of Jesus. We also need to separate ourselves from all known sin in our lives. And then there are matters that make our consciences unclean. We may not be aware of all that. Yet if we consciously seek the cleansing by the blood of Jesus he will do it.

After mentioning about the **outward sanctification** achieved through the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those ceremonially unclean (see Hebrews 9:13) in Old Testament Times, the writer points out the **inward cleansing** as well: "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God (Hebrews 9:14)."

Again sanctification means much more. Jesus spoke about **the deepest union** with him that is possible. In John 6, in a space of 4 verses he speaks of us "drinking his blood." This offended his disciples and many left him. Jewish law forbade eating of blood (Leviticus 17:10—12). **But Jesus was not talking about literal drinking but the closest application of his blood in our lives.** There might certainly be deeper meanings which are difficult for us to understand but possible to experience if we seek the sanctification available through his blood.

One more thought. The blood of Jesus is precious as it is innocent blood. But its power to save, to cleanse, to reconcile, to redeem, to justify, to give peace; all comes from having offered it in willing surrender and sacrifice in complete

obedience to his Father's will. Therefore **sanctification also includes in it the principle of sacrificial obedience**. So the more the blood of Jesus is allowed to operate in our lives the more we can experience sanctification through his blood.

Honestly, we may not understand all that this means but those who sincerely seek sanctification will experience it. This is **not a one-time experience but a daily experience for a closer intimate walk with God**.

### **# You Are Reconciled to God through the Blood of Jesus**

One of the first things that happened after Adam and Eve sinned was that **the fellowship with God was immediately broken**. It became impossible for holy God to be friends with man anymore. Sin had to be punished by death. That was God's holy law.



But then God's love began to seek man and **make provision for friendship to be restored**. The only means to do so was to shed innocent blood. This was done by slaying an animal as a substitute. Instead of the sinner an innocent animal died. The animal died in place of the sinner.

Once that was done it was possible for man to have fellowship with God. But this sacrifice of animals could not take away sin. It just reminded man that his sin was covered for the moment (see Hebrews 10:3, 4). A **better sacrifice was needed** to bring about true reconciliation between God and man. That was what happened at the Cross of Calvary.

There God's holiness and justice; met with his love and mercy. And reconciliation happened between God and man. The Bible says, "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (2 Corinthians 5:19)." Some translations say, "that **God was in Christ** reconciling the world to himself." Isn't that an awe-inspiring thought?

**Reconciliation means that now it is possible to have real friendship and fellowship with God**. It was for this that Jesus shed his blood on the cross. When you trust that blood God welcomes you with open arms just like how the prodigal son was welcomed home by his father (see Luke 15:20). Read more on reconciliation in Colossians 1:19—22.

## # God Has Covered Your Sin through the Blood of Jesus

The words **Atonement** or **Propitiation** means “to cover.” It literally means to appease God's wrath. God is angry against sin and the sinner. But since God's love is also in operation he made a provision through which animal sacrifices would cover the sin from his eyes. Ultimately, Jesus through his blood sacrifice turned away God's wrath against us. We can get this benefit by faith in his blood.



The cherubim which drove away man from the Garden of Eden are seen looking towards the atonement cover or the mercy seat in the ark of the covenant. There the blood of slain animals was sprinkled once in a year inside the holy of holies. So the cherubim were represented as looking at the blood. Inside that ark was kept the stone tablets of the Law. Hope you got the picture of how the blood covered over sin that the Law pointed out!

Now Paul says, “God presented him as a **sacrifice of atonement**, through faith in his blood (**Romans 3:25**).” This is a very important verse which specifically mentions the object of faith which saves. That is faith in the blood of Jesus is what saves. Many non-believers accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, a divine healer, a worker of miracles, and a powerful prophet. That is all true. But that kind of faith is not enough to save. What saves you from eternal hell is your faith in his blood!

**So if you trust in the blood of Jesus, God’s anger against you is turned away from you because of Jesus’s blood.** See, God is no longer angry at you. Your trust in the blood of Jesus has made this possible. Aren’t you glad that God is not angry with you?

## # You Have Access to God at All Times through the Blood of Jesus

Imagine that when you walk into an office to meet the CEO of a MNC, to your surprise you find that his Secretary is someone who knows you and speaks on your behalf to him.

**How much more confidence you can have when Jesus himself is interceding for you and speaks on your behalf to God.** “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body (Hebrews 10:19, 20).”



**The cross and his shed blood opened heaven to us also who believe and trust in him.** Jesus' broken body is the entrance to it. The curtain of the temple which was torn from top to bottom (Matthew 27:50, 51; Mark 15:37, 38; Luke 23:45) was symbolic of the opening of the doors of heaven to all who trust in the blood of Jesus. Therefore we can approach God with freedom, boldness, and confidence crying out "Abba, Father" like Jesus did (Romans 8:15, 16; Galatians 4:6).

Yes, we are asked to have boldness and freedom to approach the throne of grace. This is because God is seeing the merit of Jesus' shed blood. God honours the blood of Jesus always.

God wholeheartedly welcomes anyone who comes to him on the basis of Jesus' shed blood on the cross. **Do not look at your past sins nor look at some present goodness in you. Do not look at your unworthiness or some great thing you did for God.**

Instead seek to come to God's presence humbly and with reverence at all times through the blood of Jesus.

**You have access to God at all times because his blood is in heaven.** "The sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel (Hebrews 12:24b) tells us that the blood of Jesus is alive in heaven and speaks words of forgiveness and mercy even today (Abel's blood would have cried out for vengeance). And Jesus your elder brother and high priest is there to intercede for you (Hebrews 2:17, 18; Hebrews 4:15, 16; Hebrews 7:25).

## **# You Have Victory over Satan through the Blood of Jesus**

Revelation 12:11 speaks about our means of victory over Satan. He is called the accuser because he accuses you and me before God all the time.



**"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."**

Now several believers live in **discouragement** because of certain habitual sins that overtake them often. The more you try to win through your own efforts the more you fail. The more you fail the more you hear Satan whisper in your



mind, "You are a failure. You are a good for nothing. You claim to be a Christian but you sinned again."

The best method to counter that is to accept the truth that you sinned, confess it to God, and claim your forgiveness and cleansing that comes through the blood of Jesus. See 1 John 1:7--9. Say out loud that you have victory in the blood of Jesus with conviction and confidence. The first many times Satan will try to put fear into you; but keep persisting. **You will indeed overcome by the blood of the Lamb!**

## # You Are Justified through the Blood of Jesus

The story is told about a man who called the Rolls Royce Company when he had a breakdown of his car in his European Tour. The Company flew a mechanic in a helicopter and repaired his car. When the man asked what the bill amount was; the mechanic told him that he will be informed later. After his tour got over the man contacted the company to know the bill amount for the repairs done. He got this reply: "Dear Sir: There is no record anywhere in our files that anything ever went wrong with a Rolls-Royce." That is justification.



**It means that God sees you as if you have never sinned. It is a judicial or legal term.** You are given a brand new beginning. The board has been rubbed clean and you are given a new clean unwritten surface to write on and begin again.



**God looks at you through the blood of Jesus. He then sees you as entirely righteous.** This is because the righteousness of Jesus has been put into your account (to use a banking terminology).“ In 2 Corinthians 5:21 Paul says, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

**This is the power of the blood of Jesus.** This doesn't mean we take God's grace as a license for immorality (Romans 6:1, 15). No. Instead as our love for God increases we make it our goal to do what pleases God (Ephesians 5:10). Therefore we say no to ungodliness (Titus 2:12).

**Having been justified by his blood we have peace with God.** See the millions of people around you who go for pilgrimage, offer penance, and sometimes undergo severe hardships inflicted on their bodies to find peace. The Bible

says, **“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).”** “The punishment that brought us peace was upon him” (Isaiah 53:5). Colossians 1:19, 20 speaks of peace in universal scope, height, depth and breadth: “For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **by making peace through the blood, shed on the cross.”**

### **# You Have Forgiveness of Sins through the Blood of Jesus**

“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Hebrews 9:22).

“In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Ephesians 1:7).

Let us look at what Jesus said during the Last Supper: He took the cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you (Luke 22:20).” Matthew adds its purpose too, **“for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:28).”**



Now the Old Covenant was put into effect by shedding of blood of calves, but the New Covenant was put into effect by Jesus’ own blood (Read Hebrews 9:15—22 prayerfully to understand this). Now you got the picture; isn’t it? The blood of bulls and goats had no power to take away sins (Hebrews 10:4). It was impossible. But Christ’s blood made it possible.

And **God entered into a new relationship with men and women** who came to him on the basis of the shed blood of Jesus on the cross. **Therefore the story of it came to be known as the New Testament or the New Covenant.** “Christ is the mediator of a new covenant” (Hebrews 9:15). Now I hope that you know why your Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.

By this time, you might be sure who is able to forgive you all your sins; isn’t it? See also Isaiah 44:22, Isaiah 38:17, Micah 7:19, 1 John 1:9 and ask God to forgive you all your sins. The blood of Jesus brings you God’s forgiveness.

### **# You Have Protection in the Blood of Jesus**

The Passover was a moment in history of the birth of the Israelite Nation. **Yet what happened during one night has significance for you and me today.**

At the time of the first Passover God said, “The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt (Exodus 12:13).”

There are several important things to be noted here.

- The blood had to be applied in the lintel and the doorposts. Exodus 12:22a (no use storing it in a bowl inside the house).
- The chief thing is “When I see the blood.” [That is, when God sees the blood.]
- No one outside the home had the promise of protection (Exodus 12:22b).



The New Testament declares that **“Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed (1 Corinthians 5:7).”** If Christ is our Passover Lamb, then there is protection under his blood like how the Israelites had it then. **What is its application today?**

The more you choose to disobey God and go outside his will; the more you are exposing yourself to danger. If you continue to live in sin; you are exposing yourself to destructive forces. To be under the protection of the blood, you need to confess your sin, repent, and be cleansed by the blood of Jesus. The point is that you need not wait to feel good to approach God. Approach him by the blood of Jesus at all times with a sincere and true and broken heart. God does not despise a broken heart (Psalm 51:17).

### **Conclusion**

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the proof that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice and poured out blood (Hebrews 13:20).

The more you allow the blood of Jesus to operate in your life it will enable you to die to sins, selfishness, worldly ambitions and all the temptations of this earthly life.

The more you come near to God through the blood of Jesus the more the same attitude of sacrifice that was in Jesus will characterize your life too.

The more you come under the influence of his precious blood the more you will experience the resurrection power of Jesus in your life. The Holy Spirit will make his death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3—5) real in your daily life as you yield more and more to the power of the blood of Jesus in your life.

Books for further reading:

The Power of The Blood of Jesus – Andrew Murray

The Overcoming Blood – Bob Lamb

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