

19. Understanding the Sufficiency of the Blood of Christ

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand the purpose of the Old Testament priesthood. We want them to realize that the Old Testament priests provided a shadow of what Christ would one day do when He presented His own blood to the Father to take away our sin. In our topic today, we are going to see that we want to help our children understand the sufficiency of the blood that Christ shed for their sins.

In Hebrews 9:11-12, we read, “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.” The Old Testament priests could only bring blood as a covering for the sins that were past. In contrast, Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come. By His death, Christ made certain all of the promises of the New Covenant. That includes such things as our salvation, the fact that Christ is presently interceding for us before the Father and our eternal life.

The tabernacle where the priests offered their sacrifices was a tabernacle that had been built by human hands. In contrast, Christ offered His sacrifice to the Father in the greater and more perfect tabernacle that was not built by human hands. That is the heavenly tabernacle where Christ now sits at the right hand of the Father. It was not a part of the creation of this world.

The Old Testament priests offered the blood of animals that they killed at the tabernacle. This was done continually. In contrast, Christ presented His own blood to the Father when He entered the Most Holy Place (the presence of the Father). This was done once and provided eternal redemption for all who place their faith in Christ. “Redemption” means *to buy back*. Christ bought us back from sin with His own blood. Isaiah 53:11 says, “After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.” The Father showed His satisfaction with that payment by raising Christ from the death.

Hebrews 9:13-15 goes on to say, “For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.” Since only one bull and one goat were sacrificed each year on the Day of Atonement, these verses show that those animals had to be offered many times to cover the sins of the people. The ashes of a red heifer were offered for cleansing.

In contrast, Christ offered Himself and His blood as a perfect sacrifice to God. Christ only had to do this once because He was the perfect sacrifice. The sacrifice of Christ was sufficient to cleanse our conscience from our dead works before salvation. Those works were useless because we were

spiritually dead and those works had no value. Paul told the Thessalonians, in 1 Thessalonians 1:9, “For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.” Now, we are able to serve the Lord with works that have eternal value. This gives our lives great meaning and purpose.

By His death, Christ also became the Mediator of the new covenant. He paid the penalty for our sins which were revealed through the first covenant (the law). As a result, all of those who believed by faith throughout the Old Testament were redeemed (bought back) from sin and its consequences. As a result, all Old Testament saints also received eternal life as their inheritance just as we do in this present day.

Hebrews 9:16-17 says, “For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.” The words “testament” and “covenant” are the same word in the Greek language. That will or testament does not go into effect until the person who wrote it dies. Here, we see that the blood covenants in the Bible are like the last will and testament of a person. In Genesis 8, Noah offered sacrifices of all of the clean animals when he came off the ark. God then made a covenant that He would never again destroy the entire earth with a flood. God had Abraham sacrifice five animals or birds when God made a covenant with him.

Here, in Hebrews, we see that when there is a last will and testament that the testator (the one who makes the will) must die before that testament or covenant goes into effect. That is why Christ said that His blood was the blood of a new covenant. He had to die in order for us to be redeemed from our sin. That is why verse 22 says, “And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.” The word translated “remission” means forgiveness or pardon and speaks of the removal of the penalty. Ephesians 1:7 says, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” In this verse, the word is translated forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:18-22 says, “Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, ‘This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.’ Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.” Since death is required for a testament (covenant) to go into effect, we see that was true even with the covenant that God made with Moses.

We see that the covenant God made with Moses and the people of Israel was dedicated with the offering of sacrifices. Moses received the Ten Commandments from God on the mountain in Exodus 20. In Exodus 24, Moses came and told the people all that God had said and offered sacrifices. Exodus 24:6-8 then says, “And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, ‘All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.’ And Moses

took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, ‘This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words.’” Here, we see that the covenant of the law was confirmed by shedding the blood of animals. Moses sprinkled with blood both the book that contained the law and the people who received the law.

Just as the old covenant was confirmed with blood, Christ said in Luke 22:19-20, “And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.’” The old covenant was not sufficient by itself, because it only condemned the people and showed that they were guilty before God. In his sermon in Acts 3:19, Peter said, “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” The new covenant provided by the blood of Christ is sufficient because our sins are now blotted out and God has promised that He will remember them no more.

Moses was also given instructions about the building of the tabernacle while he was on the mountain receiving the law. After the tabernacle was built and set up, we see that it was also dedicated with the shedding of blood. Exodus 40:28-29 says, “He hung up the screen at the door of the tabernacle. And he put the altar of burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as the Lord had commanded Moses.” After the blood had been offered, Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle. Exodus 40:33-34 says, “And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.” God showed that even the old covenant brought glory to Him by causing the glory of the Lord to fill the tabernacle.

God told Moses, in Leviticus 17:11, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.” However, that blood could never take away sin. That is why Christ said, in Matthew 26:28, “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” The blood of Christ did what the blood of animals could never do. The blood of Christ made it possible for the Father to forgive our sins. Isaiah 53:11 says, “He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.” The Father was satisfied with the payment that Christ made with His blood. As a result, each person that comes to Christ by faith is justified (declared righteous) in the sight of God. We want to help our physical and spiritual children clearly understand this so that they can explain it to others. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children to grow in their understanding of the sufficiency of the blood of Christ.