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Title: THE BLOOD

Text: Hebrews 9:22

“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.”

If you have your Bible, turn to Hebrews chapter 9. Perhaps by now you’ve determined the theme of today’s service. (Our worship songs were all about The Blood.) The 9th chapter of Hebrews is a great chapter on the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. In verses 20-22 of Hebrews chapter 9, Moses is speaking, ²⁰“Saying, ‘This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. ²¹Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. ²²And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

The story is told that Napoleon was with some of his war angels in a room looking at a war map on the wall. On the wall was the British Isles. The British Isles were in red on this particular map. Napoleon, who was defeated by the British, pointed to the British Isles and said, “If it were not for THAT RED SPOT, I would have conquered the world.” I suppose Satan may have said of Calvary, “Had it not been for THAT RED SPOT, I would have conquered the world.”

The Bible is a bloody book. Depending on the translation, there are upwards of 400 and some references to the blood in 43 books of the Bible. Someone said, “You can cut the Bible anywhere and it will bleed.” There are references to the blood from Genesis to Revelation.

Any GREAT church is built on these four things that begin with the letter B. The BOOK – that is, the inspired, infallible word of God. The BLOOD – that is the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The BIRTH – that is the new birth. And... Finally, the BLESSED HOPE – the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you should be visiting (or watching online) and haven’t found a home church yet, make sure that the church you do connect with holds dear the Book, the Birth, the Blessed Hope, AND THE BLOOD. The Gospel is not a GORY story; it is a GLORY story. The Apostle Paul said, “God forbid that I should GLORY, save in the cross of Christ my Lord.” God DOES NOT want you to go to Hell, so God has put a blockage on the road to Hell. God has put Calvary and the BLOOD of JESUS, HIS SON in your path. If you do go to Hell, and some of you may, you will have to climb over Calvary to get there. Know that God does NOT want you to die and go to Hell. GOD GAVE HIS SON so you wouldn’t have to. JESUS SHED HIS BLOOD so that you wouldn’t have to. First of all, I want you to see...

1. THE PROPHECY OF THE BLOOD – SAVING blood. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible speaks of the PRECIOUS blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Calvary and the shed blood were in the heart and mind of God before He framed this world. Before creation, God had Calvary on His heart and mind. Revelation 13:8 speaks of those who are going to worship the antichrist in the tribulation, and it says, “*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (that is, the antichrist), whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*” Before God framed the worlds, He had already purposed in His heart that Jesus would die for the sins of the world. Calvary is NOT an afterthought. Then God created **ADAM AND EVE** and put them in the Garden of Eden. They sinned, and they hid from God because they could not bear to look God in the face because of their sin. Before that, Adam had perfect communion with God and walked with God in the cool of the garden. Now, when God came to the garden, He said, “Adam, where are you?” Adam and Eve had hidden themselves in the foliage. Now when God said, “Adam, where are you?” It was not the voice of a detective. It was the voice of a BROKENHEARTED GOD. Adam and Eve now saw their shame. They knew that they were naked. Before this, they were robed with glory, and they were innocent. No guilt, no shame. (How wonderful that must have been!) But... Now they take fig leaves to try to cover themselves. I suppose they thought they looked pretty good in their own sight until God came. And... Just like many people

in this room today, you may feel that you're rather fine. Adam may have said to Eve, "Now, Eve, you're stunning in green" and Eve may have said, "Adam, you look pretty good yourself." BUT... God did something there in the Garden of Eden. The Bible says that God clothed Adam and Eve with coats of skin. That is, God took an innocent animal, put it to death, and took the skin of that animal and clothed Adam and Eve with it. Now how do you get animal skin? There must be the SHEDDING OF BLOOD. Why did God do that? Way back in the early history of civilization, God was teaching the lesson of Hebrews 9, verse 22, "...without shedding of blood is no remission of sin." Later, because sin was in the world, one of Adam's sons slew the other. CAIN slew ABEL. Why? Because these two boys, Cain, and Abel, had come to worship God. Now Cain was a tiller of the ground and he brought of the first fruits of the ground and offered to the Lord. Now that offering must have been a beautiful offering. Fragrant flowers? Succulent fruit? Can you imagine the things that he brought out of the earth, out of the ground, to worship God? It must have looked like a county fair. BUT... ABEL BROUGHT A LAMB, the firstling of the flock, a blood sacrifice, and the Bible says God had respect toward Abel's offering and NOT to Cain's offering. Now why did God have respect to Abel's offering and not to Cain's offering? Because... (Forgive me for this) "You can't get blood out a turnip." *"...without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin."* By the way, the religion of Cain continues today. Many people, by their own works, are trying to make themselves acceptable to God. It cannot be done. If it could be done, then Jesus never would have had to die. The Bible tells us that, *"If righteousness come by the law, then Christ's death was in vain."* Now we go on through the Bible and we find out that the way men were living was so wicked that God repented that He even made man. God had declared that He was going to destroy the world with a flood, and He put **NOAH** in the ark. The ARK is a type, a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. When Noah came out of that ark, we read there in Genesis chapter 8 and verse 20: *"And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered BURNT OFFERINGS ON THE ALTAR."* After 2,000 years of human history now, 2,000 years of failure, it is still there in the word of God – *"...without shedding of blood there is no remission."* We go further through the Bible (Genesis 22) and we find a man named **ABRAHAM**, who was the father of the Hebrew race – Father Abraham. Abraham is called upon to OFFER HIS SON, ISAAC, upon an altar on Mount Moriah... which later was the mountain on which the temple was built, and later the very limestone ridge upon which our Lord Jesus was crucified, because it was done with precision. God said, "Abraham, you offer Isaac, not on any mountain, but a mountain in the place that I will show you." Abraham didn't understand, but the Bible says HE KNEW that if God had given him this son by a miracle, that God was able to raise him from the dead. ISAAC here becomes a type, a picture, of the Lord Jesus Christ, the OBEDIENT SON. The wood is laid upon Isaac's back for the fire. Isaac and Abraham start up Mount Moriah. When they get to the top of Mount Moriah, Isaac says to Abraham, "Father, here's the WOOD. Here's the FIRE. WHERE is the SACRIFICE?" God gave Abraham divine wisdom to answer that question. He said, *"My son, God will provide Himself a sacrifice."* That's very interesting. It might mean that God Himself will provide the sacrifice, but... If you listen to what he said, "God will provide Himself a sacrifice." That is, God will become the sacrifice, for God was in Christ, sacrificing the world unto Himself, or redeeming the world unto Himself. But... A strange thing happened, and now the picture changes. Abraham and Isaac are there. Isaac, as an obedient son, stretches out his hands and allows Abraham to bind them. Now remember, Abraham is an AGED MAN. He's had his own centennial celebration. He's a hundred-year-old man PLUS, and Isaac is a strapping teenage boy able to carry a load of timber up a mountain. He could easily have OUTRUN the old man, or easily OVERCOME the OLD man, BUT... Isaac SUBMITS. Isaac lays down upon that altar, as a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ who said, *"No man taketh my life from me; I LAY IT DOWN OF MYSELF."* Then there's a noise – a VOICE. Abraham hears the angel say, *"Abraham, Abraham, do the lad no harm, do the lad no harm."* Abraham looks and over there is a ram caught in the thicket, its horns in the brambles, a RAM CROWNED WITH THORNS. Then God says, "Abraham, take that ram and sacrifice him in the stead of your son." Why did God do that? Hebrews 9:22 – *"...without shedding of blood there is no remission."* Moving on... There comes along a man named **MOSES**, who is going to lead his people out of the land of Egypt. EGYPT represents the WORLD OF SIN. PHAROAH represents THE DEVIL. God wants to let His people go. He wants them to be REDEEMED. God says to Moses, "Moses, tell EVERY household to take a spotless lamb, to kill that lamb and to put the BLOOD OF THE LAMB

upon the door posts of the house and upon the lintel of the house." NOT on the threshold. They were to walk out UNDER the blood, not over the blood. The blood was their covering. "Put it on the two side posts of the house and on the upper door post of the house." There is the horizontal, AND... There is the vertical. Again – a picture of THE CROSS. Then God says in verse 12: *"For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD."* Exodus 12:13 – *"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."* *"When I see the blood, I will pass over you."* Now suppose the children of Israel had put rubies and diamonds on the door posts. The LORD would have come. The firstborn would have been taken. Suppose they had written beautiful thoughts and poetry and put that on the door posts? The firstborn would have been taken. Suppose they had said, "We're turning over a new leaf and we're making a new contract with you, God," and signed it and nailed that to the door posts? The firstborn would have been taken. Suppose they had taken a LIVE lamb and tied it to the door post? The firstborn would have been smitten. You see, salvation doesn't come by learning lessons from the life of Christ (although that is incredibly important), BUT salvation comes by receiving LIFE from the DEATH OF CHRIST. God says in Hebrews 9:22 – *"...without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin."* As we fast forward through the Bible, God set up the **TEMPLE SACRIFICES**. Exodus 29:10 – *"And thou shalt cause a bullock to be brought before the tabernacle of the congregation; and Aaron (Who is Aaron? The High Priest.) and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the bullock."* They lay their hands on this bullock (ox) and confess the sin of the people. Then that bullock is led away and slain, and... His body consumed by fire, AND... His BLOOD Poured out on the altar. Why? Why were there thousands and thousands and thousands of sacrificial animals in the old mosaic system? Because without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. All through the OLD TESTAMENT you see the PROPHECY of the BLOOD – the FORETELLING of the SACRIFICE OF JESUS. God was teaching His people, "There is no way that you can approach me as sinners WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD." Now that is the PROPHECY of the blood, but it was ONLY a prophecy. Next, I want you to see...

2. THE PROVISION OF THE BLOOD. Years ago, there was a Russian physiologist whose name was Pavlov who worked on a form of psychological manipulation that he called **CONDITIONED RESPONSE**. Pavlov discovered that if two stimuli are presented together again and again and again, the organism learns that they belong together. As a result, it is enough to show the neutral stimulus to get a **CONDITIONED RESPONSE**. For example, Pavlov had some dogs. Before he would feed the dogs, he would ring a bell (here Pastor rang a bell) and then feed the dogs. The next day he'd ring the bell and feed the dogs. The next day he'd ring the bell and feed the dogs. The dogs came to believe that when the bell rang, it was time to eat. That is exactly the way it happened time after time after time. Then came a time when Pavlov would simply ring the bell, AND... NOT provide the food. The dogs would begin to salivate because they had a conditioned response **BECAUSE...** They had learned that the bell meant food. That's a conditioned response. In a manner of speaking, all these Old Testament sacrifices were a conditioned response. God was showing, by EVERY sacrifice in the Old Testament, that the wages of sin is death. *"The soul that sinneth will surely die."* God was saying there is NO remission of sin apart from THE SHED BLOOD. All of this was getting the world ready, a conditioned response, getting the world ready for the coming of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. So, we've been in Hebrews 9. Let's go to Hebrews chapter 10. Hebrews 10:11 – *"And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins."* These Old Testament sacrifices never did satisfy the heart or the mind of God. All they did was roll the sins of the people forward till Christ would come and then pay for past, present, and future sins. Verse 12 – *"But this man (speaking of Jesus), after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God..."* Jesus died once and for all. He offered one sacrifice for sins, and He sat down because HE PAID THE PRICE. This is the provision of the saving blood. Now how could one man die for all? Well, one man got us all in trouble. The first man was Adam. You say, "Well, I didn't vote for Adam. Adam didn't have anything to do with me. I'm not connected to Adam." Well, let me ask you a question. If it weren't for Adam, where would you be? So don't say that Adam had nothing to do with you. We are IN Adam.

Adam was given dominion. Adam SOLD his dominion. He gave it to Satan. When he did, mankind – Adam and all of his progeny – became slaves. Just so you know – the son of a slave is also a slave. Therefore, we inherited from Adam a sinful nature and sinful death. The Bible says, “In Adam all die.” If you don’t believe that, read 1 Corinthians 15:22 – *“For as in Adam all die [now listen to this]; even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”* Thank God that in one man WE also have redemption. I’m glad. I’m willing to take Adam’s sin IF I can take Jesus’ salvation. Because... Had it not been for Adam, I would have sinned myself. So would you, BUT... In Adam all die, BUT... In CHRIST ALL SHALL BE MADE ALIVE. Now had Jesus not been born of a virgin, had He been born as you and I were born, as descendants of Adam, He could have died for no one’s sin but His own. In Adam all die, and the wages of sin is death. The soul that sins shall surely die. That’s the reason Jesus had to be born of a virgin. Now the birth is not incidental. It’s not folklore. It’s not mythology. Without the virgin birth, the house of Christianity collapses like a house of cards. There’s no hope apart from the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Why? Why was Jesus born of a virgin? He came as He did, virgin born, to be what He was – NOT the son of Adam, BUT the SON OF GOD! Now His blood was different from any other blood. There are, in essence, 8 types of blood – A, B, AB, and O. Each of those 4 types comes in a positive and negative form. Note that the blood of Jesus and the blood of Mary are not the same. Don’t get the idea that when a little baby is in its mother’s womb that the mother’s blood circulates through the baby’s body. My references said that that is NOT so. That is an error. None of the mother’s blood circulates through that baby’s body. None of that baby’s blood circulates through the mother’s body. That baby is a SEPARATE individual from the mother. A baby and mother can have different blood types. A baby, a mother and a father can have 3 different types of blood. Because they are 3 different individuals. LIFE is in the blood. I have gone quite often to Georgetown to see an oncologist. In the last 12 years, I’ve been there many, many times. As far as I remember, EVERY time before I see the doctor, a nurse will draw blood for testing. Here on my March test are 40 or so pieces of data about me told by my blood – Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, BUN, Creatinine, Glucose, Calcium, Protein, Platelets, and a whole bunch of others. A blood DNA test can tell you relatives that you didn’t know about. A DNA test of a blood culture can also tell you about a propensity for certain diseases. LIFE is in the blood. Also, almost always an individual has the SAME BLOOD TYPE FOR LIFE. On a very rare occasion, an individual’s blood type changes through the addition of an antigen infection, malignancy, or auto-immune disease. A more common cause of a blood type change is a bone marrow transplant. If a person receives bone marrow from someone of a different blood type, his blood will eventually become the same as the blood donor’s type. Once the patient’s original red blood cells have died, they will have been fully replaced by new cells delivered from the donor. In similar fashion, man must DIE TO SELF to LIVE IN CHRIST. A woman in defense of abortion has been known to say, “Well, I have a right to do what I want with my own body,” and so she has an abortion. The problem – That baby’s body is NOT her own body. That is a completely different individual. Again, that baby may have one blood type. She may have another blood type. This baby is an individual with its own body. The baby should have rights, too. By the way, the blood of a baby is marked by its father. That’s the reason they can pin a paternity suit on a man by giving a blood test. Now Jesus is born of a virgin. That is, He is the SON OF GOD. Commentaries say that the blood that flowed through the veins of Jesus Christ was not the blood of Mary. It was the blood of God. Well, you say, “Now wait a minute, Pastor Jim. God doesn’t have blood.” Well, He did when Jesus was here. Read Acts chapter 20. Paul says to the Ephesians elders, *“...feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”* The church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood. No wonder the Bible calls the blood of Jesus Christ precious blood. *“And this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God.”* *“For in Adam all die; even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”* How many people died when Adam died? Did Adam just affect SOME of humankind? No, ALL of humankind. Did you know there are some people who want to tell you that Jesus only died for the elect? Now listen to this verse. *“As in Adam all die; even so in Christ shall ALL be made alive.”* You can’t make ALL mean one thing over here and mean something else over here. Jesus died for ALL. I’m glad that I can look at any man or woman in the face and say, “JESUS died for YOU. Jesus paid YOUR sin debt.” Yes, in Adam all die. In Christ we have redemption, and HE DIED FOR ALL. That’s the reason way back in the Garden of Eden when Satan crawled his way into the pages of history and did what he did, and tempted Eve to sin,

and then beguiled Adam. God gave a prophecy a long time ago in Genesis 3:15. God said to the serpent, *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman..."* Enmity means warfare. You'll be hard pressed to find many a woman in love with snakes. *"I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed [thy descendant] and her seed [the descendants of the serpent and the descendants of the woman] between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."* The serpent will wound Christ, but Christ will crush the head of the serpent. That's what it says there. But the old rabbis used to scratch their heads when they would look at that Scripture in Genesis 3:15 because it says, *"...the seed of the woman..."* They would say, "Now wait a minute. The woman doesn't have seed. That's the man's domain." Isn't it interesting that God takes this unique statement here and speaks not of the seed of the man, but the seed of the woman? Now this man, Jesus, offered one sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:12). He offered that sacrifice. Jesus did not die as a helpless victim. Jesus did not die as a martyr. Sometimes we sing, "There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt," and that's good poetry, but the blood really wasn't spilt; it was poured out. It was **POURED** out!" John 10:18 – Jesus said, *"No man taketh my life from me; I lay it down of myself."* Jesus said – *"I have [speaking of His life] power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."* Jesus was the **ONLY MAN** who ever **CHOSE TO DIE**. You say, "Well, a lot of people have chosen to die. What about those people who drove that airplane into the World Trade Center? Didn't they choose to die?" No. They were going to **DIE ANYWAY**. Perhaps I've told you before, one out of one people die. *"It's appointed unto man once to die..."* No. They only chose **THE TIME** of their death. Jesus was the **ONLY man WHO NEVER NEEDED TO DIE** because there was **NO SIN IN HIM**. There was no seed of death in the Lord Jesus Christ, and no man could take His life from Him. Jesus laid it down. He offered one sacrifice for sin. He did not die as a martyr. He did not die as a victim. He died voluntarily. Jesus said, "I could call twelve legions of angels to deliver me from this cross." 2 Kings 19:35, NIV – *"That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. Then the people got up early in the morning – there were all the dead bodies!"* If **ONE** angel slew 185,000 men, I wonder what 72,000 angels could do! Jesus **STAYED** on that cross. That's right! There may have been **NAILS** in His palms. But... I'll tell you it was **LOVE** that held Him to the cross. They said, "Come down from the cross and we'll believe." That was the wrong challenge. What they should have done was stand in front of His tomb and say, "Come out and we'll believe." **THAT'S WHAT HE DID!** There's the **PROPHECY** of the blood. The Old Testament is full of it. As I said, cut it anywhere and it will bleed. There is the **PROVISION** of the blood. As John the Baptist saw Jesus coming, he said, *"Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."* Now think a little bit with me about...

3. THE POWER OF THAT BLOOD - SAVING blood. Look at Hebrews 10:12 again - *"For this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sin forever, sat down on the right hand of God."* Why is He **SITTING**? In the Old Testament, the priests never sat down because **THE WORK WAS NEVER DONE**. But... When Jesus bowed His head and died, what did He say? *"IT IS FINISHED."* Jesus said, *"I have finished the work thou gavest me to do."* We don't need to offer any more sacrifices. We don't need any more blood from bulls and goats. That's gone. That's in the old dispensation. We don't need to do that anymore. Hebrews 10:4 says, *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins."* **JESUS OFFERED ONE SACRIFICE FOREVER!** What does the blood do? "There's power, power, wonder-working power in the precious blood of the Lamb." **FIRST** of all, blood **REDEEMS**. Redemption meant something to the people of this day. There were 50 million slaves in the Roman Empire. A slave, if he could somehow get his hands on money, he could buy his freedom with silver or with gold. But... Peter says in 1 Peter 1:18-19 - *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were NOT REDEEMED WITH CORRUPTIBLE THINGS, such as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹But with THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, as a lamb without blemish and without spot."* You are redeemed by the blood! There's no way that you can be liberated from the bondage of Satan apart from the precious blood of Jesus. The first thing the blood does - the blood redeems. The **SECOND** thing the blood does - **IT BRINGS US NEAR**. Ephesians 2:13 - *"But now in Christ Jesus ye, who sometimes were far off, are made nigh (near) by the blood of Christ."* Now if God seems far away from you, it's because you've not understood the power of the blood or entered the privilege of the blood. I've been saved more than half a century. He's more

than just someone I preach about. Jesus Christ is NEAR TO ME. One song writer said, "He's as close as the mention of His name." He is near. He is EMMANUEL. GOD WITH US! If God seems far off to you, you're missing out. Let me tell you that we are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Nearly 50 years ago there was a young couple who were dating. They were out for a joyride one evening. They were snuggled up rather close to each other. Let's say his name was Jim and his girl's name was Diane. The young man had his right arm around his girl. Suddenly there was a siren. Jim pulled the car off the road. The policeman pulled off behind him. He got out of the squad car. He shined his flashlight on the two of them and asked for the registration and insurance. Diane retrieved it from the glove box. Then the officer said to Jim, "Don't you think you ought to use both hands." To which Jim said, "I would officer, but I'm driving with one." (You'll get that in a minute! 😊) Many years have passed and Jim and Diane are once again out on a joyride as they had done many times over the years. Jim was behind the steering wheel. Diane was over near the door. Diane says to Jim, "Do you remember how it was when we were dating and on our honeymoon and the first years of our married life, how we used to sit so close together? Now look how far apart we are." To which Jim said, "I haven't moved." You know God hasn't moved either. God is still where He was. We've been separated from Him by sin - our doing - our sin, BUT the BLOOD of Jesus brings us nigh. It brings us near. AND... The blood **MAKES PEACE**. Colossians 1:20 speaks of Jesus and it says - *"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself - by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."* The blood makes peace. Thank God for the wonderworking peace of God that flows like a river if you know the Lord Jesus Christ. AND... The blood **CLEANSSES**. 1 John 1:7 - *"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin."* Often, I ask God to search my heart. When I find some sin in my heart, all I have to do is name it, confess it, agree with God about it, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses ALL my sin. Don't you insult the blood by saying, "Well, God, I know that there are some sins that the blood will cleanse, but what I've done is too horrible." No. If you committed fornication, the blood will cleanse. Have you committed adultery? The blood will cleanse. Have you killed a little baby in your womb? The blood will cleanse. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses from ALL SIN. There's no sin, not a blot, not a blemish, not a stain that the blood of Jesus cannot cleanse. Now the devil, of course, doesn't want you to understand this. Let me tell you what else the blood does. The blood **GIVES POWER OVER SATAN**. How are you going to live the victorious Christian life? Revelation 12:11, speaking of the devil, the dragon - *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb..."* They OVERCAME him by the BLOOD OF THE LAMB. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, a great preacher of yesteryear said, "I used to argue with the devil, but I don't do it anymore. He's not worth it. You can't convince him, and you won't convert him. The devil comes to me, and the devil says, 'Ah, you're a sinner,' and I (Spurgeon) say, 'Well, so are you.' And... The devil says, 'Well, then, you're going to hell,' and... I (Spurgeon) say, 'No, I'm not going to hell. I'm going to heaven for Christ Jesus came into the world to SAVE SINNERS and He has SAVED ME!" That's what Martin Luther calls cutting the devil's head off with his own sword. There is power in the blood, the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. AND... We need to SAY IT and BELIEVE IT and UNDERSTAND IT!

CONCLUSION. Now what is YOUR RESPONSE to the blood of Jesus? Some people HATE the blood. We're in Hebrews chapter 10. Look at verse 28. This ought to cause you to tremble if you're not saved. If you're a teenager without Christ, if you're a businessman without Christ, whoever you are, if you are without Christ, listen to this! ²⁸*"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: ²⁹Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."* He's talking about those who DESPISE THE BLOOD, who count the blood of the covenant wherewith they were sanctified, an unholy thing...who trampled that blood beneath their feet. Everybody here will walk out either UNDER the blood or OVER the blood. Either you will be saved, and you will be protected by the blood so the LORD and death will pass over you, or should you walk out, and you're not

saved, you will be trampling under your feet the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. You say, "I don't intend to do that." Jesus said, *"He that is not with me is against me."* A businessman was in his office. Everything was fine. The day was a normal day. THEN... His secretary said, "Sir, I believe it is an emergency. You must take this call." The call was from a police officer. He said, "Are you Mr. So and So?" "Yes, I am." "Do you have a son, thus and such?" "Yes, I do." "Sir, I hate to tell you this, but your son has been hit by an automobile on thus and such a street, and he didn't make it. He was dead on arrival at the hospital. I am so very sorry." The man said, "Which hospital? I'm coming right away. Where was the accident?" he asked. The policeman named the hospital, and he told him where the accident was. The man realized that he would have to drive past that very spot on his way to the hospital. When he got there, he saw the place where his son had been hit. He was hit with such force that his body had lain there on the street and bled out. No one had yet cleaned up the blood. The man stopped for a moment, and he looked, and it gripped his heart. He saw on the road the blood of his own son - his dead son. Then he noticed that the cars were driving THROUGH his son's blood. He couldn't stand it. He took off his coat and he stood there. As the cars were coming, he said, "Stop it! Stop it! Move over! You can't drive through the blood of my son like that. You just can't do it!" I think I understand how that father must have felt. How do you think God the Father feels when you sit in a church service and hear a preacher preach about the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and you walk out NOT UNDER the blood, but OVER the blood? God says, *"Of how much sorer punishment shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under his feet the precious blood of Jesus Christ."* Some despise the blood. To others, IT IS FOOLISH. There are those who would laugh and mock and call the preaching of the cross foolishness. 1 Corinthians 1:18 says, *"For the preaching of the cross [that is, the blood] is foolishness to them that perish, but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God."* Some will LAUGH at the message. You CAN laugh your way INTO HELL, but you will NEVER laugh YOUR WAY OUT! You can MOCK the blood or DESPISE the blood. Some IGNORE the blood. You don't despise it and you don't mock it; you just go your way. You hear a sermon with no intention of ever acting on it. Remember when we talked to you about the Passover lamb mentioned in the Book of Exodus? God said to the people there, *"Tell the people to take a lamb without spot, without blemish, the firstlings of the flock and sacrifice it and put the blood on the door posts."* Can you imagine PHAROAH'S SON coming home and saying, "Father, I heard Moses preaching to the Hebrews. Moses said that they've got to get a lamb and sacrifice the lamb and put the blood on the door posts of the house. If they don't do that, the first-born son in the family is going to die. Daddy, I'M your first-born son. Daddy, can we get a lamb? Can we get a lamb and put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of our house?" I imagine Pharaoh saying something like this to his son, "Son, we have the best religion that money can buy. We have the finest priests in Egypt. We have a family tradition that has gone back for centuries. And... I want you to know that I have my royal guards also. Son, YOU are very safe. Daddy loves you very much. Don't you worry about this blood of the lamb stuff." The little boy goes to bed that night, and there's a gasp, a flash, a scream, and he's hurled out into eternity because without shedding of blood is no remission of sin. I want you to notice ANOTHER LITTLE BOY in Egypt that night. THIS little boy is a Hebrew. His father heard the preaching of the Word. His father gets a lamb, slays the lamb, takes the blood in a basin, and marks the lintel and door posts of the house. That little boy says, "Daddy, did you put the blood on the doorposts?" "Yes, son, I did." "Daddy, can I go see it?" "Yes, son, there it is." "Daddy, did you do it just right?" "Yes, son." "Daddy, do you think I'm safe?" "Yes, son, you're safe. We did EXACTLY what God said to do." That little boy stays up all night long. He worries. But... When the sun came up, he was safe because the blood had been there. I want you to notice ONE OTHER little boy. He, too, is a Hebrew. He says, "Dad, did you put the blood on the door posts?" "Yes, son, I did." "Did you do it right, dad?" "Yes, son, I did it just like Moses said." "That means I'm safe, doesn't it, dad?" "Son, you're safe. We've applied the blood." That little boy goes to bed, and he sleeps all night. One boy stays awake all night. The other boy sleeps all night. Now which boy was the safest? THEY WERE BOTH JUST AS SAFE! Which boy enjoyed it the most? Obviously, the one that slept all night. Hear me - the blood makes us SAFE. The Word makes us sure. I'm so grateful that I have the assurance of my salvation. You know, there are lots of folks just going to worry their way to heaven. They're saved. They've really given their hearts to Jesus, but they never really trust in the power, the power of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. "There is power, power,

wonderworking power in the blood"...of Christ. Some DESPISE the blood. To others it's FOOLISH. To some it is IGNORED. BUT... To those of us who believe, IT IS PRECIOUS. One more story and I'm done. It's the story of a very wealthy old man who had an elaborate collection of Van Gogh and Monet paintings. His one son shared his father's interest in the rare paintings. They traveled around the world buying these paintings wherever they could find them. The son enlisted in the army and was placed in the medical corps. In a severe battle, while carrying a wounded soldier to safety, the son was seriously wounded himself and soon died. The old man's wife had passed away years earlier and the news of the tragedy devastated the old father. He grieved in loneliness for months. One day a knock came at his door and when he responded he found a young man with a package. The young man explained that he was one of the several soldiers that the old man's son had carried to safety. Knowing of his interest in paintings, he had painted a picture of the son and presented it to his father. The painting was not rare but was very PRECIOUS to the old man as it was a good resemblance of his son. The man moved a very valuable painting from the mantle and placed the picture of his son in its place. Hour after hour he sat in his rocker and gazed at the picture of his beloved son. When the old man's death came, the art collection was put up for auction. Hundreds of collectors came to bid. The auctioneer announced that the old man's will stated that the picture of his son was to be auctioned first. Moans of disappointment could be heard from the crowd. "Let's get on with the real paintings," one was heard to say. The son's picture was held up and the auctioneer cried, "Who will give \$100...\$50...\$25. There was no response. A kind gentleman in the back asked, "Will you take \$10." "Sold," said the auctioneer. "Good," cried the crowd. "Now we can get on with the auction." "Ladies and Gentlemen, that concludes the auction," announced the auctioneer. The crowd was puzzled and upset. Then the statement was given. The will declared that the son's picture was to be sold and the person who took it would get ALL THE REST! The kind old man who paid \$10 for the picture of the son was amazed that he now owned ALL the valuable paintings. When a person takes the Son of God, EVERYTHING GOD HAS is included. We become heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus. The Son's precious blood made it all possible. Let me again share 1 Peter 1:18-19. Then Angie (Gallaway) is going to sing of the blood. And then, Pastor Norm will take us to the Lord's Table where we are once again reminded of Christ's broken body and poured out blood. *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, for your vain conversation received by tradition from the fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without spot and without blemish"* (1 Peter 1:18-19). John 1:29 - *"...Behold the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world."* The altars are open. There are those who would be delighted to pray with you as you receive the Lamb of God.