

LIFEBLOOD
Testimony of the Blood
1 Peter 1:18-19

August 12, 2018 PM

HDBC

In his book *Written in Blood*, Robert Coleman tells the story of a little boy whose sister needed a blood transfusion. The doctor had explained that she had the same disease the boy had recovered from two years earlier. Her only chance for recovery was a transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the disease. Since the two children had the same rare blood type, the boy was the ideal donor.

"Would you give your blood to Mary?" the doctor asked.

He hesitated. His lower lip started to tremble. Then he smiled and said, "Sure, for my sister."

Soon the two children were wheeled into the hospital room--Mary, pale and thin; her brother, robust and healthy. Neither spoke. As the nurse inserted the needle into his arm, the boy's smile faded. He watched the blood flow through the tube.

With the ordeal almost over, his voice slightly shaky, broke the silence. "Doctor, when do I die?" Only then did the doctor realize why he had hesitated, why his lip had trembled when he'd agreed to donate his blood. He'd thought giving his blood to his sister meant giving up his life. In that brief moment, he'd made his great decision.

Fortunately, he didn't have to die to save his sister. We all have a condition more serious than Mary's, and it required Jesus to give not just his blood, but his life.

This is the last of a three-part series of sermons on the blood of Jesus. I'm calling the series Life Blood. That is what his blood is. It is life blood.

Some of you are family with CIS. Those crime scene investigators will stop at nothing to find the truth about a crime. They have all kinds of equipment, gadgets and formulas for making determinations. Often at a crime scene they will take out a spray bottle of something and begin spraying it. They are looking for the presence of blood that cannot be seen with the natural eye. They can find where the blood is.

If they could take that spray bottle to heaven and begin spraying it on first one, then another person, they would make an interesting discovery. Every person who makes it to Heaven has traces of blood on them. Not their own blood, but the blood of Christ, which has cleansed them of their sins. His blood is the most potent, powerful, blood in the world.

Use your imagination. We are in courtroom. The subject of the hearing is the blood of Jesus. The purpose is to find out why it is so significant. Just why is it so important to Christians? What makes it any more special than my blood or yours.

In order to find the answer we must **call seven witnesses to testify**. One by one they will tell us what they know of the blood of Jesus. Each one has been sworn in and the testimony of each has been scrutinized by the Holy Spirit who has confirmed the truth of what they say.

1. Peter (1 Peter 1:18-19)

The first witness to be called to the stand is a rugged ex-fisherman. His name was Simon, but was changed to Peter by Jesus Christ. One day Jesus came walking along the shore of the sea of Galilee and said, follow me. and Peter did just that. He laid down the nets and became a fisher of men for Jesus.

His testimony is found in 1 Peter 1:19. Peter's testimony about the blood of Jesus is simply this, it is precious. But what did he mean?

Timios - to be held in great esteem, or to be held for a great price. To be especially honored. All of our blood is precious to us, for the life is in the blood. His more so, because it not only was His life, but is our life also.

2. John (1 John 1:7)

The next testimony comes from another one of the 12. John. One of the younger disciples, but the one who lived the longest. Known as the apostle of love. It was the great theme of his long ministry. Wrote Gospel, 3 letters and the Revelation.

Two great statements about the blood of Jesus.

A. Cleanses us from sin (1 John 1:7)

Katharizi - To make clean or to free from the defilement of sin. To remove the stain. To take away the guilt. Revelation 7:14 speaks of the saints during the Tribulation period as having *washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb*. How can blood make something white? I do not know, but it works.

A preacher was speaking on this text and an atheist interrupted with the question, *How can blood cleanse anything?* Preacher responded, *How can water quench thirst?* Atheist said, *I do not know.* Preacher said, *neither do I know how His blood cleanses us from sin, but it does so as surely as water quenches thirst.*

B. Provides Victory over the Enemy (Revelation 12:11)

It is the blood of Jesus that delivers us from the power of Satan. When Satan begins to attack you with doubts and fears, telling you that you will not make it to Heaven, remind Him of the Blood of Jesus.

3. Judas (Matthew 27:4)

Surprise witness. He too, was one of the twelve, but we did not expect him to testify. After all, he was the one who defected, betraying the Lord Jesus. Judas, is there anything you can tell us about the blood of Jesus?

Matthew tells us of the testimony of Judas. *I have sinned by betraying innocent blood*. So, Judas, you say the blood of Jesus is **innocent blood**.

Athoon - Free from guilt, not guilty.

Jesus was a man who was never guilty of one sin. He lived a sinless life and was never contaminated by the sinfulness of man. In that way, He was able to be a perfect sacrifice, able to adequately pay for the sins of the world. More to this than Judas realized.

4. **Luke** (Luke 22:20)

Fourth witness is Dr. Luke. Medical doctor who wrote two books of the NT. Spent considerable time with the great missionary, Paul. Wrote account of the life and ministry of Jesus. In it he reveals an important fact about the blood of Jesus. He quotes Jesus is saying the blood of Jesus was the foundation for a new covenant.

This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

God had made a covenant with his people which was ratified through the blood of animal sacrifices and through the sign of circumcision. But Jesus' blood was the foundation for a new covenant.

5. **Author of Hebrews**

Next witness has chosen to remain anonymous. How do we know about him? He wrote a magnificent book of the NT pointing out the superiority of Jesus' new covenant to that of the old covenant. Has he written anything about the blood of Jesus which would help us? YES! Many things, but summarize . . .

Greater than bulls and goats

For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:13-14

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Heb. 10:4

He points out that blood of bulls and goats could not take away sins. They were only outward signs of faith in a future sacrifice that would be sufficient.

6. Paul

Our chief witness is the great theologian/apologist of the first generation of believers. Paul, former persecutor of Christians, who was miraculously and dramatically saved while on a mission of persecution. What can Paul tell us about the blood of Jesus? Again, many things, but we must mention only one.

Justification (Romans 5:9) - *dikaiothentes* - To make or to render one to be righteous, or as one ought to be. To declare guiltless one who is guilty. Through the blood of Jesus Christ, God can declare us guiltless and forgo the punishment that we deserve. This is because Jesus, in shedding His blood, paid in full our punishment.

7. Crowds (Matthew 27:25)

One final witness. Not simply a person, but a group of persons. Listen to their voice.

And the people answered and said, His blood be on us and on our children!

What do these people have to tell us about His blood? What did they mean when they made that declaration? They highlight for us an important truth about the blood of Jesus. It either **cleanses or condemns** depending upon what you have done with it.

It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment. Time when you will stand before God and He will determine where you will spend your eternity. Only piece of evidence offered will be the blood of Jesus Christ. The verdict will be determined by a simple fact: Have you had your sins cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

The fact that He has shed His blood will either get you into Heaven or keep you out. What do I mean? If you have trusted in Jesus Christ and His shed blood, death on the cross and resurrection, that will be your ticket into Heaven.