

The Blood of the Cross

by Wayne Goff

We may never understand all of the reasons why God determined that blood would wash away sins. But the fact remains that He so ordained: *“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and **without shedding of blood** there is no remission”* (Heb. 9:22).

Furthermore, not just any blood would suffice for permanent, eternal forgiveness. Under the Old Law regular, habitual animal sacrifices were required by God as a **shadow** of that which was to come. But *“it is not possible that the **blood of bulls and goats** could take away sins”* (Heb. 10:4). So when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth and began His public ministry, John the Baptist pointed to Him and said, *“Behold! The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!”* (Jn. 1:29). *“Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with **His own blood**, suffered outside the gate”* (Heb. 13:12).

Dear reader, there has only been one perfect, sinless sacrifice in the whole world, and that was the sacrifice of Jesus Christ the righteous! This is why there is one way to heaven (Jn. 14:6)! This is why there is no other Name under heaven given among men by which we **must** be saved (Acts 4:12)!

Reasons Given By Revelation

One reason why the sinless sacrifice of Jesus Christ was necessary is that *“death”* is the **penalty** for sin, Genesis 2:17; Ezekiel 18:20. All people have sinned against God (Rom. 3:23), and thus all must die as the penalty for their sin! There are no exceptions!

However, God’s love intervened in man’s predicament, and we read *“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Rom. 5:8). In this way Jesus’ death became our **substitute**. He took the place for *every sinner* in the world who would come to the cross of Calvary and accept His death on God’s conditions. What a relief for sinful man! Those who refuse to believe this Good News will die in their sins.

Does the **blood of Christ** suffice for *all the sins of the world*? God’s Word says that the answer to this question is a resounding yes. *“By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”* (Heb. 10:10).

A second point which must not be overlooked is God’s own righteousness. He is a God of love, and we see the enormity of His love in the giving of His only Son, Jesus. But He is also a just, righteous God Who cannot ignore the sins of mankind. The death of Jesus Christ is all-sufficient to wash away the sins of every sinner so that God *“might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus”* (Rom. 3:26). God is not an **unjust** God! He cannot deny Himself in forgiving men without a just price paid for our sins. But Jesus’ sinless sacrifice satisfies Divine justice. Let God be true and every man a liar (Rom. 3:4).

1 Peter 2:24 *succinctly* points out man’s eternal salvation: *“Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes **you were healed.**”* Jesus Christ is the Savior of mankind. Jesus heals our spiritual diseases by **His blood**.

How You May Obtain Forgiveness

The death of Christ is offered for the sins of the whole world (Jn. 3:16). However, the offer is *conditional*. We must contact the death of Christ in order to have forgiveness of our sins. Romans 6:3 tells us that we are **baptized** into the death of Jesus. Those who are proper subjects for baptism are those who believe in Jesus as God’s Son (Jn. 8:24), who turn in repentance from their sins (Acts 2:38), and who confess their faith in Jesus (Rom. 10:9). The conditions are not difficult, but they are *necessary*. God’s justice demands no less than our obedience (Heb. 5:8-9). Dear reader, won’t you come to Jesus for forgiveness of your sins?