

The Cleansing Blood

By DR. TOM MALONE

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”—I John 1:7.

Actually three great systems of truth are found in this verse.

The whole New Testament would have to witness to this great section of truth—a Christian walking in the light.

Then the second great truth mentioned is “fellowship one with another.” The basis of fellowship is taught in the Word of God. There is much about fellowship—the Christian and his fellowship in the family of our Lord.

Then there is a third great truth mentioned in this verse: “...and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

I speak on this third truth. In fact, I want to boil it down a little finer and speak on “The Cleansing Blood.”

This subject begins in Genesis and keeps running like a never-ending stream, culminating in the Book of Revelation. Some of the great verses in the Bible have to do with the atoning, cleansing, saving, efficacious, redeeming blood of our Lord.

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”—Lev. 17:11.

“When I see the blood, I will pass over you.”—Exodus. 12:13.

“...and without shedding of blood is no remission.”—Hebrews. 9:22.

“The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”—I John 1:7.

It is said that at the great World’s Fair, held years ago in Chicago, a meeting was held of all religions from all over the world. Dr. Cook, a fundamental, Bible-believing, old-fashioned preacher of the Word of God, to demonstrate the superiority of Christianity over all the religions of all the worlds, quoted from Shakespeare’s Macbeth. He gave a recitation of Shakespeare and brought Lady Macbeth, so to speak, out upon the stage and had them listen to her as she looked

at her hands indelibly stained with the blood of murder: “Out...! Out, I say!” Her words were spoken so as to erase the obvious and permanent stain.

Then he asked, “Are there any religions here this day that could cleanse the hands of Lady Macbeth? cleanse her from murderous blood? from guilt? Who has a religion that could cleanse her hands of this sinful stain, this spot that incriminates and condemns?”

One stood to his feet and said, “I have no remedy for cleansing, but had I been able to talk to Lady Macbeth before she sinned, I might have been able to keep her from sinning.”

Another stood to his feet and said, “I have no remedy for cleansing, but if I could have talked with Lady Macbeth, I could have helped her have peace of mind in spite of the fact that her hands were stained with blood.”

Then Dr. Cook asked again, “Is there anyone who has a remedy for cleansing this condemning spot of which she has cried? Who can remove it? Who can cleanse it? Who can get it off her hand—this guilt, this sin?”

No one had a remedy.

Finally, this man of God said, “Our Christianity has a remedy. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all our sin.”

Thank God for a complete remedy for sin, found in the precious blood of our Lord!

I want you to notice five aspects about the cleansing blood of the Son of God.

I. The Blood of Christ Cleanses From Past Sins

A terrible thing that men and women face in all walks of life is: “What shall I do about my past sins? How can I get them taken care of? How can I be forgiven?”

Here are some thrilling things God does with our past sins:

“I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.”—Isa. 44:22.

“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”—Ps. 103:12.

“He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”—Mic. 7:19.

“O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us: for we are brought very low.”—Ps. 79:8.

“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”—Isa. 43:25.

God says, first of all, ‘I will blot them out as a thick cloud.’ That means He will remove them, set you free from them.

God says, ‘I will remove them as far as the east is from the west.’ “East...from the west” is an immeasurable distance. You start out west and go to the east and keep going, and it is in a circle that is immeasurable, never ending. It is limitless expanse.

Then God says, ‘I will put them in the depths of the ocean.’ How deep is the ocean? I think just over five miles is the deepest place in the Atlantic, and a place in the Pacific Ocean is almost seven miles deep. It was announced one time when Mrs. Malone and I were traveling overseas on a large jet airplane: “You are now over the deepest part of the Atlantic Ocean.” I thought then of what God said: ‘I will bury your sins in the depths of the oceans.’

But the most wonderful thing God says He will do with our sin is, ‘I will remember them no more against you forever.’

God has a divine memory. He can remember forever, age upon age, all that He wants to remember. But He has divine forgetfulness. When one has been saved, He puts one’s sins under the blood. He can wipe the very record from His mind.

God can make the pages of life that are marred with sin as white as snow. Isaiah 1:18 says,

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

II. The Blood of Jesus Christ Cleanses From All Present Sins

I am preaching to many who are saved and are asking, “What can I do with this awful sin that grips my life, robs me of joy and steals away my happiness?”

I was reading some years ago about the work of the Gideons who have given Testaments to literally millions of soldier boys and nurses in recent wars. They have also placed Bibles in motel and hotel rooms all over the world.

One Gideon New Testament was given to a boy in World War II. He carried it in his pocket. One day on the battlefield there came a shot from the enemy’s gun. A bullet hit the New Testament and knocked him to the ground. But the bullet never entered his body.

The young man said, “This New Testament not only saved my life but kept my soul from Hell because I was lost when that bullet struck me.”

Another soldier boy had paid the supreme price and had given his life in service for his country. They found the Gideon New Testament in his hand and found his finger on I John 1:7, "...and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

They said, "If he claimed in his dying hour the promise of I John 1:7, then his soul is saved, and he has gone to be with the Lord."

III. The Blood of Jesus Christ Cleanses From All Possible Sins

I mean by that what many people have asked me about when they came to accept the Lord as their personal Saviour: "Preacher, I can see how God can wipe away all the past sins, but I am still in this body, still in this old godless world, and I still have the Devil as my enemy. Maybe I will yet sin."

It was so with a woman who was saved one Sunday night in the Emmanuel Baptist Church. One of our deacons' wives had gone into the prayer room with her. The two came out of the prayer room together. The minute I looked at the lady who came to be saved, I knew what had happened to her.

You know, God's salvation is kind of like the measles. It breaks out all over you! Saved people even look like they are saved, act like they are saved, and they ought to smell like they are saved!

When this lady came out, you could see her happiness. Tears were running down her cheeks, and she was wiping them with her little white handkerchief. Oh, that radiance, that countenance, that heavenly glow!

I went to shake hands with her. While we were rejoicing, she said, "But, Preacher, I would like to ask a question. I know when I went into that little prayer room tonight I was laden with sin and on my way to Hell. Now I know I have been saved, been cleansed from all sins past, but I am going home to an unsaved husband. I will go to work tomorrow at a place where people are lost and without God and without hope. I know I am not perfect. I will yet sin against God. So what about future sins?"

I said to her, and I say to you, that over nineteen hundred years ago when Christ climbed the rugged hill of Calvary, bearing on His back a cross—the instrument of His death—when He hung there crowned with thorns and robed in blood amidst the taunts and jeers of a godless world, He died for ALL of your sins.

When Jesus died, all of your sins were future. You had no past sins when He died. They were all future, for you were future. When He died, He died, thank God, for all our sins. When in John 19:30 Jesus cried, "It is finished," it meant past, present and even future sins were taken care of then and there.

I continue to read at the close of chapter 1 of I John. (Chapter 2 is a part of chapter 1, actually.) "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not" (2:1). God said, "Don't sin." God said, "[But] if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

Thank God for a Saviour who not only took care of the past and wonderfully cares for the present, but made an atonement that takes care of the future.

God says, “...sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

Romans 5:10 says, “We shall be saved by his life”—not His life on the other side of the cross, not His perfect life walking among men, but His life at the throne now where He ever liveth to make intercession for us.

IV. The Blood of Jesus Christ Cleanses From Sin's Power

In Romans 6:1,2 Paul asks and answers a question:

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any