

Dealing With The Sin In Our Lives #4

Applying The Blood Of Christ To Our Sins

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I. Introductory Remarks.

Hebrews 10:12-14 *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*

In this series of messages I have been talking about "Dealing with the Sin in our Lives." We have seen that we all sin -- that there is no one who is capable of sinless perfection. We have also seen that there are some severe consequences when we persist in known and unrepented sin and begin to backslide, which can lead to apostasy.

In this message today, I want to begin focusing on the victory Christ has given to us concerning our sin – how that through His blood we have complete forgiveness and victory over sin.

Revelation 12:11 *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

At the very foundation of our victory is the forgiveness Christ has granted unto us. Therefore I want to talk about what it means to have the blood of Christ cleanse us and what it means to walk in genuine forgiveness from day to day.

As I have shared in the previous messages there are times in our lives as Christians when we sin and blow it big time just like Peter did when he denied Christ.

The Bible says he went out and wept bitterly over his sin. He was in turmoil of hate for himself and his sin and loss of joyful fellowship and usefulness which had been his.

Just as Peter was able to receive complete forgiveness and cleansing, and have restored fellowship with his Savior, you and I can too. This is what this message is all about – How to have complete forgiveness and cleansing when we have sinned as Christians. Understanding the forgiving power of Jesus Christ through His blood is the first step to the cleansing process.

II. The Blood Of Christ.

In order to properly understand the forgiveness and cleansing we have through Jesus Christ, we must have an appreciation and an understanding of the victory Christ accomplished by pouring out his blood for our sins.

1. It Is Blood That Makes Atonement For The Soul.

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.'*

Hebrews 9:22 *And according to the law almost all things are purged with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*

2. The Blood Of Christ Cleanses From All Sin.

The Blood of Christ being poured out for our sins is the basis for our forgiveness. All of our sins were paid for with the precious blood of Christ.

1 Peter 1:18-19 *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

When Jesus died on the cross He cried out, "It is finished." He meant that even the faintest dust of sin had been paid for, for me and for every sinner who would accept His wonderful, atoning death on the cross. All my sins are paid for -- every one of them. Jesus died once and by that one sacrifice He purchased redemption and forgiveness for all of our sins.

Hebrews 10:12-14 *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God... For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*

Because of this sacrifice, the Blood of Christ now cleanses us from all sin no matter what it is.

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

The precious Blood of Christ still cleanses every child of God who confesses his sin. The Blood of Christ cleanses me today as I walk in the light confessing and forsaking known sin. Even though the blood was shed nearly 2000 years ago, God applied it to my credit and I can draw from whenever I am in need of it.

III. How To Apply The Blood.

For the Children of Israel it wasn't enough for the blood sacrifice of a lamb to be made. It had to be applied to the door of their homes. That was their responsibility in the process.

Exodus 12:7 *And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.*

Just as the Children of Israel had as responsibility to apply the blood, we too, have a responsibility to apply the Blood. This is not something Christ does for us. When we learn to apply the blood we find immediate forgiveness and cleansing and the way to complete restoration of fellowship with God. Therefore, let's look at how Jesus expects us to apply to blood to the doorposts of our hearts.

1. We Must Sincerely Confess & Forsake Our Sins.

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Any Christian who honestly confesses his sin to God has it instantly forgiven and cleansed. The key is to confess honestly and sincerely before God.

2 Corinthians 7:10 *For godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. (Verses 11-12 also).*

- **Illustration:** of a child who comes to parents crying and begging forgiveness for a sin just committed.

Psalms 103:13 *As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.*

Like a child who runs to her daddy pleading for forgiveness saying, "I'm so sorry, Daddy. Please forgive me! I'll never do it again!" So should we be before the Lord. How could a father judge what has been judged. A spanking or chastisement would be meaningless. Our Heavenly Father has the same pity

towards us when we come to Him godly sorrow confessing our sin.

1 Corinthians 11:31 *For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.*

The very moment we confess our sin, and thus judge the sin and takes sides with God against sin, that sin is blotted out, both forgiven and cleansed. Thus, upon simple confession of sin, the child of God has peace with God about the sin, and he has victory over the sin. So we see that through confession we are applying the blood of Christ to our sins. But our confession must be honest and sincere.

2. What Honest Confession Involves.

- **Honest confession means you call it by its name and don't excuse it.**

It means you admit it was sin. Don't let your heart deceive you as the prophet Jeremiah says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

To say, "I couldn't help myself or it really wasn't my fault," is excusing sin and taking sides with it. You must face it honestly and call it by its name. If you want mercy, face sin for the black thing it is, recognize it, admit, take sides against it, judge it! When we excuse our sin, we are still covering it.

Proverbs 28:13 *He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*

eg. of exaggerating. Call it a lie if you want to get over it. When you go to someone and ask them to forgive you for exaggerating, let them know you were lying. It is no honest confession if you leave it half uncovered, have excused, and still loved and defended.

eg. of tobacco. If you just want to quit because it is an unnecessary expense and perhaps it is bad for your health you will never quit. Victory comes when you come to say, "The use of tobacco for me is sin, it defiles my body, the temple of the Holy Spirit; it wastes God's money, sets a bad example before my family and other young people; it is offensive to many and is a definite stumbling block to some, hinders my prayer life, my witness as a Christian; and is a sin to even smoke one more cigarette. I ought to quit to please Jesus Christ and to serve Him better."

- **Honest confession means forsaking sin.**

For your mouth to say, "Lord, this is a sin, I am sorry," while the heart says, "But I still love it and I still plan to hold on to it," is not a honest confession of sin. It is hypocrisy. Watch that deceitful heart of yours and make sure that it releases its grip on the sin that it pretends to confess. Sin that is not forsaken is not honestly confessed.

Acts 3:19 *"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..."*

Any straightforward confession of sin that will please God and gain His forgiveness and cleansing must involve the will. Does your will give up the sin? Does your mind cry out with brokenhearted David: *"I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me...Create in me a clean heart, O God; an renew a right spirit within me..* An honest confession means you are sick of it, that you despise it, that you long to be cleansed from it.

Psalms 51:17 *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart; These, O God, You will not despise.*

- **An honest confession means restitution may be necessary.**

Matthew 5:23-24 *"Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

You may have to tell someone you are sorry or you may have to set a wrong right in some way – whatever, that's between you and the Lord.

IV. Concluding Remarks.

Yes it is true, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Just make sure it is honest confession, a confession that judges the sin honestly, that repents of the sin and turns from it, and that does anything that properly can be done to undo the sin. Anything less than that is not an honest confession of sin.

Do not fail to have the forgiveness and cleansing that you need by dealing lightly or dishonestly with sin. This is how the blood is truly applied to the doorpost of our hearts.

May God bless you and may His blood completely cleanse you of all your sin. This is the first step in receiving your complete victory over the sin that so easily ensnares you.