



***BY THE BLOOD
OF
CHRIST***

These Ten Meditations on The Blood of Christ were received in the fourth year of those formal teaching sessions called “Seek Ye the Lord”. They draw out the vision which God understands of the Precious Blood of Christ from the verse “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own Blood” [Hebrews 9:12]. This special Message from God is to all people, believers and unbelievers alike, Jew and Gentile alike, for everyone should fully grasp this Word and know its life-changing revelation.

PREFACE

This set of ten special Studies was in the fourth year of annual “ away” Studies called “ Seek Ye the Lord” . This one specifically concentrates on the Message of the Blood of Christ, looking in great detail the deeper meaning of many familiar Scriptures which speak of the Blood. As with all these meditations and revelations by the Holy Spirit there is a concentration on the Person of Jesus Christ. It is hoped that a pure vision of Him will be developed through the great wealth of Scripture given in each Study.

The teaching for this “ Seek Ye the Lord” retreat was given to an independent Assembly in Acton, West London, in 1973, by Pastor Norman B. Scutt. Born and raised by European parents in Calcutta, India, he came to Christ through the persevering witness of his wife, Rita. He attended a Bible Class run by two English women, Miss Wise and Miss White, who, in preparing young men for the ministry, laid the foundations of a sound and deep knowledge of Scripture, based upon the necessity for the shed Blood of Jesus Christ.

He came to England with his family in the 1950s, and, after many preaching engagements around London, was appointed to serve Christ as Pastor to the then small independent Pentecostal fellowship by the clear direction of the Holy Spirit. He continued to serve the Lord in faithfully pouring out Holy Spirit-inspired teaching until his death in 1981.

His legacy is a band of pastors, elders, deacons and members of the Body of Christ, distributed in many other churches within and beyond London, all committed to feeding Christ’ s lambs and sheep with “ the finest of the wheat” as they serve Him until the end of this Age of Grace.

It has to be said that the reader must be prepared to spend time on the many passages of Scriptures, and not to hurry over them. Some are necessarily long... The Holy Spirit can then move and develop the Vision of the Lord Jesus Christ within that diligent heart.

It is important to emphasise that only the text of the King James Bible is used. This is considered the only valid source of the Word of God in the English language as it is **not** copyrighted!! Those who are prepared to apply themselves to these, sadly today, unfamiliar words, will experience a refreshing and a power to their spirit they had not before received...

Throughout this book, where Scriptures have been given in passing to build up a particular point or vision, the references have been added and placed in square brackets.

Where more than three or four verses are given, the passage is divided into three or four columns. It is hoped that this will be easier to read than a large block of text.

Bâsar Blessings is now an international ministry associated with Bible teachers in N. Wales, and London, Pastors in South India and fellowships and Prison Ministries in Zambia,. With one heart we desire that the “ water of the Word” – particularly evident in this book! – will produce or re-kindle in every reader a deep devotion for the Lord Jesus Christ, and appreciate more fully the extent of His prodigal Giving to redeem us from Eternal Death and place us within the walls of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem!

As you seek to understand more fully the Uniqueness of Jesus Christ, and your place in His Church, may you always find the resources in Him to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil, and be ready, as a member of His Body, to be united with Him at God’ s appointed time.

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BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

RECOMMENDED READING :

<i>1 Peter 1:17 – 20</i>	<i>1 Peter 1:1 – 5</i>
<i>John 6:53 – 56, 57</i>	<i>Hebrews 9:11 – 14</i>
<i>Acts 20:25 – 28</i>	<i>10:18 – 19</i>
<i>Romans 5:6 – 11</i>	<i>10:28 – 29</i>
<i>Ephesians 1:3 – 8</i>	<i>12:22 – 24</i>
<i>Romans 3:20 – 26</i>	<i>13:10 – 14</i>
<i>Ephesians 2: 11 – 15</i>	<i>13:20 – 21</i>
<i>Colossians 1:12 – 20</i>	

1. – *Blood Shall Be The Token*

The One Work Forever

Through the Scriptures we see that the Holy Spirit speaks freely of the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no hesitation or restraint in His use of the phrase “*the blood of Christ*”. It is used very reverently by Him, being the Holy Spirit, but it is used **freely**. Speaking freely of the Blood does not in any way mean one is speaking lightly.

If we are going to restrain the Holy Spirit’s enthusiasm and exhilarating proclamation of the meaning of this for all mankind, then we are living, and will live, a very powerless and limited life, however much we believe that God’s Word is God’s Word.

God speaks of the Blood, of the Death of Christ, freely, that we may fix that Fact in our hearts and lives, as the One Work that is permanent, **lasting**, and will never be changed or altered in any way.

Heaven will be changed; the earth, the animals, will be changed; man has to change, as we see in the *Book of Revelation* the sweeping changes. But the Work of the Blood – of the Cross – will remain **forever**. Once it was decided that it was to be done, both Christ and God saw that it had to be permanent, unalterable, unchangeable, forever just the same.

We therefore are to speak freely, with understanding of course, of the Blood of Jesus Christ.

The Precious Blood

The Holy Spirit describes the Blood as “*precious*” [1 Peter 1:19]. We are to know we were not redeemed with corruptible things, which are not only perishable but will perish; they have the seeds of rotteness in them – they must be destroyed or perish of themselves. But we are redeemed with the **Precious Blood** of Christ.

In the Scriptures we have already read and will touch upon, we will see the same Holy Spirit claiming on God’s behalf, claiming for God, Eternal benefits, Eternal blessings and the Eternal bounty of an Eternal God for me, personally for me and for every single member of the human race, through this same Precious Blood. It is not what we think to receive from God through Calvary; it is what God has said in advance that you will receive, that you must receive, that you ought to receive, that you should expect to receive, through the Blood of His SON.

It is **God** that claims for us the blessings, the benefits – eternal, because He is eternal; eternal, because the Work that He claims it through is **an Eternal Work**. All His bountiful Goodness poured out upon mankind is only because of the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ.

This is why it is so important to be filled always with the Holy Ghost, because that is His Main Message; that is His talking point with man

The prophet Isaiah said, speaking from God, “Come now, and let us...” – that is **God and man** [*Isaiah 1:18*] backslidden man, sin-stricken man; a stinking mess from head to foot, sick, reeking from the sores and stench of sin – “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”.

The prophet had not yet had the revelation by the Spirit which the Church has, of these phrases, “the blood of Christ”, “the precious blood of Christ”, “the blood of Jesus”, “the blood of His cross”, but nevertheless, he made the same Statement. [*Hebrews 9:14; 1 Peter 1:19; Hebrews 10:19; Colossians 1:20*]

The word “*though*” indicates God’s claim that, though He spoke to a people of whom He told the prophet were stinking in their sins, yet they, those very sins became colourless, unnoticeable, extinguished in the Presence of a holy God Who couldn’t stand sin and Who could see it ... yet they were extinguished in His Presence, through what we **now** know to be the Blood of Jesus Christ!!

There are TWO points to bear in mind throughout these Studies :

1. If you are to speak by the Spirit of God, or as the Spirit of God, or activated by the same Spirit, you will speak of the Blood of Jesus Christ, as it is spoken of here – freely, with point and purpose, and power, to see change in men’s lives.

When we are in our meetings or studies, the Spirit of God moves upon a person when we hear of the Blood of the Cross, but, sad to say, the movement of the Spirit is mistaken, and people get caught up with fleshly manifestations, and so our understanding or our praying or making statements about the Blood becomes a bit foolish. But there is nothing foolish about the Scriptural content, and the Scriptural revelation, of the Blood of Christ.

2. The Spirit of God claims for God, not for me, that I am the beneficiary. He claims for God Who is the Giver of the benefit and Who is primarily concerned and vitally concerned with the Work of the Cross. Because He has to see that the Work He wants done is perfect, therefore the Spirit of God is careful to dilate upon that in His own holy Word.

Throughout the Church teaching, throughout the Bible, in fact, you will find this Work being the basis for all God’s claims for blessings and beneficial treatment, for His healing, for His deliverance, of me. It is God’s healing – not yours or mine. It is God’s deliverance; it is God’s salvation; it is God’s remission of sins; it is God’s changing us towards Him, through the Blood, calling it “*being reconciled to God*” – all through the Blood of the Cross [*Romans 5:10*].

Hebrews 12:18 – 24

“For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, 19. And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: 20. (For they could not endure that which was

commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: 21. And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) 22. But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of

angels, 23. To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24. And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

This passage could be taken as a Message from God covering the whole subject; all His thoughts on the Death, the Blood, of His Son. He is putting His point of view as to how you should react and behave towards God because of the Death, the Blood, of His Son.

"For ye are not come ..." – and a list is given of the things we have not come to, that is, we have NOT come face to face with a revelation of all our sins.

We can see therefore that it is because we do not know the force of these Scriptures about the Blood of Christ that so many Christians are still in their sins. They bring into their so-called Christian experience, their new birth, and their born-again lives their habits and the customs of their old lives – and it is not to be so.

We can speak and pray feelingly about the Blood of Christ but do we know what it means? – because if we really prayed it as the Holy Spirit would have us pray it, we would be entirely free of our life, whatever it was, before we accepted Christ. We would then be more responsive to the movings of the Spirit, for the Christian life is a spiritual life, and you can only come by it by the Death of Jesus Christ. We must understand, therefore, that Death...

"For ye are not come" this day to a catalogue of your sins, and your shortcomings, and your failures. You are not come face to face with a revelation from God, which would be sharp and very exact, of your sins, and all that you are that is disgusting in His sight. BUT you are indeed come face to face with the Revelation of the One Who removed the sins.

That is the content of the Gospel. That is why Paul said, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ..."* [Romans 1:16] – it meant it didn't matter what it cost him to preach and to live the Gospel; it just didn't matter, because of this Fact: *"...it is the power of God unto salvation"*; the Blood of Jesus Christ. Those Statements made, Paul found, had a transforming power, and so he went on his way regardless, not of people and places and things, but of the cost to him personally. If you want to follow a Crucified Saviour, you have got to live a crucified life, or how are you going to be part of the Body which belongs to the Head??

Christians don't think of that. They think that the Blood of Christ was poured out at a convenient moment to God and at a convenient moment to them, and that nothing more will be said now of their sin. They can go on picking and choosing the kind of things they consider right or wrong... but that is NOT what we have come here today to see...

Two Statements of Change

There are TWO Statements which show the sweeping change in God's whole dealings with the whole human race since the Cross...

ONE : 'You are not come face to face with a catalogue of what you are, with a revelation of the kind of person you are, **TWO** : but you have come face to Face with the Remover of all that you are, all that I am, that we may be at peace; that we may not have to go out thinking about sins, but about Salvation, and the Saviour of the lost.' The First Statement is spoken of in *vs18 & 19 of Hebrews Chapter 12...*

vs18-19 *"For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, , 19. And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:"*

What was *"the word"*, *v19*, that they couldn't bear to hear? It was that of God demanding a holy walk from them... God was saying that they shouldn't do this, and they should do that. Why did He say, 'You shouldn't' ? – because they were already doing it...

We have read in *Romans* [Romans 3:20, Recommended Readings] :

“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” So all that Voice of God, of Christ, speaking to them from that flaming, quaking mountain was only a condemnation of their living – not condemnation in saying they were certain to be lost – but a condemnation of their natures; of their thought life.

We are just the same as they are!! But that is all they heard : ‘Put it right; put it right; put it right, I am your God; I am Holy. Put that right; don’t do that; you must do this...’ and so they said, ‘We don’t want to hear; it’s too much. Because each time the Voice spoke, their consciences quivered.

A conscience is a thing which God has given to man – animals don’t have it – so that men know what is right and what is wrong, even if they don’t believe in God...

v20 *“(For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:”* – Because God is Holy.

All this knocks out the rubbish people talk about ‘God is Love, so He couldn’t do us any harm’. Of course He has not done us any harm, but it is SIN that does the harm.

It is SIN that brings the consequences of what God says will happen upon you if you do the wrong things. The seeds of all harm are in us; it’s in man. *“By one man sin entered into the world...”* [Romans 5:12] – not by God. So if God takes up the case and deals with the matter justly, it doesn’t mean He does not love us!

The Studies on the Blood will destroy all your sentimentality. There is a large percentage of sentiment in Christian thinking. Sentiment is a weakness; it blinds you to what you are, and to what Christ really is. It makes us partial to one thing or the other; we are not balanced in our judgments.

v21 *“And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)”*

v22 *“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels”* So now He is saying, ‘You are NOT come to all that. The writer said it by the Spirit – that’s the Message of the Blood. That is why it is “precious” – because you have not come to the revelation of your sins, but to the Remover of it...

In *vs18 - 21* we see the barrier of sin; the sin in the men to whom God was speaking. God contacted them, but He contacted them in fire and smoke and quaking, because there was no sign from them of a response to God’s Holiness; no sign of love, or humility, or repentance. So He said, ‘You’re wrong; your natures are wrong; you’re unholy, and I am Holy, so there has to be a settlement, a getting together about this’.

So in that itself He was showing them mercy in coming down and talking to them, but they couldn’t stand those holy words, because they were not holy...

Even in the Gospels, it is recorded that Jesus Christ has said, *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil”* [John 3:19] – it is as simple as that.

John 3:20 *“For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved”* – so they said, ‘We can’t bear it any more’, because they didn’t find in themselves any measure of a turn God-wards. The Blood of the Cross is the ONLY thing that will turn a man God-wards – the Work of Christ on that Cross. That is why it is preached so strongly and powerfully in the Scriptures!

v21 *“But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”* It is a slow process. To live a crucified life is a slow life. But today, Christians cover over all the weaknesses which they haven’t seen to put right by a multitude of works.

They rush to and fro; they rise up early to do all kinds of things, but are they really living in the Power of the Gospel – the Power of that Cross, knowing what is the Precious Blood of Christ; knowing they were redeemed not with corruptible things, things that couldn't buy, or do anything to alter their lives...

A great deal of our Christian work hides to the worker the Reality of what we haven't got – the transforming Power of the Cross in our lives...

We need to live a changed life, not a busy life. We need to live a power-filled life – here. The Power is here. Then we would see clearly what a work God does! The results would be **more love** for the Person of Christ – that really is very little seen in the mass of Christian population all over the world. One sees very little personal love for Christ, because there is very little personal knowledge of Him...

Here we have direct revelation – God's Answer to our need; not the catalogue of all we should be doing and shouldn't be doing, because God knows that we do nothing right in ourselves; nothing that He finds pleasing. So we have to focus our tormented gaze on HIM Who is our Peace – then if we look upon the Crucified Christ, Who is very much alive, through the Word, then we would see something of the Message that God is conveying to us through the Blood...

v22 *"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,"* We are now told that we are come! That's comforting isn't it?!

These facts are sinless Facts. There is no sin in that proclamation; there is only Salvation; there is only holiness, only the breath of Heaven, of Eternity, of the Holy Spirit in it all. It is clean as you read it...

v23 *"To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,"* Note that here is the Work of the Cross being recorded. It is now all in Heaven. It is all the Work of the Blood. Christ Who was crucified is the Judge of all men.

v24 *"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."* THAT is the Message of God! : The Blood which speaks of better things than that of Abel – Better Things; things which are entirely undeserved, unmerited, uninvited. We didn't ask God for these things; sinful man can't see the things God has for him until he drops his sin, his own life, in other words, and takes on Christ.

The Better Things of God

The Better Things : undeserved, unmerited and unwanted. We haven't wanted them; uninvited – we haven't asked God for them, and they are impossible for any man even to imagine them, for they are *"above all that we ask or think"...*

That is what Paul is referring to when he said, *"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" [Ephesians 3:20].* That is the Spirit of God in you, showing you what God is able to do for you through the Blood of the Cross.

This Principle is explained in the words of the leper, who said, 'Lord, if You will, You can make me clean' [Luke 5:12]. Obviously, God can take away leprosy, but the Cross shows that God will take away leprosy. God can do anything, but the Blood speaks of better things : not God's ability to do things, but God's willingness to exercise His long arm of Power over all the undeserving multitudes of the human race, which includes you and me.

It was good that we read from *Ephesians [1:3, Recommended Readings] : "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" – they are **spiritual** blessings from God through Christ. You don't get material blessings through the Blood of Christ; you don't get physical blessings, but you do get **spiritual** blessings.*

The healings for your body are not just physical, all of you who believe in divine healing... But the trouble is that many of us don't benefit from divine healing because we don't take it as **spiritual**.

When God touches a man and heals him, it's not just the physical healing, it's something more than that. The incident of the ten lepers [in *Luke 17:12 - 19*] is where He said, "*Where are the nine?*" They only had the physical healing; that's all they thought God would do. The other man came back because his soul was healed, and his heart was cleansed, and his life was touched by the God of all Grace! - and that's what the Blood of Christ teaches us, that God is tender, and of a tender mercy.

In the *Psalms (145:9)* it says, "*His tender mercies are over all His works*". His works are there, and some of the works which cannot be improved by His tender mercies will be burnt up, but "*His tender mercies are over all His works*" ! So take heart, that you'll get a good grasp of the Bible because you will have grasped the Message of **the Blood**; the Message of GOD, that **Precious Blood**.

So you ARE come to These Things ...

v24 "*And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*" ... entirely undeserved!

God's Eternal Blessings and benefits, and the bounties of all His Goodness which He is capable of showering upon people, and which He *is* showering upon Mankind through the Blood of the Cross, undeserved, unmerited, uninvited, impossible of conception or imagination, or even asking for on our account, YET, which ARE made available and guaranteed to us through the Blood of Jesus Christ!!

Another Lesson to Learn

And ONLY through the Blood of Jesus Christ - there is NO other factor recorded in the Scriptures to justify your faith that what God says He will do for you. The Blood of Jesus Christ is the only Foundation for your faith, that whatever the Promises are, they will be true for you personally. There is nothing God has promised that you can claim, except through the Blood of Christ.

That is another lesson for us to learn! So many are paupers compared to the bounty of God's Grace. So many have reached a stage of almost spiritual bankruptcy, wanting to almost fly away out of it all because they haven't seen that **There** is the Source...

It's not by works of righteousness which we have done, but by the Mercy of the Blood that you will get anything from God. But you have got to go that Way. You have to remember that! It blots you out; it reduces you to your proper size, which is NOTHING!! It does destroy pride; it will set you free - you can be humble and you can really enjoy God when you have a good Spirit-filled Vision of the Work of the Blood.

Only through the Blood of Christ all God's bounty is yours - NOW! Don't wait to study the Scriptures - it's yours NOW, now, now! The only way you can honour God is by taking it now, and benefiting from it now. As you read, drink it in, and it shall be good for you...

ONLY through the Blood of Christ - there is NO man from Adam downwards; all of those of whom God has not found it necessary to record anything detrimental about in the Scriptures : there's Daniel, Samuel, Noah [Jeremiah 15:1; Ezekiel 14:14, 16, 18, 20] but none of them either; no one can get anything from God except through the Sacrifice of Calvary.

Concentrating on My Entitlement from God

Before the Cross it was on the basis that it was a Certainty, and **after the Cross** it is on the basis of the Certainty becoming a FACT; the Accomplished Work.

We are looking now at short passages of Scripture for study, as that is good to concentrate ourselves on the Fact that only through the Blood of Jesus Christ are we entitled to anything from God. We would say that we believe that, and we must receive those Blessings from God through the Blood – but it is only through the Blood of Christ.

Exodus 12:1 – 14 is a good inclusive passage :

“And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2. This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. 3. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: 4. And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. 5. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: 6. And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. 7. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. 8. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. 10. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. 11. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD’S passover. 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. 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. 14. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.”

v13

“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 smite the land of Egypt.”

All the emphasis is on the blood. That is Church teaching. Christ was speaking to the congregation in Egypt. It doesn’t matter where the congregation is, but it is only because of the blood that God can talk to me and tell me He has got something good for me.

Because I don’t deserve anything, then He has to make me deserving, so that I come in under that deserving category. **Through the Blood of the Cross I become a deserving beneficiary.** ONLY through the Blood; I deserve it not at all outside Calvary!

So He said, *“And the blood shall be to you for a token”*. Moses had given his whole life to God, and he was suddenly plunged into being responsible for a whole nation of people; made responsible by God, not by men, to get over half a million people out of a land where they had endured generations of slavery.

They were still slaves, and Moses saw it all the more clearly because he wasn’t one. He had lived in the court of the Slave Master; he didn’t know what it was to be a slave. So he looked upon this sorry mess of what was called ‘God’s people’ and gave himself to God to lead them out! So really, he was worthy of some commendation, some kind of credit, some recognition by God. But God did not say, ‘When I see Moses, I will pass over you’. He said, *“When I see the blood”*. Neither did He say, ‘When I see the blood which Moses sprinkled – or Aaron, or any of their leaders whom they might choose, who I approve of – I will pass over you’.

Rather, anybody – all that riff-raff of slaves – could put the blood over their own houses. See the contrast of God’s mighty Grace – there is deliverance ONLY because of the shed Blood of the Lamb!

That's the modern teaching : so many centuries old but it's the teaching for the Church, "*And the blood shall be to you for a token*". A token is simply a visible signal, something which someone looks to see. And God didn't say, 'When you see it', He said, 'When I see it'.

It is not what you believe God can give you through the Cross; we can believe as much as we like, but more abundant-above-all-we-can-believe, God has still done something more. He has squeezed out of that Cross; He's squeezed out of His Son every drop of Blood so that He may drench you, so to speak, with blessings. There is nothing, really nothing, you can't get from God through Calvary; nothing at all, because it is only good, of course...

A Token of Death

"And the blood shall be to you for a token". It was a Token to them that God was going to do something. Their faith in the Word of God, that is, their part in doing what God said, had to depend entirely on their acceptance of God's Token. And God's Token was not something that they could accept reasonably - it was the sprinkled blood of an animal; the blood of the lamb...

God went past everything which you and I would think would claim some commendation from, and He went to what was DEATH - death not life! The Blood speaks of Death, not Life. And there must be death before you can be born again. There **must** be ... and this is why thousands of Christians are not living born again lives, though they have accepted forgiveness of their sins.

That is why you can be ineffectual. That's why you can spend all your time bewailing failures and the lack of answers, and having to be propped up, so to speak...

But there **MUST** be death. And so God points to death and says, 'When I see death, the evidence of death, then I will move'.

God did very many miracles through Moses and Aaron, producing plague after plague; lice, flies, frogs - He even turned water into blood; He brought a thick darkness over the land of Egypt. He really harassed the Egyptians, and each time Pharaoh said, 'God, I can't stand it any more', and as soon as Moses withdrew the plague through God's agency, of course, Pharaoh clamped down with an iron hand again - because he could; they were slaves! Only Moses was free. And **THIS** is what produced God's movement... the death, the evidence of the death of an animal.

They were people who didn't merit it. They had gone into Egypt because they wanted to. They had failed God; they didn't believe God - and so they were four hundred and thirty years in a slavery which God hadn't manufactured for them, nor did He want it...

And here He takes them out - "*When I see the blood*"... The Signal for God to move on your behalf is the Blood of the Cross - so why not live like that. The Church teaching is sprinkled with the Message of the Blood. You can live with it every day, all the time; you ought to!!

"And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are". Only when the blood of the lamb had been sprinkled, did God say, 'I will take you out'. So far He had left it to Pharaoh to wilt and succumb to the pressure of these plagues unleashed upon them by Moses and Aaron through Divine Power. He left it to Pharaoh to give way because of all these tragedies and trials, but then He moved. He didn't any longer leave it to Pharaoh; **He** moved.

"When I see the blood, I will pass over you" - He moved in to destroy the firstborn. In moving in, He moved over the houses where the blood was sprinkled. "*[W]hen 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.*"

The Blood of Christ, then, is to God, the Signal, the Sign, the Reason, **ONLY**, for God to pour upon us all His benefits, His blessings and His bountiful Goodness. That's HIS part...

While to us... To take the same story, it also has to have some meaning to us.

The LORD said, 'It shall be a Token to you'. So while the Blood of Christ is God's Signal for moving in on your behalf, on your account, destroying things, building up things, all for you, spiritually, that is – to you it is the Evidence, the Pledge of all God's Favour to you.

Now do you see?? That is what you should understand it to be!

To the God passing over the Israelites (it's the same God speaking) and killing by His death-angel the firstborn in Egypt, the blood was the sign of their safety, security – not from the enemy, but from God! He secured them. It is God's personal intervention that the blood promises and pledges. God's personal intervention on behalf of every person in the human race... My! we should all be saved, shouldn't we?!

There should be millions of Christians today instead of a few. Every country should have a Christian Government! Every country should be freely acknowledging Christ as their Lord and Saviour – because He has done all this for nothing, except because He wanted to, through LOVE.

But for us, then, it is the Evidence that God will favour me : *"Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean"*. If that man who had such faith had known about the Cross, he would have said, 'through the Blood of Jesus Christ; through Your own Blood, that You are going to pour out, Lord, I know You will heal me'.

The Evidence, the Pledge, of all God's favour and faithfulness to all Mankind. It's not just favour, because favour can stop, but it's His faithful continuance of those favours, favour upon favour.

In *John's Gospel*, the first Chapter, it says, *"Grace for grace"* – 'Grace upon grace' [John 1:16]. That is, every time one Grace has served its purpose, there's another Grace coming in its place – another Gift from God, another Blessing, all poured out upon us – like Christ poured out all His Blood.

It's done almost with violence; such is God's eagerness to bless... But what is your lack today? How much of God's Blessings have you got? – that is, His spiritual Blessings. The Blood of the Cross was not poured out for material or physical blessings – it is only to do with spiritual Blessings.

"Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." Revelation 1:5b – 6.

If you see these Scriptures in their setting you will get some understanding of the story. It's not the Scriptures I am explaining; I'm explaining their relationship to the Story of the Cross. I'm using them to show you how much God claims through the Blood of His Son...

Here, in *Revelation 1*, you find that John is giving Greetings to the churches at the commencement of this mighty Revelation, [vs4 – 5a] – the last of its day; the last written revelation of God. When John comes to Jesus Christ and gives His Greeting, John immediately brings in the Cross : *"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead – there's the Cross – and the prince of the kings of the earth"*. Then John has to break out by the Spirit : *"Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."*

True Worship

The Fact that our Lord Jesus Christ shed His Blood on a cross at Golgotha, that Fact is the ONLY Reason for sinners to worship God.

That's another great point to make note of! **True** worship of God can ONLY come from a true understanding of Calvary. So we see that we don't have a lot of true worship... We have a lot of noise; we have a lot of quiet – depending on our natures. But it's not according to my nature that I am to worship God – it's according to the nature of the Work of Calvary, because it shows in itself a great worship of God.

The very way Christ did the Work and the very Work that was done shows a great reverence and a great respect for God, and is therefore true worship.

Those of you who know something of the *Psalms*, see in them that the sheer worship of the Man Christ Jesus for God is only coming from Him mostly through His Sufferings because of Calvary. And so we see that the words, "Unto Him that loved us" come from true worship. We should see that no true worship is possible, or no worship of God "in Spirit and in truth", as we so often say [John 4:24], is really possible to anyone, to any sinner, unless there is an understanding by that same Spirit and that same truth of the Cross – the Work of the Blood.

Revelation 5:7 – 10

"And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne. 8. And when He had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10. And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

This Vision is set in Heaven, when the Church will be there. The Revelation is being given.

v7 "And He – that's Christ, called the Lamb – came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne. 8. And when He had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb..."

You see, worship is instigated, initiated... Worship becomes something meaningful when you gaze upon the Work of the Cross. They are gazing upon it there; they're looking upon the Lamb "as it had been slain", *v6* – they're seeing all the terrible wounds. It is not because they had seen Him slain that they say that, but because they see Him as He was, as He had been when He was slain. They are seeing Him right before them.

vs8 – 10 "And when He had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10. And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

We perhaps read these words without understanding, but that is worship. It is worship centred or placed entirely upon the Work of the Cross. And it can only be like that... It is free worship – they fell down; they were sitting on thrones, and they fell off their thrones. They didn't fall off in surprise, but rent off their thrones in worship, and they went down before Him. They fell down, it says, "before the Lamb", and sang their song of worship.

And so we are gathered together here to seek the Face of our God and of His Christ, by understanding, by the Spirit of God, of course, God's meaning of this amazing and dramatic Statement – for it is amazing; it is dramatic – namely, THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

But we do have to understand it! "Understanding" is defined in the Scriptures as "the knowledge of the holy": "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding", **Proverbs 9:10**.

Proverbs 4:5 – 7 "Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of My mouth. 6. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. 7. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

These kinds of words about wisdom and understanding are mainly found in the **Book of Proverbs**.

So we are to "get understanding" – which is the "knowledge of the Holy". We have got to understand this Holy Work, otherwise we won't get anywhere in this matter: the "knowledge of the holy", which God wishes us to have, so that you and I may not be found by God at the end of the day to have done what we read in Hebrews [10:29] – "counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing", and so suffer the Vengeance of God...

Remember that! We read that Scripture amongst others, but we are to get this understanding that God has for us, from His Spirit's point of view, that we may not count the Blood of the covenant an unholy thing – meaning, that it means nothing to you.

And how will you know it means very little to you or nothing – because of your poverty, your spiritual poverty; because of your bankruptcy; because of your knowing that there are things God has for you and you don't have them; knowing things God has for your families and you don't have them; knowing all the Promises of God are 'Yea and Amen' in Christ [2 Corinthians 1:20] and you don't have them...

That is what is called *counting "the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, and unholy thing"* – because when you are sanctified by the Blood of the Cross, it's not your work, it's God's Work. God sanctifies you – and to what end? That you and I should be recipients of His Benefits, His Bounty and His Blessings – all through the Precious Blood of JESUS.

THE SUMMARY OF OUR MORNING MEDITATION

Hebrews 10:11 – 29

Galatians 3:22 – 26

Hebrews 12:10

"For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness."

The Law was given because they didn't **want** God's Way, not just because they couldn't do the right thing.

Hebrews 10:29

"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, and unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

This verse is not just referring to backsliders. I must have what God has offered, because He has good reason for giving it :

1 Corinthians 1:7

"So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Hebrews 10:19

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus."

2 Corinthians 3:17

"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Because of Christ we have boldness. We must contact God boldly, with confidence, or there is no contact with God at all. Boldness means that we **know** the Blood of the Cross has gained us access to God.

Hebrews 9:24

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."

Christ couldn't have entered into Heaven as a flesh and blood Man. **Man** is in the centre of things in Heaven!

The end of the morning session of the First Day, Seek Ye The Lord **"By The Blood of Christ"**.

N.B. Before you enjoy this second Special Study for the day, please ensure that you have read through the list of Recommended Scriptures (p.5).

2. – The Covenant of Blood

The Lord's Supper

This next Study is all to do with understanding the deeper meaning of the Communion Service, as given to the Church by Paul in **1 Corinthians 11** :

v20 “When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat **the Lord's supper.**”

Matthew 26:26 – 29

“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is My body. 27. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28. For this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.”

The Lord's Supper, as we know it is called – correctly, of course – in **1 Corinthians 11:20**, or the Communion Service, as some of us call it, that **Supper**, that **Service**, is a **proclamation**. It is meant to be, and it is a proclamation by the Church, which is the Body of Christ, a proclamation every time you drink that cup.

It is a **proclamation of a Covenant**, or a Testament as it is stated in **Matthew 26**; a Covenant made with Blood – **Christ's Blood**. Please remember that! That is the importance of it...

vs27 – 28 “Drink ye all of it; For this is My blood of the new testament.” The disciples, in drinking that, were proclaiming something...

That is what the custom is : we drink to someone's health, for example; they drink a toast; they toast the Queen. In other words, the Queen or the person being toasted is not in that cup, but it is a symbol of a proclamation of some kind – the feeling, or the sentiment of the gathering – that is what it is all about.

So it is very important to remember these reasons for this Service. This is the **ONLY** Service actually listed in the Bible for the Church! Other Services are according to how you are led by the Spirit in your worship and your teaching and preaching, but **this** Service is tightly scheduled and described by Christ.

He instituted it, actually, nearly two thousand years ago. But when He did that, He Himself made the same Proclamation – as we find in the other Gospels [*Mark* and *Luke*].

Christ Himself proclaimed this Testament, or Covenant. It is **not** a promise – a testament is not a promise; a covenant is not a promise : It is **the Promise ratified** – made good – by something, and it is made good by **blood**. It is a Covenant of Blood; a Covenant of Death – NOT a Covenant of Life.

The Covenant was not made good by the Life of Christ, but by His Death. Boldly and bluntly, it is just DEATH, nothing to do with His Life at all. He died on the Cross. When a man pours out his blood, he dies. After a certain amount of blood has gone out of your veins, even the Son of God couldn't stay as a Man any longer. He either had to die as a Man or take His Divine Power and Eternal Life – which would have dispensed with the Sacrifice altogether...

So it is a **Covenant of Blood**. That is what the Church does : it celebrates the Victory that is theirs through His Death of the Cross. That is what it is all about. It is important that we get it right! So Christ Himself proclaimed this Covenant of Blood, of Death, when He instituted this Supper nearly two thousand years ago for His Church before He went to Gethsemane; before He went to Golgotha...

He put it like this : that when the Church drank of this cup as He required, they would be proclaiming a Covenant, a Testament which **required and secured the shedding of His Blood unto the Death of the Cross**. That really is the full meaning of the Service.

The drinking of the cup – that is the fruit of the vine – is **symbolic**. It is not the same cup that He drank from! So the cup is not important, but that we are drinking to something; celebrating – **proclaiming**, that’s the right word – what was His wish, what He instituted it for...

Mark 14:22 – 24 *“And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is My body. 23. And He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them: and they all drank of it. 24. And He said unto them, This is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.”* The Testament which was **ratified**; made **effective**.

There must be something to ratify an agreement... Either it is signed; the paper or document is signed and the two people who agree will attest their signatures and their witnesses. There must be some evidence of this agreement for it to be valid, in order for the beneficiaries to say, ‘Well, that’s mine; it says so’. And so the Blood of Christ has made valid to all the human race the Covenant – all the terms of it...

We are seeing now the heart of the Message of the Communion Service. When a church consisting of people who are all born again, including the minister, and all believing the Scriptures, are eating the bread and drinking the wine as required by Christ, really they are doing a very important thing : They are proclaiming to everyone who may come in, whether they are Christians or not doesn’t matter, that This Agreement has been confirmed, ratified, made effective, and **in operation** now through the Blood of the Cross.

All the terms have been fulfilled by the Two Who made the Agreement. The Agreement was not made between you and God, but between **God and God** – between God on the Throne and Christ!! We will look into that a little later...

We must see that clearly this afternoon : what we do when we partake of the Lord’s Supper, because it doesn’t excuse ignorance. Paul says in *v29* of that passage in **1 Corinthians 11**, *“For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”* He doesn’t say, ‘deliberately’ or ‘ignorantly’. In the Old Testament, ignorance of the Law didn’t excuse the man who sinned from bringing a sacrifice just the same as a man who had sinned deliberately, knowing he was breaking the Law. They both had to bring the same sacrifice covering that particular sin.

It is a very illuminating work to study Christ’s Sacrifices, to read some of those sacrificial laws, because **they were all covered by Christ!!**

So ignorance was no excuse, any more than in a properly conducted State such as England is, as far as the law goes – you are not excused because you say, ‘I didn’t know I shouldn’t speed down here! It isn’t unfair – although an unregenerate man might think so! – because if you really are a right thinking person, you will tumble to the right things! That’s humanly speaking, but it is more so spiritually. If you are spiritually minded, what you didn’t learn from the Word of God, God would show you it in a way that would be tied up with the Word of God.

That is why Paul said, ‘You Jews know the Law and you break it; you don’t keep it. What about the Gentiles who haven’t seen it written but their conscience tells them, ‘You shouldn’t be doing that?’ [Romans 2:14 – 15]

Today we are facing a situation where there is any amount of sin; unholiness inside the churches, creeping in, and it’s crept in... The Apostles and the early Church prophesied it, and it’s here. So that behoves us to be more than ever holy; more than ever myself right, instead of trying to make everyone else proper. If I am proper, it will contribute to your power, and so on, and we would be built up.

That is what Christ laid down for us as we take the Lord’s Supper : ‘You are proclaiming a Covenant which has been confirmed, signed, sealed by the Blood of My Cross’.

“And He said unto them, This is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.” [Mark 14:24]

Luke 22:20 *“Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you.”*

It is necessary for us to realise that Christ began the Supper which the Church keeps to celebrate our deliverance, our **Salvation**. It is called ‘the Last Supper’, but it could be right if you look at it that it is the last supper in which a dead and roasted lamb was eaten under God’s Approval... Up until that point Christ would never have eaten it if it wasn’t still to be eaten. He fulfilled the Law and ate the Passover lamb. But then and there as they were eating, He brushed it all aside and said, ‘This is My Body, and this is My Blood’. He finished it all there and then. So it was both a Last Supper and **a First Supper!!**

It ended the old regime – the old story of sin; rivers of blood; innocent blood flowed, all those animals. No animal has sin; they were all innocent, and the one sinner there – man – didn’t shed his blood. All this blood was poured out because of his sin – until JESUS came...

So He abrogated, He abolished the old Agreement by saying, ‘This is the New Agreement, but it is going to be ratified by My Blood’. Our concern today is not to know about the Old and the New Covenant, but to know that **That** is what we are proclaiming. I am proclaiming that an Agreement was made between God and Christ. It’s been ratified, so it is up to me now. When I take the Lord’s Supper I am proclaiming something that CANNOT be altered. Not only was it ratified; not only was it settled between the Two – that should have been good enough – but it has been confirmed by this awful Death.

So really, the penalty for ignoring this is going to be **terrible**... That is the job of the Church : to show this Covenant in operation, when they gather together.

The Proclamation of The Covenant of Blood

Luke 22:17 - 20 *“And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: 18. For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. 19. And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me. 20. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you.”*

The proclamation of the Covenant, you may notice, was not stated in the eating of the bread, but in the drinking of the cup... Christ said, *“This cup is the new testament in My blood”*. It is **the shedding of the Blood of Christ which ratified the Covenant**. It is not the living of His Life on earth; it is not His spotless, immaculate, sinless living; His striving against sin, His doing no sin, His knowing no sin, His being without sin – that is not the Covenant.

There is no Covenant in that, because He didn’t have to come to an Agreement with God not to sin! He Himself is Equal with God! He **cannot** sin. But once He had become a Man, He then agreed to do the One Thing in which His sinless Life was challenged – **to die**.

You see, for Eternal Life to die is a very difficult thing! That meant really having to get down to it. He called Himself a worm : *“But I am a worm...”*, He said [Psalm 22:6]. In other words, He had to give Himself to God to be treated worse than any man has ever been treated. And it had to be done in a very severe way, so that it could be said that He was *“in all points tempted like we are...”* [Hebrews 4:15].

As a Man He was tempted; His weak spot was His Eternal Life. He didn’t need to die – death was not His. He didn’t know death; He didn’t know sin – He is LIFE Itself! But that is what we are proclaiming, that Eternal Life died.

How beautifully Peter put it! He said they had killed the Prince of life! [Acts 3:15] And he didn’t seem to think he’d said anything contradictory at all! Ordinary men who are subject to death killed One Who isn’t subject to death. How marvellous!! What an Agreement!!

So it needed some doing... and we have to proclaim that doing. That is what the Church is supposed to do. We don't proclaim our good church; our good works; our good knowledge - we proclaim **that** which was done; that which Christ thinks we ought to do...

And so it says in that *v20*, "*Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you.*"

Don't think I'm dismissing the bread part of the Supper. We must "*eat of that bread*" to live and enjoy the processes, the Product of the Covenant - it all goes together. That's why He gave it first.

If we don't eat Eternal Life, we won't enjoy the Results of that Death -

But I'm speaking of the Proclamation that is necessary from your heart and your life; the evident, the collective, witness. It is not an individual witness this...

The Lord's Supper is not an individual thing. You will find all the parables; all the references to this Supper, include many people.

A Public Proclamation

The Church of the Living God, the Body of Christ, consists of people, redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, living by That Eternal Life, not consisting of one person. So it is a public proclamation, given publicly by the Church, all publicly proclaiming themselves sinners yet now coming under the blessed benefits of the Operation of the Covenant.

That is what we are proclaiming every Sunday. Now, let us really celebrate the Death of Christ - that is a wonderful thing to do!

We don't celebrate the death of people; we mourn, and quite rightly too; we miss people. But, you see, you've never met Christ in the flesh, but His Death, paradoxically enough, is the One Guarantee that you are going to see Him - because He died that I might live, and be fit to see Him. That's the language of Heaven! It is quite contradictory to the language of this world! So that's what we see in *Luke 22*...

In *1 Corinthians 10*, Paul says, "*I speak as to wise men...*" He was speaking, in other words, to children of God, for there is only one Wisdom that is commended in the Scriptures, and that is the Wisdom of God - the One Answer to all man's ailments.

vs15 - 16a "*I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. 16. The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion - the sharing out, the partaking of - of the blood of Christ?*"

The question is asked. It means that you ought to be aware of that; you ought to know these things. And isn't it strange - this is the one Service which is least understood, and it is the only Service that the Bible gives us to follow... And thousands of people are eating and drinking damnation to themselves every Sunday through ignorance, through lack of spiritual direction, or understanding...

But here it is written so plainly in the Bible, "*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?*" 'Is it not the place where we are all sharing out, as it were, partaking of a share in the Benefits of the Covenant? Is it not so? Aren't you aware of that?'

v16b "*The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*" Here again, "*the bread which we break*" - it's not the Body of Christ which is broken; it's the bread that is broken. But because it is put as it is in English grammar in *v24* of *1 Corinthians 11* -

"*And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body,...*" Then there is the ADJECTIVAL CLAUSE! - "*which is broken for you:*" The "*which is broken for you*" refers to the bread; it has just been broken.

It is **not** the Body of Christ, because it distinctly says, "A bone of Him shall not be broken" [John 19:36, quoting Exodus 12:46 & Psalm 34:20].

The bread is broken because it is the indication that we are **sharing** – the Church shares Christ! I don't possess Him for myself, in that sense; you do and so do I, but we are sharing Him; we **all** possess Christ! Well, if you haven't started to, then you should start right now!!

But that is what it means ... and we should come back to the point of our study now – the understanding of the Communion Service – the Lord's Supper...

The Communion, The Sharing Out

The Communion Service is a sharing-out Service – the Communion of the Blood of Christ. Are we not **all** proclaiming the Covenant ratified, made operative, legalised, put into effect, through the Blood of Christ, as Paul said – "*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not **the communion** of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not **the communion** of the body of Christ?*" – are we not doing that?

1 Corinthians 11:25 – 26 "*After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. 26. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.*"

"After the same manner also He took the cup" – with the same intention. The bread and the wine were just symbolic of the great Work of Redemption. The Crucified Christ on God's Right Hand – He put that [the bread] first, as unless you have Him alive from the Dead, the Covenant of Blood means nothing. But once it is established that you are eating of the Bread of Life, **the Living Christ Who was dead**, then you can understand that you are proclaiming the Covenant of Blood : "*This cup is the new testament in My blood*".

In *Matthew* and *Mark* He said, "*My blood of the new testament*", and in *Luke* and *1 Corinthians* it is put like this : "*This cup is the new testament in My blood*". But if you put them together you see it is a **proclamation**. When you and I drink the wine together, it is a **Proclamation** – you are actually proclaiming to God that you understand fully that, 'You, Lord, and the Lord Jesus Christ agreed that He should pour out all His Blood on a cross for my sins, and that I understand that He did it for me, and now the Covenant is in operation – the NEW Covenant' ... That is what you are saying.

So it shows how important the Lord's Supper is. You can't preach too much about it; you can't teach your church, your people too much – it goes on and on because we have to live with Christ in Eternity and have many celebrations!!

God loves celebrations; God is **happy**; He has nothing to be sad about. The only thing that is distasteful to Him is sin – and He has put it all out of His way, and He is waiting to enjoy His Family together with Christ. (It couldn't be without Christ, so it must be with Christ!) So it is a **happy** thing – God is a happy Person, and Christ is gloriously happy; full of Joy, full of enthusiasm – and here is the Covenant : it is a **happy Agreement**.

Now! What an unusual thing to say, when we're talking about 'death' – but it is through That Death.

God didn't ask you to be sad about His Death. Jesus said, 'Don't weep for Me, but weep for sin; yourselves, your children; for the rejecters of this Work I'm doing, for they will cry out to the rocks to hide them from the wrath of the Lamb' [Luke 23:28 – 30].

So the Communion Service should be a **happy** Service. Although in many of the churches it is quite a mournful affair! People make it out to be a dreadfully sombre occasion, putting on a look as though they ought to look serious. So we ought to, but we are to be **happy** to know we are lifting up Christ! He told us to lift up, to proclaim, so we drink together – as we do in our church, drink the fruit juice together, as a sign that no one is left out.

And this is it – we are proclaiming that, not just that Christ died, but as He said, “*the new testament in My blood*”. We are proclaiming that through the Death of Christ, the New Covenant is in operation – all men can be saved, and filled with the Holy Ghost.

Now there is no special community and special nation and special priests, and special priestly classes and so on – all are one in Christ Jesus only. That is not : ‘all are one’ – that is irrelevant. All are one to God in Christ Jesus. We can’t be one outside of Christ Jesus for we all must have the same proclamation, the same understanding. We should see that clearly...

A Church Absorbed

This Scripture we read every Sunday :

“*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till He come.*” That is the full basic meaning of this Service for the Church; your part in it.

The violent death, then, of Jesus Christ on a cross at Golgotha really should absorb the Church – it did the early Church; it absorbed its full attention, all its interests, everything to them came out of That Death; Life for them, preaching, teaching, the Future, the Coming of Christ; all came out of That Death. They would be, in the words of the enemies of the Cross of Christ – who could also be in the Church, of course! – obsessed with that thought. We should be free from that accusation : ‘Oh, you’re obsessed with the Cross’. When you speak of the Death of Christ, it is not something gloomy, grim and foreboding – it is the Joy of Heaven! Freely the Holy Spirit speaks of it. He wouldn’t speak freely of something that was bad; He would not emphasise it anyway, He would tell you it was bad then go on to tell you what had blotted out the bad!

So here is the Communion Service : Nothing blots this out! It is an escalation of Glory and Praise and bringing out into prominence that Jesus Christ died.

Here, through the Scriptures, we will see the emphasis that the Church put upon this Covenant of Blood. They are put under different headings to indicate what the Blood refers to :

1. **The Cross**
2. **The Crucified**
3. **Death**
4. **Where Christ died**
5. **Suffering**

To take this last point : When we read that Christ “*suffered*” it doesn’t just mean He experienced pain;

“*suffered*” means dying. Christ would never have suffered pain if He wasn’t going to die. His pain ended in Death. So we can’t use the word in the way we use it today.

If you said of me, ‘He suffered’, you wouldn’t necessarily mean that I had died. But Christ would never have suffered one twinge of pain except that it was going to lead on into increasing agony until He finally bowed His head and gave up the ghost. He had to experience all the pain that a man could possibly take in this life, until He died.

6. The LAMB

In *1 Corinthians 1:17:25* you see the full weight of the preaching was concentrated on Christ Crucified. Paul made no bones about it – he called the Gospel the “*preaching of the cross*”, and he said, ‘I can’t afford to bring in man’s wisdom; my own arguments on the situation.

We don’t need expositions; large books twice the size of the Bible! What we need is to preach the Cross!

We need to concentrate on Calvary. We don't need more than the Bible to give us the true, full, understanding of it...

1 Corinthians 1:17:25

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the

prudent. 20. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21. For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23. But we

preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24. But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

We see from *v18* that Paul divided everyone up at the Cross. He didn't divide the Cross up for people. In one place he said, *"Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you?..."* [1 Corinthians 1:13]. Everything is concentrated, undiluted concentration on the Work of God at Calvary.

There is really nothing else to preach about, because you can't preach of Christ's coming effectively unless you preach the Cross. You can't really proclaim the Baptism of the Holy Ghost upon all flesh unless you preach the Cross - nothing is understood except men know that Christ's Blood was poured out for all sin. That clears the way; cuts out everything and makes a man see that what he is doesn't matter; what he was has been put away; how he is related to Christ Crucified is now what confronts his life.

And that's what you have to do : you have to put before me that one thing - What are you doing with Christ Crucified today? That's the Message, and it should not be watered down by leaving out the words "blood", or "the cross", or "Christ crucified", or "the Lamb as it had been slain" -you are, though, to preach it appropriately. I'm not saying that the whole of the Church Epistles, every sentence, uses those words, they don't - and it would be foolish to think that you can't preach anything except where the words "Christ crucified" come in - but that must be the Centre of your Message, and that must be what people must find in your preaching.

The Cross - the violent Death of Jesus Christ on a cross at Golgotha has to engage the attention of a man - or he won't know what Salvation is. And all other explanations demanded of you on other matters, bring round to Calvary, bring the conversation round to sin and Salvation; bring every Message round; induce it round - the Spirit of God will help you... because the Bible is full of the whole Life of God related to man. There are many facets of it, so I'm not saying you should say to people that you're not going to speak about those things. But except you know the Covenant of Blood, what point is it to know that Christ is going to judge the world, or that Christ is coming for His own, or that Christ was born of a virgin? What is the point of all that - you won't even be able to explain it to me.

Unless your private study, your private thinking, your private living is based on Calvary, you will get no understanding of the Bible at all. That is my own personal experience; you can take it for what it's worth... All my revelation, all my understanding of God comes out of Calvary. I don't know it any other way.

You don't have to be a scholar. You don't have to be a theologian - even theologians and scholars must come to Christ. Even they must come to the preaching of the Cross. That is what gives the meat to your preaching!

One writer in an exposition about the Cross actually said that some say that Christ paid the Price to Satan. He said that didn't sound very satisfactory to him, and then added that some say something else - but it is a Mystery!

To whom did Christ pay the Price? To **God**!! It is God Who is the offended party! It is God Who has us in His Hand! It is God Who was the Judge. It is God Who decides what is to be done with sinful men or not. It was **God Who demanded a Price from Christ**.

How could Satan – or anyone else – demand a Price from Christ? What has Satan got to do with it anyway? All Satan's part is that he infected the human race with disobedience, and he is going to his own place as well [Hell, *Isaiah 14:15, 65:25b, Ezekiel 28:8, Revelation 20:1-3; the Lake of Fire, Ezekiel 28:19, Revelation 20:10*].

There is nothing more to be said about it. It is God Who has to be reckoned with – doesn't the Scripture say, "*prepare to meet thy God*"? [*Amos 4:12*]. That is the Old Testament statement of the New Testament, "*we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ*" [*Romans 14:10*].

So, what shall we say to these things...? We must concentrate on the Cross.

Galatians 5:11 "And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased." Now which of us live like that??

The Cross, the preaching of the Cross, as it is given in the Epistles, always gave offence, that is, it produced a stumbling block to people who want the Salvation of God without it. If you get Salvation without the Cross it means there is no repentance necessary. There is no hatred for sin; there is no life of denying self, and of crucifying the flesh; there's no need to love Christ and to give yourself to Him.

What sort of preaching do you do?? Are people confronted with Christ or with you?

Are they confronted with the preaching of the Cross or the preaching of you? – if I might put it that way!! There is a difference. The person may be offended, but that doesn't affect God in any way – it's the offence of the Cross. Paul felt it keenly. To him, he was a part of that Cross; he was a part of that crucified life; he belonged to it; the Crucified Christ was his world.

So when he preached it people resented that clear Call – to do what? – to abandon my own life. People don't like that. That's why we have the kind of Christianity we have today... Trying to bring a little bit of the Cross and a little bit of my life, but there's no such thing; it doesn't exist! The world sees the offence of the Cross, and God sees it. That's what Paul understood – he knew whether he was preaching the right preaching or not, because of how he was treated; the reactions that he met with.

We'll look at *Galatians 6:12 - 14* But first – I see in some Christians a feeling that if they offend people then they are preaching Christ! But I'm not speaking of how offensive people can be!

"*Offence*" doesn't mean something rude; it simply means a stumbling block. A stumbling block to a man's life is this : I am going along my life and you confront me with the Cross. It means that for ever after that I am uncomfortable. I have to do a real mental and moral somersault to get that out of my way. It is a stumbling block to my carrying on as I was before.

No man is ever the same again. If he rejects it he has to put a little more 'go' into his rejection – you understand what I mean. Before he was going along placidly dead, but now he is no more placidly dead – he has heard of the Crucified Christ. You can't exaggerate it – but please get me right – I see some Christians offending others by the way they speak in an offensive way – lecturing or talking down at them. That is not what I'm saying! We must be free of all that. It's preaching Christ. Paul's preaching was full of love, full of Grace, full of humility. A lot of preaching hasn't got much humility in it, and that is what people resent; they resent a lack of humility – but that is nothing to do with the Cross.

But when you preach Christ Crucified, the more humble you are, the more the stumbling block mounts before me. 'Alas', I feel! I don't say so, but there it is. I don't want to humble myself; I don't want to give up my life; I don't want to divorce myself from the lusts of the flesh... What! Not make my own money, get my own home, look after myself... 'It's too hard', I say. That's the stumbling block.

Christ Crucified; the Cross, the Covenant of Blood : that's the Church teaching; that's the revelation at the Communion Service to people. And that is how you help each other to go on...

So the offence of the Cross was keenly felt by Paul. Men who were like him before, learned in the Law; as self-righteous as he said he was, heard his preaching and they recoiled from him. And humbler people he would try to befriend – he was full of Love – but they said, 'Oh, this babbler, learning has gone to his head; he's a bit mental' [Acts 17:18]. That is what Festus the governor said, 'Much learning, Paul, has made you mad' [Acts 26:24]. There he was, chained, and calling people to accept Christ as their Saviour. That's the preaching! It is not to do with ourselves. People must see Christ Who was Crucified – not a Christ Who was not... Now we'll look at *Galatians 6*...

Galatians 6:12 – 14 *“As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised – A lot of preaching today has that content in it : we want to convert people to our way of thinking; our Christianity. That's not what I'm talking about. You have to convert people to a Crucified Saviour. That's the blunt preaching; there are no frills to it. You don't talk up to me or talk down to me; you're not soft with me or hard with me – you just have to preach Christ, as the Spirit reveals Him to you.*

You don't have to tailor-make your message to suit people, to congregations. You don't even say, 'I'm going to offend them', or, 'I hope I don't offend them'. That is just as silly because you don't have to do anything – except **preach Christ Crucified!**

Paul said, *“they constrain you to be circumcised”* – meaning, 'they want you to follow their way of belief, their way of looking at God'. He used the word *“circumcised”* for that is the fashion for the Jew – *only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.* That is the stumbling block!

You meet people who are well established in the world; they have their money, their family, their friends, and through their family, their wives or husbands and children, they accumulate friends and their house is full of people... then into this setting you come and preach the Crucified Christ! You don't tell them to clear their friends out, but to start living a crucified life.

And if they think about their friends and their family's friends and the thought of losing them and make many excuses as to why they can't live a crucified life – that is the stumbling block. It has been dropped into their home, fairly and squarely! And all their life is exposed. But they must understand that they must give their life to Christ and their whole life be changed. The whole point and drive of their life will be Christ Crucified.

Everybody doesn't want it. Everybody is not going to have it – that's the stumbling block : *“lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.”* If you have taken on that Crucified Christ, your friends will drop off like leaves unless they too want Him. Then other people you never knew before come along and become your friends until Jesus comes! Why? because they like you and you like them? No, but because you both have found Someone you like together very much, even Christ Crucified. That is the preaching of the Cross.

Neither you nor your new friends have much to give each other, except Christ Crucified and all that comes out of it; all the love and the care and the keeping power of God...

v13 *“For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.”* So we have churches like that; full of what we call 'nominal Christians', meaning in name only, as Paul said, *“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof”* [2 Timothy 3:5]. It's all form; repentance isn't necessary, we just like to get together...

That is what Paul said they were doing then, but Paul was pushed out of it. He was called mad and extreme. As soon as he started to preach, they wanted to kill him. He was completely changed. He was violent in his passion for Jesus Christ – not violent towards people any more! But his passion could not be hidden. He couldn't talk about other things and show much interest unless men were willing to hear that Christ only could save them from their sins; that none of their good works or their good position in the church could do anything for them.

v14 "But God forbid that I should glory," Paul said, "save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" Now, we have heard that many times. How does it strike you?? Is that the core of your living? - or are there other things you glory in?

"Glory" means to give an important place in your life to the thing; some honour to it; to make a distinction regarding it... If there are things like that in your life, they become idols, because Christ hasn't first place in your life. Idolatry is putting something into the place of God in one's life. That's all it is! It doesn't have to be something you see at all - it's in the heart, in the life. It may be in one's thoughts - it certainly comes out in one's actions; the way one speaks and so on...

"But God forbid - 'God, You stop me from glorying, giving honour or place or position or influence in my life to ANYTHING' - save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Here, Paul is speaking of the Work. That is what I am talking about today : the Lord's Supper, which shows the Work of the Lord; proclaiming the Covenant which is now operative through the Blood of the Cross.

So Paul said, 'Oh, God, keep me, stop me - "forbid" means to get in front and stop it, and God would do that if you asked Him to. But don't be surprised if He does it when you ask Him!

"... save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

v15 "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature." We need to read this verse as well!

Ephesians 2:16 "And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:" Again Paul uses the Cross, where Christ was crucified, to show that all difference between Jew and Gentile has been rubbed out of God's mind. God has no thought about that now. All men have sinned - so Paul went out preaching the mighty Gospel of deliverance. He was delivered of his Jewishness, so he desired people to be delivered of their Gentileishness! That is, to be delivered of their racial prejudice or pride, or whatever they had in their religion. Everything was rubbed out.

Christ Crucified was now the issue. Simple, isn't it?! It becomes simple then when people see not what you are, but what you're preaching. That's what you must get through. Your preaching must avoid the personality drive - it must be Christ Crucified. Paul must have got rid of his obviously fiery personality; it was quenched, as it were, in the Blood of the Cross. So he could say, 'God stop me from speaking about anything - from exalting anything - except Christ Crucified'.

Here again the Cross is the Reason for everything being rubbed out. Not Paul's idea, for people might have said, 'Well now, it suits him, he was a rabid Jew, now he's something else. He was converted from Judaism to what people call 'Christianity' - a Gentile religion'. People say all those things. They say, 'Oh, Christianity is not for us, that's not our religion; it belongs to another race'.

That's our fault that people say that, because we're not preaching Christ Crucified. We speak of Him, but we don't preach the Cross, because we don't live the Cross. Paul lived a crucified life. You can't preach what you don't live. This is too deep for just superficial talk; it has to be in your system. It's not by knowledge or scholarship, or even by hard work - it's simply by Faith in what the Spirit is moving on you to do...

Philippians 2:8 "And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Paul couldn't just stop at saying "obedient unto death". He had to continue, "even the death of the cross". The Death of the Cross was different from other deaths. Christ hung on that Cross until His Blood poured out sufficiently for Him as a Man to die. A man can't live without a minimum quantity of blood in his veins.

Pilate was surprised to hear that He was already dead [Mark 15:44]. The other two men crucified at the same time weren't dead.

But Christ, from Gethsemane to the Cross, had received such treatment – God had ordained it that He should be beaten and so treated that His Blood would be poured out without His bones being broken...

So bit by bit it was done to Him, until finally, enough Blood went out. When they pierced His side after He had died, out came Blood and water [John 19:33 – 34]. He had finished the Work that God appointed Him to do. “[E]ven the death of the cross” – He became obedient to that : “even the death of the cross”. Paul started by saying that Christ was God, vs5 – 6, showing the Mind of Christ – the way He thought, the way He saw God’s point of view :

vs5 – 6 *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6. Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.”*

Paul is saying in straightforward language something very vivid and dramatic – that Christ didn’t hang on to His Eternal Godhead and say, ‘I know they need something, but it’s not for Me, really; We’ll have to find some other way’.

vs7 – 8 *“But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8. And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, ...”* You see, up to that point He had to humble Himself. To do any of those things He had to humble Himself. His humility wasn’t only confined to His hanging on a cross. It was confined to the very Fact that He prepared Himself to that end. But we also read :

“...even the death of the cross.” The death of the Cross must be mentioned; it must be proclaimed; it must be emphasised; it must be specified! For it is **the Proclamation of the Church**.

That is the meaning of the Communion Service!

The end of the afternoon session of the First Day, Seek Ye The Lord **“By The Blood of Christ”**.

3. – Redeemed By Blood

The Evidence of God's Favour

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.”*

Throughout the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit feels no restraint at all in talking, not about the blood so much, but the Statements that include that horrible word **“blood”**. Freely He speaks of the Blood of Christ, the Blood of the Cross, the Blood of Jesus. It makes it sound all the more terrifying, but as you understand what the Holy Spirit is saying, you will get a good idea of the Reason why He is so free to speak of it. It is the one Statement you can hide in your heart. It will not make you less responsible, less obedient, rather, what it will make you is more confident to obey – more careful to understand that you can believe everything of God... *“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are...”*

To us, then, the Blood of Christ is the **Evidence**, the Pledge of all God's Favour, all God's Faithfulness to continue His Favour to all mankind. Your attitude, your conduct, your behaviour depends almost completely upon your attitude, your conduct, your behaviour – your faith, in other words – in This Statement, *“the blood shall be to you for a token”*.

It is a **Signal** that all is well between you and God; the Evidence, Sign, Mark, the Token, that all is well between you and God. It does not mean that all is well in your circumstances, or that your conditions are of the best. That is nothing to do with the Blood being the Token; the Token that all is well with you in God's eyes. You have God's full Approval, full Protection and full Provision in your life.

It does not in any way guarantee you a life full of unbroken success, without any troubles or provocations; without any darkness or shadows or heaviness in it – as Peter said, *“through manifold temptations”* [1 Peter 1:6]. It is the Signal to you that **God is on your side**, and while it is a Signal to you that God is on your side, it is also the Evidence to God that you exist as the object of His Goodness; His bounty, His blessings, His benefits. It works both ways!

Christ has, by His Death, brought man together in a relationship with God that only man breaks. God does not break it. If you feel troubled, that is not anything to worry about, but if you get provoked in your trouble then you have broken that contact. You have stepped out of that protective influence. You have forgotten the Signal that has been signalled to you : *“the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are”*.

So when God says, *“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”*, He is indicating His **complete Provision** for every man, in every Age, in every condition, in every circumstance, in every race and nation ... until Jesus Christ comes.

The Blood is to God also the Signal, the Sign – the Reason – to pour out upon us all, not to just give you, they are poured upon you, all His benefits, His blessings and His bountiful goodness. The Scripture which should be taken with this, is that Scripture which says, *“Come now, and let us reason together”* [Isaiah 1:18]. It is important that we do not delay to believe these truths. Any delay is dangerous. You cannot afford to spend your human time in thinking about these things; faith acts at once! As the Scripture says:

Hebrews 11:1 *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* It means that you already believe before you receive. Many of us wait to experience the blessings before we trust God. That is nothing to do with **love**.

Isaiah 1:18 *“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.”* It is a Call by Love to obey Love. The Fact that we do not possess all these Promises in a workable way, in a visible way almost in our lives, is because we do not look upon the Work of the Cross as a Work of Love.

Examine your lives in that aspect. Am I responding to Love? The only way I can respond to Love is by loving in return. That is all Love asks for, with obedience to that Call...

After that *v18* of **Isaiah 1**, the prophet adds, *v19*, *“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land”*. That is, willing to accept the Message of the Blood; willing to accept that through the Blood of Christ – for that Reason only – God is ready to move in and take your life over; do what is necessary.

He is on the move because that is what it tells you : *“When I see the blood I will pass over you”*. The only action that God takes on man’s behalf is because of the Cross, and, on our behalf, we must see it like that, that it is **a Call to obedience**.

Psalm 119:143 *“Trouble and anguish have taken hold on Me: yet Thy commandments are My delights.”* The Word of God will always be right to a person who looks upon God as Love. That is why Christ died, that in putting away all my wrongs, all my defects, the way is clear for me to love God and to trust Him. The only way you can benefit from all the Promises of God issuing forth over the foundation of the Death of Christ, is by accepting every Word of God as beneficial to you.

Every Word of God your delight... God’s Commandments brought trouble and anguish to Christ, not His sin, because He has no sin. Yet He said that they were His delights. He knew that a Work of Love would come out of it all. We are so concerned to get something out of God, but when you read the Record of Christ in the Psalms and elsewhere, He was very particular to give to God.

Always He gave to God. *“Trouble and anguish have taken hold on Me:”* – He could have said, ‘Because you have put it on Me’, but He didn’t mean it like that. He said, *“yet Thy commandments...”* the same commandments that brought trouble and anguish to Him are His delights. That is the Story of the Cross; that is the Story of **Love!**

v109 *“My soul is continually in My hand...”* He was always in control of His Life. He could have stopped any situation at any time. He could have come down from the Cross. He could have walked out of the Garden of Gethsemane. He could have left the earth. He could have discarded that mutilated Body. He could have done all those things. There wasn’t a moment when He could not have done it. But He said, *“...yet do I not forget Thy law.”* It is all a matter of LOVE.

If you can understand that... The Reason why the Holy Spirit speaks so freely about the Blood of Jesus Christ is because it is a Work of Love. It is the Result of Love. So now we can understand why, if we have not been effective in the preaching of the Cross, it is because it has been used as a lecture just to make people believe in something.

“My soul is continually in My hand: yet do I not forget Thy law.” One could say that if we really believed that the Blood of Jesus Christ is the Sole Reason for God to pour out His Blessings upon us – for because Christ poured out His Blood on a cross, God pours out, and will pour out, and does pour out, and is waiting to pour out more Blessings upon us – so **for that Reason only**, then we also could say to God, ‘My soul is continually in my hand’, in other words, ‘You could leave me free to choose what I like...**yet I cannot forget Your law**, because through that Law, all Your benefits have come to me; through that Law only do I get the Blessings of the Cross’.

Happy in Obedience

Psalm 119:92 *“Unless Thy law had been My delights, I should then have perished in Mine affliction.”* Again the same Principle... The more you believe that the Blood of Jesus Christ only produces God’s Blessings upon you in boundless quantities, the more you will be happy to obey the Word of God.

That is the Cross. That is crucifying the flesh. Because to obey the Word of God always bring a crucifixion to the flesh – and that means all the Word of God as you hear it, not just the parts that suit!

The more you understand that all God's Blessings are yours because of Calvary, the more you have a cheerful confident approach to obedience; the more you will always believe that out of your obedience to God's Word must come some result. You do not need to see the result! Your cheerfulness, your confidence, your love is based on the Fact that you are getting everything from God because Jesus died.

To us, the Blood is the Token of God's Love for me; of God's regard for me. The poured out Blood of Christ is not an evidence of God's Love for Christ. It is an Evidence of God's Love for you, because the poured out Blood of Christ represents agony, suffering and woe. God didn't do that to Christ because He loved Christ, but because He loved you.

It is the Evidence, the Pledge of God's Love, and therefore it is the Evidence, the Pledge to you that you need never distrust God's Word. You need never feel any reluctance to obey the Word of God however hard it comes to the flesh, because it is an Evidence to you of the Love of God for you...

Psalm 119:14 *"I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches."* All that Christ got out of God's Testimonies was degradation, destitution, and death... The Blood speaks of Death not Life, yet He said, 'I rejoice in that Way as much as in all riches'. To come down and die – that was following the Way of God's Testimonies – meant getting rid of His riches. It meant coming down to the poverty of this world compared to the riches of His glory. It meant a woman's womb in which the Creator was to be conceived. It meant a stall attached to an inn. It meant a poor carpenter's home. It meant everything but riches, but yet, that is Love!

To Him Who loved God, to you who love God, every Word of God should be a rich storehouse of blessing. In other words, Christ considered that to do the Will of God was more than all the riches that He Himself could obtain or have in Eternity. That is what the Psalm says...

The Reason for Worship

Psalm 63:3 *"Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise Thee."* That is the Message of the Blood. It is a Message of Love. The Fact that the Lord Jesus Christ shed His Blood on the Cross at Golgotha is the only Reason for sinners to worship God. Worship must come out of love. Obviously, it is a product of love. You cannot worship when you do not believe. You cannot worship when you do not receive. If you have received no blessings from God, how can you worship God? It becomes superficial, artificial, a made-up affair...

Many Christians believe the Bible to be true; they see all the Promises there. Yet they have but one percent of the Promises and they force themselves on a Sunday morning to say, 'I love You, Lord', and join in all the singing. That is because they haven't received – meaning, they haven't believed – that the Blood is the token that God is giving you everything; not just has got everything for you and is giving it, but He is **p o u r i n g** it out upon you!

If you do not believe that, you will not notice it; you won't receive it and enjoy it; you won't know it is being poured out upon you, because you don't expect it, if you don't believe!

The only Reason for sinners to worship God is because God has brought Salvation to man through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 116:12-13 *"What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward Me? 13. I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD."* Worship is the first desire of love.

As soon as that woman was cleansed from all her sin at that well [John 4] and her immoral living, her evil record, her destitute life; destitute of morality, vanished out of sight. Standing before Christ, she wanted to worship God. We know now why, because the Sacrifice was settled ultimately. Christ had not died then, but He was going to...

v14 "I will pay My vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all His people." This is the confidence of One Who knows that the Sacrifice of Blood, the shedding of Blood, has made God an exhaustless Fountain of blessings for man; greater even than Adam had.

Adam was given the earth to run. He was given the Garden to dress. He was given all the animals to control, but God has given us Himself personally. That is a promotion from God! It is good to be given responsibility by someone. 'Good', we say, 'he trusts me.' But the very pinnacle of Love is when the Person gives you Himself. You feel the Person is at your disposal. You can go in at any time, come out at any time and go in again and find Love. That is far more steadying than all the trust that God may have in your ability to work for Him. That is true worship of God.

In the *Book of Hebrews*, the writer who is speaking of the inadequacy of the sacrifice of animals to fully cleanse a man from sin, he referred to the people coming with the sacrifices as "*worshippers*" :

"...the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins." [Hebrews 10:2b]

They were only people bringing a sacrifice of blood to make atonement for their sins, but they are called "*worshippers*". In other words, they were coming with love and gratitude, worshipping the God Who has offered them His Mercy – a Way into the Holiest; contact with Him.

Psalm 116:14 "I will pay My vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all His people."

v17 "I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD."

Then there is *Psalm 100* – a short *Psalm* but it is full of that very thing; the worship of a redeemed heart; a heart that knows that the Sacrifice on Golgotha gives a man everything from God. There is nothing that God holds back from a man that He has to give through the Blood of the Cross.

v4 "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name." – Why? Because the Blood "*shall be to you for a token*"; God's Token, not your token! We, fleshly beings, do not focus Christ Crucified in our vision. God focuses Him in your vision. The Holy Spirit reveals Christ Crucified; no man does. We are too busy looking after ourselves, and trying to get God's attention, and miss the Fact that we do not have to get God's attention – the Blood of Christ is a **Guarantee** of God's Attention!

Therefore there is no opposition; all the conflicts we may face have no power to oppose me, to prevent me from living for God. Paul said in *2 Timothy 2:24-25* "*The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves...*" Again we read, "*If God be for us, who can be against us?*" [*Romans 8:31b*]. When it says God is **for** you, it doesn't mean that He just approves of you. He is actively on the move on your behalf to work the thing out in your favour. It is all in your favour that the Scriptures are worked.

Understanding How We Have God's Answer

Therefore we are gathered together again today to seek God's face by understanding what the will of God is; understanding what this means: the Blood of Christ.

"*Understanding*" is defined in Scripture as "*the knowledge of the holy*". [*Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."*] And we are commanded to get wisdom, and in all our getting to get understanding. [*Proverbs 4:7, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."*] Wisdom is God's Answer to every problem; God's answer to every situation, to every condition. But in getting that Answer, God wants us to understand **how** that Answer is available; how you can get the Answer. And so the Scripture rightly says that understanding is the knowledge of the Holy. Once you know, once you have the knowledge of the Holy, then you understand **why** you can get an Answer; why you will always be able to get the wisdom of God to meet every situation.

Psalm 111:10 *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments: His praise endureth for ever.”* It means, in other words, that all those who do what God commands them to do are those who have a good understanding of that statement *“the blood of Christ”*. They have a good understanding of how much that means to God in giving ... and giving ... and giving ... to them. They have a good understanding that they get nothing from God, **except through the Death, through the Blood of Christ**. So they are satisfied. If that is their view then they know that they will always get God’s blessing; they will always be **receiving** God’s benefits. Always they will know that the bountiful Goodness of God is poured out upon them because of the Blood of Christ. **That** is the knowledge of the holy.

In the New Testament we read : *“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.”* [1 **Corinthians 14:20**]. That is, be **perfect** in understanding. A child does not have perfection. What does it say? : *“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child”* [**Proverbs 22:15**]. But that is not to be in your heart. You are to be in a sense an adult that is rid of all childish imperfections ... *“...in understanding be men”*. Know what the power of the Blood is.

This I find a great difficulty in my life, in teaching people who are Pentecostal, because we say this so easily in our worship, we speak about the Blood, we sing about the Blood until it becomes disrespectful. And many people who say a lot about it are not really conscious of its Power and of what God has done for us through that... *“In understanding be men”*... Let’s turn now to **Jeremiah** -

Jeremiah 9:23-24 *“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: 24. But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: - through the Blood of the Cross, one could add with complete truth - for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.”*

So then we are to understand and know that the One Who died on the Cross is the LORD through Whom you get all the Wisdom of God; all the might and all the riches of God. We are so concerned with our own capacities; our own abilities. We are so confident of what we have and what we know, but the Bible says that all our confidence should be on this One Fact that Christ died; that the Blood of Jesus Christ ONLY guarantees you anything and everything.

If your active ministry for the Lord is interfered with or shut off, or cut off, most Christians think it is a sign of God’s displeasure. But when they think that, or they feel disgruntled, it means that their confidence, their love, their attitude to God is based on their ministry, and not on the Fact that Christ has died. Whatever your situation, God’s bounty is always your bounty because Christ died. God’s Love is always your Love, or His Love for you, because Christ died. It cannot alter.

Have you that knowledge of the Holy?? Holiness cannot change, therefore the Work of the Cross which is essentially a Holy Work, cannot lessen in its holy impact upon your lives. The knowledge of the Holy which God wishes us to have is essential to us if we would not be found by God at the end of perhaps an active or very busy Christian life, to have counted the Blood of the Covenant wherewith we were sanctified, an unholy thing...

Hebrews 10:28-29 *“He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29. Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot 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?”* This passage, in its primary sense, means that nothing in the world, nothing in your circumstances, in your home or in your life, nothing around you, should alter, weaken, or lessen your love for Christ and God. How would your love be weakened? By complaining, or murmuring.

A person who is conscious of being loved, and who is conscious of responding gladly to the love, cannot murmur, cannot find fault, cannot criticise, because it is a life of **love**. So the Blood of the Cross, the Blood of Christ, the Blood of Jesus, the Blood of the everlasting covenant, whichever you use from the Scriptures, means in other words that the Love of God is **always** in your life and on your life...

To count the Blood of the Covenant an unholy thing – for God to say that you have counted it, reckoned it, as unholy – simply means that That Sacrifice has not been sufficient to take the sting out of any irritant or unpleasantness that comes across your way; that you do not find that you are able to be just as happy as you were before that happened. That is what is counting the Blood of the Covenant an unholy thing. It isn't enough; the Blood of Christ didn't assure you of protection against irritation or provocation...

It is not just a momentary irritation that will rob you of your eternal heritage, of being in the Church when Christ comes. It would just be the habit of not regarding the Work of the Cross as sufficient to cover all your life... “...*the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*” Both Christ Who shed His Blood and the Holy Spirit are involved.

To not be kept constantly in a life of love and joy and peace and tireless giving, whatever the demand may be, would mean that you are counting the Blood of the Covenant insufficient. Therefore it is unholy to you. Anything that is not sufficient to keep a man from sin is an unholy thing, because it doesn't guard against the sin.

If I do that, the first thing that happens is, I am treading underfoot the One Who poured out that Blood. He is of no consequence, because His Sacrifice is of no consequence. You cannot respect Christ and not get the full benefit of Calvary. If you are not getting the full benefit of Calvary you do not have that respect for Christ. Love is a trust, and a respect, and the Bible calls that in a very severe way. Such a one “*hath trodden underfoot the Son of God*” [Hebrews 10:29].

It is of no use, so it is under my feet, so I go on to something ‘better’ perhaps ... and then I come into contact with the Other Person – the One Who is keeping on focusing me on this Fountain of Grace, the Source of all my blessing; the Holy Spirit. So that is why it goes on to say, “...*and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace...*”, meaning I have put Him aside. His Message is not sufficient. Then life becomes hard; life becomes bitter, very provoking... And it can only do that in a Christian heart if the Sacrifice is insufficient. In other words, it means that I do not really believe, because it is insufficient to me. It could never be sufficient...

Through the Blood of Christ, God cannot refuse to bless and to benefit you, but if you are only going after the blessings and the benefits without believing the One Who benefits you, then you will never be happy. And so the Blood of the Cross is insufficient... It is not enough to make me trust God all the way. I must resort to my own devices, my own way, to get my happiness...

Hebrews 12:29 “*For our God is a consuming fire.*” It simply means that God's Holiness will accept nothing but Holiness! That is why it is a dreadful thing to live in such a way that God can say you are not finding the Sacrifice of Blood sufficient – a sufficient Guarantee of my protection, provision and promises. God's Holiness will accept nothing but Holiness.

Again and again in the Old Testament Scriptures, the Holy Spirit of God shows us and teaches us that the sacrifice – especially in the **Book of Leviticus** – ordered by the LORD for sin and offered for sin were accepted. That is, they were consumed by the fire of God, only because the blood that was poured out was acceptable as sinless blood. So God will accept nothing; God's Holiness will accept nothing that is not holy. So He has accepted the Sacrifice of Blood for all of us because it was a Holy Sacrifice. There is nothing wrong in it; therefore there is no insufficiency in it. There is no disobedience in it. There is only a pleasing of God. Therefore God is always pleased to bless us through That Sacrifice.

There is no limit, in other words, to God's Provision and Blessings for you through that Holy Sacrifice, because the Sacrifice is holy.

In the **Book of Isaiah** [33:14] it says, “*The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?*” The question and the statements that go before it are connected. It simply means this : When a Christian, a child of God through the Blood of Christ, is afraid, that person is a sinner. It means he has not believed that through the Blood of Christ, God will look after him, anywhere, any time, through anything, in spite of everything, over everything...

"The sinners in Zion are afraid" because they have not believed that God's Holiness could not accept a sacrifice for man that was not in God's sight sufficient – claiming upon God's Love, time and interest; His attention for every man.

That is why in the New Testament, it is put this way : *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment..."* Now look at the second part, *"... He that feareth is not made perfect in love."* [1 John 4:18] So – how is it with you?? You may not think it is fear; but when you do a wrong thing, when you are provoked to say a wrong word or do a wrong act, there is fear in it; some fear that you will be left out of something, that you will be deprived of something – and that is a sin!

In God's sight, it is like saying, 'O, the Sacrifice of Calvary is not enough. It will not provide me with all God's Blessings'. So God is not sufficient at that point. I cannot get all the joy I want from God, so I have to make my own joy. Or, I cannot get all the Blessings I want from God, so I mourn for this one and mourn for that thing... The only thing that should make you mourn genuinely is sin. You should really be sad that there is such a thing in the world. You shouldn't be sad for sin in yourself; there should be no sin there! Perfect love casts out fear!

The first result of sinning in the Garden by man was FEAR; a guilty fear; a fear that they couldn't make it ... obviously. When you are afraid that you can't make it, when you get troubled, anxious, querulous, complaining, fractious, or rebellious, then you are counting the Blood of the Covenant, whereby you have been sanctified from your fear – you have been cut off from fear, cleansed and liberated from fear – an unholy thing to you.

"The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites." So one can be either a sinner or a hypocrite! When a Christian fears things, say a common thing like a lack of money, his freedom is limited. Fear freezes one's actions. It paralyses a person – therefore it is bondage. You don't say, 'I'm afraid', you just go out to get more money, but underneath there is a fear, that if you don't do that you won't have enough money. So God's Word and God's business – God's Work for you, God's affairs, recede a bit. Why? because of fear.

We don't think it is fear, because we don't show it by looking afraid. We look quite confident; we're earning money; we've got everything provided for. But if you look into the matter, the only person who is not afraid is the one who has put God first and said, 'You look after it all for me, Lord'. That is not being disrespectful; that is really what Christ said. So He stayed on the Cross and said, 'You do it all'. He could have been afraid of the pain, and afraid that He would not last out in patience. But He said, 'I will last out because if I put what You say I have to do first, You will have to look after Me in My pain and anguish'. You actually read that attitude in the *Psalms*. Remember that! We must expand this thought in our private lives : Not to count the Blood of the Covenant wherewith we were sanctified an unholy thing.

We are cut off from fear, from unbelief, from pride, complaining, anxiety, and everything that sin brought into this life. You are cut off from being self-centred and preoccupied with your own affairs; all that produces selfishness in the life – and so we see it in a public way :

Christians are not giving themselves to prayer while they are complaining about the state of the country. They complain about sinners, but they do not pray for the sinners! Could we think that if I give all my time to prayer, I won't be able to keep my house clean and tidy?! Or, If I give myself to prayer, I won't have enough time to prepare my Sunday School lesson?! That would be fear; limiting God – fear that if I do this, I cannot do that... That is fear and a lack of confidence.

The Blood of Christ has liberated us from lack of confidence. God will do anything for you. Anything!! That is why the Holy Spirit speaks freely of the Blood of Jesus Christ. He wants us to know and understand that is the measure of our success. The Blood of Christ provides you with a boundless horizon of possibilities – opportunities on every hand – and it is right for me to say that you will never hear it like this again... For God speaks at a certain time, in a certain place, in a certain way for you to act in a certain place in a certain time, in a certain way, and if you don't hear it you have missed your opportunity for ever...

This opens out a great avenue of possibility. The Blood of Christ puts upon us the responsibility to know that our opportunities are boundless, but fear and self-preoccupation keep us from looking upon them as opportunities.

Hebrews 10:29 *“Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot 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?”*

And also, *“For our God is a consuming fire”* [**Hebrews 12:29**]. In the blaze of that Holiness, you can see how Calvary works with God...All the time God is putting before every man, **all the time**, an opportunity to show that he is a sanctified person; that he hasn't a fear of anything except to offend God; that he has the utmost confidence that he can do everything and anything that is set before him by God, because God will provide him with all the means. Calvary is a Call to us to love God. If you love God it is for ever, because God is forever.

The Fire

I commend to you the *Book of Leviticus*. Go through it and note this : Where the fire consumed the sacrifice. Here are some references : *Leviticus 1:9, 13, 17; 2:2, 3, 9; 3:3, 5, 9, 11, 14, 16.*

“It is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire of a sweet savour unto the LORD.” And **God is a consuming fire**. It means that God's Holiness will accept nothing but Holiness, and the fire was a type of God's acceptance of the sacrifice. It doesn't mean it destroyed it; it means that He received it. *“For our God is a consuming fire.”*

And The Sinless Blood

Then there is the other part to this Covenant of Blood, to this Statement, *“the blood of Christ”* : There are Scriptures in *Leviticus* which show that all the blood was poured out at the bottom of the altar for the sin offerings, so because the blood was sinless, the sacrifice was acceptable.

Here are some references to that : *Leviticus 4:7, 18, 25-30, 34.*

Let us come then to this whole Study on By the Blood of Christ without prejudice, that is, without having any preconceived ideas on the Statements, *“the blood of the cross”*, *“the blood of Christ”*. Don't treat it as some magical charm. It is simply God's Way of saying, 'I have done **everything** without counting the cost with My Son, and to My Son, Jesus Christ, your Lord, that you should understand always that I am on your side; that all My favour is upon you, and there is nothing I have which you are not entitled to. There is nothing that I have to give to a man which you cannot receive from Me'.

That is the Message of the Blood...

There is more and more to learn, so *“let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”* ! [1 Corinthians 10:12]. Truly as the Lord is alive today, without the word **“blood”** in the Bible, the whole Scripture – the *“scripture of truth”*, *Daniel* called it [10:21] – would be full of God's Wrath, darkness, full of God's Vengeance, full of the living death. There would be only condemnation from beginning to end.

Some of us live like that, as if the Blood of the Cross had not been mentioned. Let us decide that we will not live governed by our desires. The lusts of the flesh are so strong in human nature that they cause us to fear lest we go without their fulfilment. That is why Jesus died, that we might trust God's desires for us as better; that we should know that God desires for us the very best, and that He does give it to us.

It is not that He will give it to us; He gives it to us every day through the Blood of Jesus Christ!

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

Then a prophecy was given by the gifts of the Holy Spirit :

Yea, I have delivered thee, I have bought thee with a Price. Yea, I am thy God; I alone, there is no one else beside Me. I have called thee through My love; yea, it is eternal, it is everlasting. It has called thee unto Me, that thou mayest come. Yea, I would have thee to know that I am holy. I have called thee to be holy too. Therefore I have done that which has cleansed thee and shown to thee the holiness that I have given thee that thou mayest put upon thyself the mantle, yea, the cloak of My righteousness, and walk in liberty, yea, uprightly, for I am thy God, and I have called thee unto Myself as My child; yea, to live with Me, for I have called thee by Sacrifice.

The end of the morning session of the Second Day, *Seek Ye The Lord "By The Blood of Christ"*.

4. – Purchased With Blood

The Purpose of God's Scriptures

Hebrews 9:15-22

“And for this cause He is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. 16. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. 18. Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. 19. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, 20. Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. 21. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. 22. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

This passage explains the whole content and meaning and purpose of the Scriptures. It is said in one part by Paul to Timothy that, as a child he had known the holy scriptures which made him wise unto salvation [2 Timothy 3:15]. In other words, **the Scriptures were written so that men might be saved from their sins**.

So, therefore, **all the Scriptures** centre around, are concentrated upon and are focused on **the Work of the Cross**. *“without shedding of blood is no remission.”* You could say that **without** shedding of Blood there would be no Bible; **no Scriptures**. God has nothing to say if He did not offer you His forgiveness – nothing at all. The Scriptures were breathed into men's hearts and minds by the Spirit of God so that they might write them down. The Spirit of God is called the Spirit of **Grace** [Hebrews 10:29]. Therefore the Scriptures were constructed and conceived and written by the Direct Agency of God for men to be saved from Judgment; from the Wrath to come.

Seven Meanings of Remission

“without shedding of blood is no remission.” In other words, the Scriptures are full of remission, because they are full of the shedding of blood. It is all to do with that – **the Blood of Christ**.

1. **Remission** means the release, or the forgiving, a letting go of... Without shedding of blood there is **no release, no forgiving, or no letting go** of your sins. Here are three references for that :

Romans 5:6 – 11

“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”

Acts 3:25-26 *“Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, say-ing unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. 26. Unto you first God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.”*

Ephesians 1:3 – 10

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4. According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: 5. Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6. To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7. In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; 8. Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9. Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: 10. That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him:”

2. Remission also means a sending away; a putting away of something :**Hebrews 9: 26–28**

“For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28. So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

Leviticus 16:15 – 22

“Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: 16. And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness. 17. And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel. 18. And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. 19. And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. 20. And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: 21. And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: 22. And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.”

Psalm 103:11–12 *“For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. 12. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.”*

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 an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”*

3. Remission means also a loosing from; a deliverance from. It means forgiveness. It is not the act of forgiving only, as in the first group of meanings, but it is the condition of forgiveness, so that the situation, the attitude and the relationship is established :

Revelation 1:5 *“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”*

Colossians 1:9 – 14

“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10. That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11. Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; 12. Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13. Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: 14. In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”

Hebrews 9:11-12 *“But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12. Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”*

4. Remission means also a removal of the cause of the trouble. Whatever the trouble was if it has been remitted, the cause has been removed – not just the trouble. These four show that :

Hebrews 10:18-19 *“Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. 19. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.”*

Matthew 26:28 *“For this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”*

Mark 14:24 *“And He said unto them, This is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.”*

Luke 22:20 *“Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you.”*

5. Remission means also the passing over a forgiven people by a forgiving God.

It is the passing over a forgiven people – that is not overlooking them, but the going over them, showing the recognition of them as His people; people to be looked after. God can only do that if He is a forgiving God. Otherwise there is no possibility of a contact at all. The following four passages explain that :

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.”*

1 Corinthians 5:7 *“Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.”*

Hebrews 11:28 *“Through faith he [Moses] kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.”*

Romans 3:24-26 *“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26. To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”*

6. Remission means also a liberation from, in the sense that someone has done the liberating and not the one who has been liberated. It means that it implies a Liberator. It means a dismissal of something, which has been dismissed from the scene; from the conditions and the situations regardless of all else... Consider then these two passages :

Revelation 12:11 *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”*

Hebrews 13:10 – 15

“We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. 11. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. 12. Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate. 13. Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach. 14. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. 15. By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.”

7. **Remission** means also a setting completely free – in regard to the position of the one set free. To be set completely free is quite different from the process of liberation or loosing or sending away. This has to do with the person loosed or released or forgiven, delivered and passed over...

Let these three passages explain that :

Colossians 1:20 *“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.”*

Hebrews 9:13-14 *“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14. How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

Acts 20:28 *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.”*

A Closer Look At These Seven Meanings of Remission

“Without shedding of blood is no remission” [Hebrews 9:22b] and as we looked at Romans 5:6 – 11 [p43], we see that we have been saved from wrath and reconciled to God through the poured out Blood of Jesus Christ. God has released men from all their sin. That is what remission is – release from sin.

Romans 5:9 *“Much more then, being now justified by His blood, – released – we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”* Remission; Released. And when you are released you are released!!

There is no question of still being tied, as it were, to your sins!

Your sins have not been released from you. The Scripture says that **you have been released from your sins!** You have been released from all your sins, so in that there is all the ingredients of **healing**, from that point of view.

vs10-11 *“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”*

Acts 3:25 – 26, which we also looked at before [p44] is another way of putting it. God has **turned us away** from our sins to His forgiveness. Always that is the idea. We are turned away. **“Without shedding of blood is no remission.”** There would have been no vision of anything but sin and of wrath and of judgment. The Bible has a different focus for man.

It is a very common proof of sin, of the sickness of mankind, that they fear to go to the Bible. They think that in the Bible they only see the wrath of God, but it is only in the Bible that you see the Forgiveness of God; that you see you are released from sin. It is only when we look at other sinful men and by looking at the world that we see only sin! We only see wrong and every man seeking to justify himself, and thereby condemn someone else!

It is in the Scriptures alone that a man can go and find the Blessed Rest of Forgiveness, and know the glorious Release from the guilt of a sin-laden conscience.

Ephesians 1:3 - 10, which we have read before [p44] is a good passage to show the meaning of remission; a letting go. God has let go the charges against you. He has abolished them. He has brought you out of all that. He has let you go free now to become His children -

"...accepted in the beloved" [v6]...7. In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace".

The passage starts by saying that God has *"blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"* We have been let go; let free. God has let us go free from the weight and the burden of our sins. *Isaiah* said, *"Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows"* [53:4a]. God has let you go free from everything that would harm your life with God; everything.

Then we saw in *Hebrews 9:26 - 28* [p44] that remission means also a sending or a putting away. We cannot understand it; cannot reason it out. Understanding is knowledge of the Holy, not reasoning a thing out. You have to accept God's Word, that in the Death of His Son through the Blood of the Cross, Christ has put **all sin away** from God's sight. In other words, God does not see you as a sinner any more.

People do not believe that today, so we substitute a religious life without anything of God in it. Yet there is the Scripture : *"without shedding of blood is, you could say, no putting away of sin, no remission."* He has said it; He has put away our sin, so we have remission - a sending or putting away.

Leviticus 16:15 - 22 also [p44] - the High Priest takes two goats, and kills one of them for the sin offering. He brings some of the blood within the veil and sprinkles it upon the mercy seat, to make an atonement for sin. Then, *v20*, everything was sprinkled with the blood to show that the sin was put away; forgiven. Forgiveness was secured.

In *vs21 - 22* we see that the other goat was called the *"scapegoat"*. Here are two goats : the dead goat with its blood shed, and the live goat carrying the sin away. They both were given two separate operations of the same thing done when Christ died on Calvary. Your sins have gone away literally from before God's sight. It is more literal than when Aaron saw the goat disappearing into the wilderness where it was taken and lost! They never saw it again. That is what remission means! One should read that story over again and connect it with *Hebrews 9:29 - 28* - the scapegoat.

People use that expression so much - 'he's been made the scapegoat'... It means that the person took the consequences of an error - and so Christ has fulfilled all that which was taught the people in the Old Testament. It was done then with the goats, and it was done in the fullness of time with Christ!

Psalms 103:12 *"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us."* Remission means a sending away; a putting away. As *Hebrews 9:26* says, *"but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself"*. If you were conscious of that you would not sin, nor would you expect other people to sin. Then our relationships would be holy relationships, sinless relationships, and perhaps even more glorious still, forgiven relationships of redeemed, forgiven sinners!

v11 *"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him."* This gives us a picture of a complete absence of sin from the sinner's vision, however far he may look, however far-seeing he may be! He cannot see any sin, but all he can see is the Mercy of God!! All that is in his sight is Mercy, Mercy, Mercy!! Everywhere he looks he sees Mercy. That is why *"without shedding of blood is no remission"*. Without the word *"blood"* in the Bible, this Book called the Scriptures might never have been written, and if it had been, it would have been a terrible Book. It really would have been a Book to avoid.

But now it is the One Book to go for! It is the One Book to be greedy about! It is the One Book to fill your shelves with in all shapes and sizes of this Word, and get it over to other people. It is the One Book that can satisfy a man's thirsting soul. It is sin that makes us so thirsty; we lack so much. To thirst for water shows there is something in us that needs water, and unless we get that water we will not live, if we don't get it in the right quantities or in the right time. Sin makes us thirsty; sin is the cause of all our problems. As soon as sin came into the world, death came and so one problem comes after another...

Sin is the creator of all man's problems. The sin that man committed ... and so **we have the removal of that**, so there is **a sending away; a putting away**.

And we looked at *Leviticus 17:11* [p44] speaking of the blood given upon the altar. That means in a violent death. The altar was the place of slaughter, not where the animal just lay down and died from old age or a disease, but it was slaughtered, violently killed with the object of shedding its blood... And so Christ was violently slaughtered on the Cross at Golgotha with the object of getting rid of His Blood, that you may know that your sins have been remitted, or, put away : "... *for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*"

Remission means also, as we saw in *Hebrews 9:11 - 12* [p45] a loosing from, a deliverance, a forgiveness. God ceases to treat us as someone stained with stains that cannot be removed; stains of sin. A loosing from; a deliverance; a forgiveness : that is the attitude established by Christ in Heaven. God is a Forgiving God. The whole of Eternity is full of Forgiveness for man ...

So really Satan achieves tremendous victories when he keeps men away from the Word of God - even you and me when he makes us too busy to drink in God's Word; too busy to read it; too busy to pour over it; too busy to take in its delivering Message, "*without shedding of blood is no remission*". You can enjoy that Statement because the Blood has been shed and there is Remission, that is, there is Deliverance!!

We looked also at *Colossians 1:9 - 14* [p45] in this meaning of being delivered and forgiven. Here Paul is praying for the church for the delivered Life that they had been given. We have forgiveness; we have Deliverance from our sin. Even that has not been preached over the centuries ... 'Come to God', is the usual message, 'and receive His forgiveness'. But you cannot come to God unless you have ALREADY been forgiven!! The **only way to benefit from Forgiveness is to Repent** of having done anything to hurt the Forgiver. So we ARE delivered. There IS Remission through the shedding of Blood.

In *Revelation 1:5* we read that He loosed us from our sins. The emphasis is there of the Fact that Faith in the Cross should give you the feeling of Freedom; the conscious recognition of being loosed from something. When you come to Christ; when you believe God's Word, you should immediately feel the Freedom which you have been offered all the time, but you did not know about it.

We all feel the difference of a wash or a bath! We feel fresh. Yet GOD has made you to feel clean, fresh and washed! That is what it means : "*Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood*". That is Remission; a Deliverance; a forgiveness. It means a removal of the cause of the trouble. We read in *Leviticus* of the sins being taken away - that is the cause of the trouble.

Hebrews 10:18-19 which we looked at before [p45] with respect to **the cause of the trouble being removed** in this act of Remission, shows a boldness in the sense of a Freedom, a Liberty.

When a child is washed and dressed it has a certain confidence in its cleanliness. Children usually found to be dirty or uncared for, if they have a confidence, it is usually based on something else. You find them resorting to being tough or difficult or aggressive. That is due to a sense of not being cared for - and so it is in the wider sense of sin. In life, being independent of God, we have to go our own way, fighting tremendous odds and we never win, but still we fight on ... but Here is Liberty to enter the Holiest by the Blood of Jesus!!

v19 "*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.*" We as the "*brethren*" do have boldness because there is no more offering for sin. **Sin** is the cause of the trouble.

The lack of confidence in God; the lack of assurance that you may contact God because of what you are – that is **removed**. The very nature of sin has been put away, because the nature of sin is to ignore God.

“For to be carnally minded is death ... Because the carnal mind ... is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” said Paul in *Romans 8:6 – 7*. The carnal mind is unable to trust God; it is unable to contact God. It has no confidence in God at all. That is human nature. If it does try to come to God, it tries a process of self-deception by dressing up the lack of confidence in many garbs...

The removal of the cause of the trouble has been established in the Bible. We have now the ability to contact God at all times, and to know you are contacting God; to have that effect, to come out, as it were, from the Presence of God with what God has to give you.

If we don't believe these things we will come away from prayer unchanged. The very object of contacting God is to come out with something that God has given you, even some of His influence; the effect of His Holiness.

So we read [p45] *Matthew 28:26* – “the new testament...” That explains the point of **the cause of the trouble being removed**. There is “no more conscience of sins” [*Hebrews 10:2*] through the Blood of Christ. If you believed God had put away your sins, you would have no conscience, no sense of wrong in your life; no fear, no guilt and no shame.

Hebrews 10:1–4

“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. 3. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. 4. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”

So if they had “no more conscience of sins”, *v2*, they would have felt **clean**; they would know they were **holy**! There was a remembrance made by God, *v3*. God said that every year they must offer that atoning work – it was the ‘day of Atonement’. It is God Who remembered their sins; they did not remember them. They would have forgotten what they had done the previous year – and sinners do not remember ... until it catches up with them! There have been cases where people have committed a crime many years before and it has caught up with them!

But these Holy Scriptures are showing us that all sin has been destroyed by God in Eternity **through the Sacrifice of the Cross**. That is, **the cause** of all the trouble has been destroyed. The conscience that tells us that we are wrong in God's sight has been removed. It does not tell us that you are wrong if you believe the Scripture...

Remission as we have seen [p45] means also a passing over a forgiven people by a forgiving God. So we looked at *Romans 3:24 – 26* [p46]. It is not that I have never sinned. It is a case of saying that my sins have been remitted. That is the Message and that is the Power of the Gospel of Christ which Paul says he is not ashamed of [*Romans 1:16*].

“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Justified means to be made right in God's sight, so that you know you are a sinner, but you must know in spite of all that you are, God receives you without sin. This is the Power of the Gospel of Christ. Very few people believe that, so they bring their sins into their ‘Christian life’, which can only spell out defeat and frustration.

High up in Eternity, over all mankind, sits the One Who has made you right in God's sight by the pouring out of His Blood. That is what *vs25 – 26* show us : *“a propitiation through faith in His blood...”*

It cannot be disputed. Christ is There without Blood! He has the same Body without any of His Blood in it, therefore, *“through faith in His blood”* – that same Blood that was poured out, you approach God as someone who can enter God's Presence.

You move in this world as someone forgiven by a God Who passes over you... A Forgiving God; a God Whose habit it is to forgive you all your sins through the Blood of His Son. Christ is the propitiation, or, the covering, or the **passing over**, of all those whom God has forgiven.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 *“Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7. Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”*

Now we'll look at these three verses - we looked only at v7 before [p45] ... It is only through unbelief that the Christian allows himself the deception of being wrong. At heart Christians can be very hypocritical in that they are claiming the forgiveness of God and claiming forgiven lives, but still indulge in the things they have been forgiven. Therefore they do not really believe in the Power of the Blood...

v8 *“Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”* It is said like that because you **can** do that! God doesn't look upon you as having leaven, or that you would keep the feast with malice and wickedness, or with anything of the old life. He passes over you as a forgiven person, as someone ready for His deliverance from anything, including the last deliverance, from mortality to immortality, from corruption to incorruption.

Remission we have seen [p.46] means also a **liberation from** something. When you understand that through the Blood of Christ you are liberated from your sins, that God has dismissed all the charges against you, then there is a great sense of well being!!

Look again at **Revelation 12:11** and notice a great triumph in that verse and in the next; a great sense of well being, of being right with God and man; of being well in every sense of the word...

v12a *“Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them.”* These are the people who have been liberated. They are those who have known that all charges against them have been dismissed by the Blood of the Lamb.

And you get the same sense in **Hebrews 13:10 - 15** :

v10 *“We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.”* Our altar is in Heaven; it is Christ!

v11 *“For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.”* That is what happened to them as the sin offering. The blood was poured out at the bottom of the altar. Some of it was sprinkled on the mercy seat, and the carcase was carried out and burnt outside the camp.

v12 *“Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate.”* Here Christ is identified as the sin Offering. He died for your sins; He was offered to God for your sins. That is why He is the Source for all your contact and your worship of God.

v13 *“Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach.”* You are liberated from religion, and all religious observances; from all the rights and rituals of that which could not take away sin. You are free from the law of the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean. You are free!

In **Romans [6:14]** it says, *“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”* It doesn't mean you are not subject to living under God's Commandments, but that you are not under the law which said every time you sinned you had to take a bull or a goat or a lamb, for that was not sufficient. Therefore **now** you do not need to take bulls and goats - you have it all; you have the Offering as well as the liberation, as well as the dismissal of everything that was horrifying to God.

v14 *"For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come."* So you are liberated to be raptured! You are freed from the earth and all your obligations to it! Your obligation is primarily to Christ and He will sort out your obligations here!

v15 *"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name."* So you are liberated to worship God continually through Christ.

Remission means a **setting completely free**; free in your own life; free in your own heart; free in your spirit – and the only way you can be free is when you know you have peace with God. [p46]

Colossians 1:20 *"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."* If you are not free then you haven't got peace. If you haven't got peace with God then you are not free. You cannot be, because peace with God means fellowship with God all the time. Peace with God does not vary or break, or is not subject to stoppage, because God continues for ever; peace continues for ever.

"having made peace through the blood of His cross" – having established that relationship of perfect freedom, so that there is nothing between you and God for ever and ever! You are set completely free from any thought of there being something coming between you and God through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 9:13 - 14 says the same thing, contrasting it with the law, the sacrifice of the bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer. [p46]

v14 *"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* That is your peace. Your conscience is at peace. You are not troubled. You do not have some lurking shadow, presentiment of trouble. Some people say they wake up after having this kind of dream and that kind of dream, or they have a feeling of trouble. That is to do with Satan. In Eternity there is no message of trouble coming down to you!

The Blood of Christ has purged your conscience from dead works – the works of trying to live a good life without Christ Crucified in it. Those are dead works; there is no life in it, as with all church-going just for the sake of it, and good works – they are good but they will end here; they have no eternal value, no eternal substance, no eternal life, no eternal purpose.

God will dispense with this world, so all works that do this world good have nothing profitable in them of any eternal value at all.

Then the verse which our meditation this afternoon is based upon :

Acts 20:28 *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath **purchased with His own blood.**"*

You are set free from everything. You have been bought by Jesus Christ, therefore only what Christ has for you is for you. You have been set free from everything. Christ has bought you. You belong to Christ – *"which He hath purchased with His own blood"*.

Remission means then a setting completely free. You are completely free because you can never be enslaved again – you belong to Christ. You are His possession, so it is an eternal freedom.

That is why the Lord Jesus said, *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"* [John 8:36] – meaning that there is no possibility of returning to slavery again. It is out of the bounds of possibility. It does not come within God's horizon.

You are free forever because you belong to Christ, and so you are free from everything that hurts man.

We will close this second day of our Seeking the Lord with this powerful Scripture from *Hebrews 9:22b* –

“and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

The end of the afternoon session of the Second Day, *Seek Ye The Lord “By The Blood of Christ”*.

RECOMMENDED READING :

<i>Exodus</i> 12:1 – 14	<i>1 Peter</i> 1:1 – 5
<i>1 Corinthians</i> 5:6 – 8	<i>Hebrews</i> 9:1 – 28
<i>Hebrews</i> 1:1 – 14	10:1 – 39
2:9 – 18	13:7 – 21

5. – Only By Shedding Blood**Without**

Hebrews 9:22 *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission”* – in other words, that without the Cross, to report; without the crucifixion of Christ, to record, **without the shedding of blood**, these Scriptures have no hope for you...

*“For even Christ pleased not Himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached Thee fell on Me. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning – this [Romans 15:3 – 4] is a quotation from the **Psalms** [Psalm 69:9], where prophetically by the Holy Ghost, a man spoke and recorded that which would be spoken by Christ when He was suffering for our sins. So the writer goes on “... for whatsoever things were written afore time were written for our learning – and doesn’t stop there, because it is not learning that you get out of the Bible, it’s Salvation; it’s not education, because the Bible is not educationally valid, it has no educational properties – ... *that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope*”.*

So without the Cross there would be no hope, however many Scriptures were written by men, no hope; no hope at all – *“without shedding of blood is no remission”*. We wouldn’t see the Patience of Christ in the Scriptures; we wouldn’t get the comfort and the consolation of the Holy Ghost’s revelation of a Crucified Lamb of God for our sins. So please understand that today. So many Christians are trying to be right according to the Bible, to follow different commands, in other words, trying to be righteous without The One Thing that gives us righteousness – which we cannot get by trying – that is **the Blood of the Cross**.

*“Without shedding of blood is **no** remission”*, there is no hope, there is no righteousness, there is nothing for man except Eternal Doom. The Scripture, again in the New Testament, speaks of *“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”* [Revelation 13:8], so the whole Bible covers the Story – that is the Divine coverage for the Cross; that’s the **only Reason** for writing the Bible, to show men that God is their Saviour; that they’re lost – lost to God, lost to the Divine society forever – **but** that God found a Saviour and has offered them Salvation – there **is** some Hope, there is every Hope now, but without shedding of blood there is no hope – there is no patience to see it... The patience of the Cross is what we learn, that we may be patient like Christ.

The Comfort of the Scriptures is the only comfort that will last. It’s the Comfort that the Holy Spirit gives you when He shows you continually the Figure of the Sacrificed Lamb : Christ Crucified in His marred Body on God’s Right Hand, then, demands your acceptance of that – and that’s comfort. You are asked to accept a Finished Work. *“Without shedding of blood is **no** remission”*.

We saw earlier what **remission** meant. Now, I’m just going over it from the other side of the picture and taking it literally : **without** shedding of blood there is **no** remission – so then without shedding of blood there is no release, for you from your wrong doings, from your wrong nature – from the nature you were born with. What a tragedy!

So many of us may have said from time to time, 'I didn't ask to come into this world', which is true, and yet you've come into this world condemned **except** for the Blood of the Cross.

What a tremendous Statement! – "*for without shedding of blood is no remission*" – so that would mean no forgiveness. We take all this for granted, because we are born into a world where we find Redemption already being preached, where somewhere or the other God moves upon a man or a woman to tell us why we ought to have received Christ as your Saviour, saying, 'You ought to be born again! There is every hope for you. So come away from your foolishness and come out into the Light'. You can only say that because of the Cross and This is the glorious Message of the Gospel...

No release, no forgiveness – no forgiving – no letting go of the record of your sins by God. There would be no such Scripture, for example, "*In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*" [Ephesians 1:7] – that doesn't make sense if there was no shedding of Blood. But with the Cross, everything becomes sensible!

From the time I have been privileged to minister in this little church, I have again and again said that the only way to understand the whole Bible is to continue to read Calvary daily, hourly. I was told that by one that taught me, and I have done it ever since. Before I read any other passage of Scripture, I always read some portion on the Cross, something that shows the Action that God took to make the Bible intelligible and to put Hope into it. It is **Hope** that we need ... it's an Offer – and without shedding of blood there is no hope for us; the Scriptures would contain no Hope.

No remission – "*Without shedding of blood is no remission.*" There is then the same dismal thing as the Scriptures go on – there would be no sending away, there would be no scapegoat. You remember? : the two goats; one was killed for the sins of the people and its blood was shed, poured out, and the other goat was prayed over, and as it were in type, the sins of the nation were sent away. But there is no scapegoat; there is no escape for you, for there would be no offering. No such Scripture could have been written; it would have been non-sensical...

No remission; no sending away; no putting away of your sins. We would never have read anywhere in print, or never have heard any one say, "*but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself*" [Hebrews 9:26b] – we never could have read it, for it would not have been true.

We take all this for granted, but in these studies, I want us to understand that the only way you can really benefit from your reading of these Scriptures; the only way you can understand the Bible is to get a knowledge of the Holy One – that what understanding is. It's to understand and know that "*I am He*" [Isaiah 43:10] that is, your "*God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself*" [2 Corinthians 5:19]. There is no other way to understand the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit cannot communicate to you except through the Sacrifice of Calvary. You cannot really understand any of the Commandments, and exactly their significance for you if Christ hadn't died, and if the Holy Spirit couldn't show you that you can do it because Christ died. Otherwise there is failure, constant failure; we'd be back worse than the law, where we read the blood of bulls and goats could not purge man's conscience, because it was the blood of his bull or his goat, it wasn't the Blood of the Son of God, so his human nature remained the same.

But we would be worse than that, for we wouldn't even have an animal sacrifice to look forward to, to get some respite from the load of guilt piling up on our consciences. No remission; "*without shedding of blood is no remission*".

No loosing from our sins. No being able to say, "*Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood*" [Revelation 1:5b] – that is, shook me free, made me clean in God's sight, and in my own soul's sight. It's wonderful to have a conscience that's cleansed through God's Word telling you of Calvary. "*How much more*", we read now, should your conscience be purged "*from dead works to serve the living God*" [Hebrews 9:14]. Did you ever realise that if a man doesn't believe – you take it for granted – but a man who is not a believer has a filthy conscience; he's guilty, with all his pride, with all his cover up.

Every man who has not received Christ truly as his Saviour must have a very dark and guilty conscience. Even if he hasn't anything to be frightened about, he is frightened that perhaps something in his life will be exposed by someone, somewhere, some time. And back of it all is his fear of meeting God, because the very fact that a man has a conscience is indicative of the fact that there is a God; he has a God as well.

"Without shedding of blood is no remission" – no **deliverance**, no forgiveness from God. We wouldn't be able to read that from **Hebrews 10** that triumphant passage which says, *"For the law having a shadow of good things to come and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered because the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins?"* [vs1-2].

The only reason for worship of God is that your sins have been put away. We would have no inspiration, no call, no feeling to worship God – we'd want to be hiding. Our state would be like the state of those after the Church has gone: *"hide us"* they will cry out to the rocks; *"fall on us, and hide us from the face"* of a vengeful God, *"and from the wrath of the Lamb"* [Revelation 6:16]. There will be no worshipping, no joy, no peace, no love. Oh, yes, there'll be plenty of human love, human joy and human peace, but underneath it all there will be the knowledge that it is all hopeless – hopeless. 'May as well put my head into the gas oven and die' – no hope, no hope. The suicide rates after the Church has gone will be nil [in the days of the Fifth Angel's Trumpet and Vial, Revelation 9:1 – 6]. Not that men won't want to die, but that God will stop them dying, so that they won't escape the Judgments that He's pouring out.

But today, if there was no Hope of Calvary, no hope that the Cross has proclaimed a forgiving God, a merciful God, a God Who is prepared to receive us through that Blood, then the suicide rate would be a normal thing. Everywhere people would be killing themselves to escape what is inescapable – the afterwards...

So let us bless God today that we have been born into the Age that speaks freely of Calvary. There will be no such freedom, no liberation, no liberty; the Holy Ghost wouldn't be able to speak freely of the Blood through the Bible, because there'd be no Blood to speak about. The death of men would continue, for their blood is not important to your Salvation, it's only another pointer to the hopeless situation of mankind...

The blood of Abel spoke only of death, *"The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto Me from the ground"* God said to Cain [Genesis 4:10] and those cries have gone on, but still today you and I have escaped from that awful, hopeless state.

We don't have to cry helplessly against all that's going on; we cry quite positively. We call out to God and expect an answer, nationally, internationally, communally, family-wise, and in our own lives. We can cry out to God and say, 'I'm hopeless, I can't stop sinning' – and you can be delivered! ... But there's no hope without shedding of Blood – there is **no** remission.

No remission; no removal of the cause of your trouble with God – no barriers broken down, no confidence in God; only despair. No such Scriptures, again as we read, in **Hebrews 10** *"But this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God ... For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified"* [vs12 & 14]. We don't understand all this; we take it for granted, and yet today I'm telling you it need not have been written there, it would not, if God had withheld His hand and Christ had not died.

"Without shedding of blood is no remission" – no release, no removal of the cause of all our trouble. No confidence in any man. There's nothing to be confident about today. Even with Christian people. They're confident in their work, they're confident in their health, or their money, their jobs, their position, but if you took all that away, what little confidence you would find in the so-called Christian world...

The world governed by Satan would overwhelm us in a trice. But God in His mercy leaves us to come out of our delusion and see that the only confidence on which we can base our whole living is **the Cross**; is **Christ Crucified**; is **the Blood of the everlasting covenant**. You know that. In your hearts, in your lives, there is so much of the confidence of what you have and what you're used to and what you can't do without and which you get so easily, but really, that's not the confidence that is really in this world today.

It's because in the world there is the Holy Spirit Who has already made it known and it's now knowledge in the world by the Spirit; and the Spirit of God is here in the world keeping that knowledge before men even if they're unconscious of it, that God has died for the sins of all mankind; that the only Judgment men will expect is what have they done with that Death; what have they done with the Sacrificial Lamb; what have they done with Christ Crucified; what have they done with God's Son???

That's much better, isn't it? I mean, we shouldn't have to cringe and crawl and hide away when that question is asked. We should say, 'Why, as for me, *"I am crucified with Christ: ... and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me"* [Galatians 2:20].

That should be our story, but that story would still be incomplete if Paul hadn't said, *"I am crucified with Christ"*. He would be saying what amounted to lies. *"God forbid"* he said, *"that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world"* [Galatians 6:14]. What glorious words! We must leave these meditations fully convinced that nothing should give us any assurance but the Word of God, preaching to us Christ Crucified. *"no remission"* - no removal of the cause of our trouble with God ... *"and without shedding of blood is no remission"* [Hebrews 9:22b]

Also yesterday we saw that remission meant a **passing over** a forgiven people by a forgiving God. That's what remission means - but we wouldn't have that - no Passover; no Passover Lamb; no Scriptures we read this morning [the Recommended Readings for today]. And the celebration? - there would be **no** celebration, no Lord's supper, no celebration of the end of sin, no demonstration of a forgiven, free life.

Look at this passage, *"And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it feast by an ordinance forever"* [Exodus 12:14] - and we continue that here through the Lord's Supper. And throughout Eternity there will always be a Celebration! God is a Person Who likes celebrations, and when there is something really good to celebrate, God is all there ... and really the only thing that has to be celebrated is the Death of the Lamb. All other celebrations are around that.

Our very meeting with Christ, our very entry into Heaven as the Church, our very partaking of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is all a Celebration around that Sacrifice. There He is in Person : "the *"Lamb as it had been slain"* [Revelation 5:6].

It's a terrible thought, isn't it, that men pass it by unnoticed; the Word of God : *"and without shedding of blood is no remission"* - no celebration of the end of sin; no Lord's Supper; no demonstration of the Victory of Calvary. That's what we read this morning : *"And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever"* [Exodus 12:24] They just observed the ordinance; to them it was just a day of having an extra good meal. They killed a choice lamb and they roasted it specially, and they ate it and drunk, I expect, all kinds of their man-made wines and all sorts of things, and the unleavened bread - all things, things, but the point of the celebration is that **Christ was crucified**. That is the whole point of the story.

One of you realised again this morning, that there in that story in *Exodus* centuries ago, it specifically stated that not a bone of the lamb should be broken - because God was looking forward to Calvary. The whole Bible is full of Blood - especially *Leviticus*. That's one way of looking at it; the Bible is full of Blood; the Blood of the Sacrifice. Therefore it is full of cleansing for you; full of liberation for you; full of hope for you, full of the passing over by a forgiving God of a forgiven people.

"Without shedding of blood is no remission" – there would be no relief from the accusations of Satan. Satan accuses us all the time, and that puts us in a wretched, miserable state. Christians who are always finding fault; who are always criticising or making fun of others, are miserable, because they themselves are living as though there had been no Sacrifice for their sins. But we read in the *Book of Revelation*, that they overcame the accuser *"by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony"* [12:11] – that shows they had a **glorious life of freedom** ... which would not be possible if Christ had not died.

Many thousands of people live as though there was no shedding of Blood; as though there has been no remission, and as though they have to fight for their happiness, and fight tooth and nail to get a little peace. What a foolish situation, when it's **yours** – it's all ours! That's the full triumphant Message of the Bible. That is why it is written the other way round, *"without shedding of blood is no remission"*, meaning, Hallelujah! the Blood HAS been shed, so there **IS** remission.

In other words, what are you talking about, by saying there is no hope, there's no peace, there is no joy; there's only faults and only failures – oh what a miserable state! And yet, the very people who find fault and criticise and make fun, and perhaps mock at the Bible and go on worse and worse, they themselves are able to say that, because there is remission!

Remember Daniel said to Belshazzar, 'Oh, Belshazzar, the God in whose hand your very breath is, you have the freedom by that breath to blaspheme His name, and use the vessels of His altar and His Temple just as you think. But that's the end of you' [based on *Daniel 5:22 – 28*]. And that man went to his own place. But there is still remission!

If you read that story you see that Daniel said, 'You do know these things' [v22]. It isn't as though Daniel sprung it upon him when he saw the writing on the wall. He said, 'Your father showed you these things; that these were the vessels from God's House' [vs22 – 23]. And Nebuchadnezzar had stored them up carefully, for they came out of the Temple of the God of the Jews – that same God who died on the Cross. So there IS remission! There is remission.

Jesus Christ said to the one who betrayed Him, *"Friend"* [Matthew 26:50]. He couldn't say that if He wasn't going to pour out His Blood. The last sentence, the last word that Judas heard from the One he betrayed was, *"Friend, wherefore art thou come?"* Judas Iscariot, the only apostle who was condemned – we know he has gone into Hell – he is the only apostle spoken of in the Old Testament [Psalm 41:9] personally. *"Mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of My bread, hath lifted up his heel against Me"* – because Christ could die; was going to die. That was prophesied then because He did die. He was able to call His betrayer, *"Friend"*, meaning that the one who betrayed Him could have been redeemed.

There was shedding of Blood; there has been Blood shed – the Blood of **Christ**. So we can read as we have read these last two days, *"the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel"* [Hebrews 12:24]. Oh! what hope we have that we could say that Statement!

It's so powerful because it says it in reverse, *"and without shedding of blood is no remission"*. It wouldn't have been so powerful if God had had it written, *'with the shedding of blood there is remission'*, because the Bible is full of remission; it's full of redemption; it's full of resurrection; it's full of reconciliation! It's full of the fruit of the Work of the Cross, from the beginning to the end!

So He could afford to put it this way, so forcibly, so that a man could say, 'Yes, **without** shedding of Blood I can't get one promise from God. It's hopeless; I'm shut out from Eternal Joy. I'm shut out from Hope, there's only despair, there's only grief and loss, there's only sin and shame'. Just think of it! When you go into a house where there is no Salvation, where there is no Christ... More than ever today we find that whatever class people come from, whether they're wealthy or poor; educated or not, whether they have health or not – whatever it is, wherever you go, there is always some sorrow, some loss, some grief, bitterness, and worse and worse... But that would be universal... *"Without shedding of blood is no remission"*; there would be no hope; no comfort from God concerning our sinful state. We must make full use of this Opportunity. I owe it to God, because I am benefiting from His Redemption through the Blood of Christ. Where I didn't think to go, now I can go – right into God's holy Presence, by the Blood of the Cross.

*"Without shedding of blood is **no** remission"* – there would be no dismissal of our sins. We would only have our guilt, which leads to blaming others. Unjust criticism reveals guilt in the one criticising. It's when we believe on the Blood of the Cross that we are free from criticising. In Hell, where there is gnashing of teeth, and pain and cursing, there is also blame.

There is the picture in *Isaiah* where the inhabitants are even mocking at Satan, 'Look at you – you're the cause of all the trouble, and you're getting the worse treatment' [14:16 – 19]. I believe that Satan will be in a special part there, so *Isaiah* seems to suggest... Just fancy people saying, 'You didn't tell me'; 'You brought me here'. They will blame each other ...

But you are here to tell people, 'There's no need for all that; there's no need to find fault. There's no need to say, 'Oh, my son has brought this havoc on my home'. Find Christ in your own life, man or woman, then you might find your son might repent and come to the same God you should be following!' Blame, blame, blame – there's no relief from that, so one has to say, 'Calm down, calm down...'

Only Christ Crucified can bring peace. That is the practical output of the Bible, and then all the rest of it falls into line. All the genealogies, all the history of God's people, all the injunctions to the Church, they can only be built upon the Foundation of the Crucified Christ.

And in the New Testament it is written again and again, that the **only** Foundation of our faith, the **only** reason to say that you're a Christian, that you're a member of God's Church, is that **Christ died**. Paul says that again and again : 'no other foundation' [1 Corinthians 3:11]. Peter said, 'This is the foundation which you – talking to the Jewish Sanhedrin – rejected; you said, 'No we won't have that'' [Acts 4]. And so their buildings have tumbled down into ruins, and their life spiritually is a ruin. They are one of the most successful people as a nation the world will ever see, but their spiritual life is a ruin – they are utterly condemned, because as a race they have thrown out the Foundation of the building of their nation; of their lives before God.

Every nation is like that – and this nation [the UK]; but I'm glad that so many Christians are praying, 'We must have the Bible; we must have this, we must put that out'. We'll go on praying for that. But if you weren't able to pray, it wouldn't come. And you couldn't pray if you didn't know that Christ had been crucified. If you didn't know that, you couldn't ask God for a thing, and you would have no Spirit to tell you that. So, let's bear that in mind...

A leaflet was published years ago, which imagined what it would be like after the Church had gone. There was a man named John who said to his wife, 'I feel very strange; my aunt has gone, I don't know where she is – his aunt had been a Christian. And they found other people had gone; then John said 'Aunty told us this would happen'. They got hold of a Bible and found the Scripture in 1 Corinthians 15 – this is a story in a leaflet, but it will be true – so they read it and felt awful. Then they went into some church, and knelt down, and stayed there for a long time. Then the man said to his wife, 'Do you know, I can't feel a thing – we're lost; I don't know where God is'.

Now that will be the state of people when the Church has gone – but until the Church goes, there IS Redemption, there IS Remission. You can be born again. You can tell me that a thousand times and go to a thousand people. And that is our duty to do that – we're obliged to God; He has done everything else : He's given you your life with Him; He's given you a free heart, a clean conscience; He's given you the liberty to know that this is true, and that you have a security after this life.

That makes for confidence. People with all the wealth, or the work they want in this world, even if they didn't have wealth, they have no secret confidence. And if you probed their lives a bit with God's Word you would find their confidence shattered. They'd either get put out with you or they'd get upset. But when they have this confidence in the Blood of the Cross, then they don't need other things to prop up their false life. *"With-out shedding of blood is no remission."*

We read that lovely Scripture, *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* [John 8:32]. There would be no truth to make you free. What truth do they know? – that **Christ has died**. That's the Truth.

And Jesus Christ Himself would not have been able to say, *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed"* [v36] – because He would have had no liberty to say that, because God would not have sent Him to die for the sin of the world. So bear that in mind ... *"Without shedding of blood is no remission"*; **no** remission.

We'll finish with these three fundamental thoughts :

1. No Peace With God

If there is no remission, that is, if there is no shedding of Blood, then there is **no Peace with God**. Think on that ... no Peace with God.

Today, the pressures of this life, upon Christians are so tremendous that if you didn't have recourse to the Word of God that tells you that Christ died for your sins, you'd probably go mad, because you wouldn't be trying to take the way – the escape routes – that the world tries to take to keep the pressures off; *"the pleasures of sin, as it's written in the Bible [Hebrews 11:25], for a season"*.

"And having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile – that is, to change – all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." [Colossians 1:20] There'd be no such comfort in your heart – this Peace is in your heart. It's not just a written word here. You believe it, so you have Peace with God, because you know God made the Peace, you didn't. He made the Place of Peace for you. He made such a situation that you believe you can come to Him in perfect confidence, because He has made Peace with you. He had made a relationship possible, where He is to be found by you always welcoming, always ready to receive you. That's the picture which the Bible says you should believe, because Christ died.

We find a welcoming God, a loving God, a warm-hearted God. We would never have had the parable of the Prodigal Son; there wouldn't be any truth in a picture of a father waiting for a boy who disgraced his name and disgraced everyone, and done all that he wanted to do in the lusts of his flesh, coming back repentant to find the father waiting – and not only waiting, but more that ready to receive him – no such story... *"without shedding of blood"*; no peace, because there's no forgiveness... *"And, having made peace by the blood of His cross..."* [Colossians 1:20]

2. No Church

No remission. If there had been no shedding of blood, **there would have been no Church of God.**

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood" [Acts 20:28]. There would be no Church : in other words, it means that the Church of the Living God is a Body of people who believe in the Sacrifice, to the extent that they are waiting to meet Jesus Christ the Saviour.

Now, no man's experience will ever be complete – the pinnacle of all our experiences; the very highest point that man will ever reach, is to meet and live with Jesus Christ ... Crucified. That's a Joy that is not possible in any other circumstance. Yes, there is Joy here, the Joy of the Holy Ghost, but it's only leading you to that Place.

You wouldn't have that Joy if you didn't know that that is where you're going. That Joy keeps you happy here! That Joy keeps you putting up with the pressures of this life, with people, and places and things. Not because you're hardy and you can endure, but because you're looking forward to meeting Someone Who is such a great Lover of man.

There's **no one** like Him, and that's what we're all going for ... Here's a passage to show you : *"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ"* – see that Hope, however you're tried; it says, like fire, Peter writes [in 1 Peter 1:7 – 8].

Fire or no fire, that's the Hope you've got ... *"unto the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love..."* Yes, you're being taught by the Spirit to love Him more and more, but you haven't yet seen Him ... *"in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory"* – because you're going to see Him; you're waiting to see Him; you're looking forward to seeing Him, you're longing to see Him – and no one can dissuade you that is not true.

But *"without shedding of blood"* there would be no Church. There'd be no such Joy. Be reminded, that to God, Christ is, in Eternity – and has been throughout all Eternal Ages, however many days there are in an eternal year – His *"daily His delight"* [Proverbs 8:30]

And what delights God daily? What is the Love and the Joy of God's Life that God wants the Church to have? That is why all this has been done: *"and without the shedding of blood is no remission"* – without this shedding of Blood, there'd be no such Joy, only damnation, only the dissolution of the body and a new body to live in the Lake of Fire, called *"the second death"* [Revelation 20:14].

3. No Fellowship With God

No remission : no Peace with God; no Church of the Living God, and **no Fellowship with God**; no Favour from God. Now, we take all this for granted, but here is what is written: *"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full"* [1 John 1:3 – 4].

And your joy will be full, because when you get to Eternity, not only will you personally say 'This is it, I've seen Him at last, Face to face', but you'll also have the added Joy of the Father, because both the Father and His children will enjoy Jesus Christ together. It's as though God's Joy will be added to yours, and the Joy of all the Church will be another delight to God. ... *"our fellowship with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full"*.

In *Ephesians 2*, writing on the Work of Calvary, Paul says, *"But God..."* *"But God"*; all those *"But God"*'s wouldn't be written if it wasn't for Calvary! *"...who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: – what for – That in the ages to come – what a super sound that is – ages to come ... There's no fret, there's no thought, 'Oh, it will soon end'. Ages upon ages; *"the ages to come"* – it's said luxuriously! There are riches in that statement which no amount of pleasure even in the Gospel here will give you ... *"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come He – that is God – might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus"* [vs4 – 7].*

So, when we get to Eternity, these and other Scriptures will show you, not only just the Glory of God's Holiness but that Holiness illuminated or **filled** with the radiance, the Joy, the delight of being able to do that for His Son – for which He has waited for all these thousands of years to do : that is, **to pour upon** the Redeemed, His Son's redeemed, all His Love for Jesus Christ!! It will be poured out upon the Church of Jesus Christ – year in and year out, should we say it like that! Eternal Year in and Eternal Year out! – *"through Christ Jesus"* ... *"the exceeding riches of His grace..."* – there're not just riches, they **exceed**, they exceed all the bounds of our imaginings – Oh! what we have to thank God for!! – *"...in His kindness toward us – yes? – through ... Christ Jesus". !!*

We won't get less because it comes through Christ; we'll get more! Hallelujah!! **All** His Love for Christ will be poured through Christ upon us, plus His great Joy, in finding that you were sensible enough to be redeemed; you were obedient and humble enough to take that deformed and disfigured Man as your Saviour – that will be the last Word of Joy for God. So please, bear these things in mind...

v8

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"

Again the Scriptures show that **Fellowship with God** is only possible through the Blood of the Sacrifice.

1 John 1:7 *"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship One with another... - it's not primarily fellowship between you and me, it's Fellowship between you and GOD, for that's the Fellowship that produces all the Joy! Then you'd be such a happy person, that we could fellowship together. You wouldn't be a fault-finding Christian here if you really believed in the Power of the shed Blood of Christ. You wouldn't be a critic, or a mocker, or a gossip, or a scandalmonger; you'd be too full of the Joy of Christ to say anything except that which is of Grace, which edifies; builds up people.*

That's your obligation to God to live like that in this very shoddy and shabby and sorry world, because it's got nothing to offer you, whoever we are, young people, or of any age... All the Offering that is good comes from Above, where Christ sits on God's Right Hand...

"... we have fellowship One with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin". The very thought of sin; the very sight of sin, you're cleansed from all that. So that your eyes don't retain the image of sin; your ears don't retain the sounds of those sinful words, which you must hear as you go out, because your life is in Fellowship with God. This is here, a foretaste of what is There. So Christians who are not so ready to meet Christ are not enjoying their Fellowship here, so, why should they be ready to meet Him There; it won't be that exciting!

The Message of the Church for people to meet Christ isn't an escaping Message, preaching, 'You'll be glad to get out of here' - that's not why God said, 'Get ready to meet Christ'. It's to have your joy fulfilled. When, for instance, you have some joyous occasion like meeting someone special after a long time. The contact is where the joy finds itself fulfilled. The joy of getting the house ready, or getting the gifts; there is that joy - and its culmination, its fulfilment, is when the actual thing is done.

That's how it is with us : our Joy is working up to that Final Fulfilment. It's not a threat, the Coming of Christ for the Church; it's a Promise. *"Wherefore comfort one another with these words"*, Paul said [1 Thessalonians 4:18]. So here we are to live by the Spirit, by faith, how we are going to live in reality. *"Without shedding of blood is no remission."* You wouldn't get it otherwise.

So it's your decision; it's up to you now; you've heard this Message from God. So we must be born again; we must. If it must be so, for Christ to die; I must be born again. There's no other way; there's no other answer, there's no other real talk, is there? Jesus said, *"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again"* [John 3:7] because that's the only way to believe the Scripture, *"without shedding of blood is no remission"*. It's the only way to have the Joy of Eternity looming up before you, getting brighter and brighter, and brighter, and brighter, and brighter!!

As Christ was going on through the years to the last days going on to Calvary, He was as One with a fixation; He had His eye on Heaven - the Cross came, but He had His eye on Heaven. And for you there may be many sorrows - there'll be much more pressures, doubtless we can agree on that, but in it all with the mounting escalation of pressures, and sorrows, and disappointments, and frustrations, being piled upon you by Satan, there should be a mounting Joy! : 'I shall see Jesus' ... And that's why the writer to the **Hebrews** kept saying, *"But we see Jesus"* [2:9] ... *"holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession"* [3:1] - take a good long look and continue to look - *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and - yes? - let us run with patience..."*

We are to get rid of the sin that so easily besets us, and we are to *"... run with patience the race before us, Looking unto Jesus - that's the incentive [12:1 - 2].* Why Christians fail, why they get depressed, is because they don't believe the Scripture. They know it, but they don't believe that it is applicable to their lives.

They say, 'Oh, yes, we know that Christ has died; we're familiar with that'. But that doesn't bring anything, except depression. But when you know the meaning of that, you say, 'That's true!! It has been shed, so I have remission; I've got a Hope.' That's the incentive; the Coming of Christ for you is the incentive for you to live that joyous life, so that two joyful people meet - Christ and you; Christ and His Church, a group of joyful people altogether, going back to experience a greater Joy of the Father welcoming His Family Home!

It's going to be a great Day for God, because that's the First Day that he will have all His Family - the Family He longs for, for which His Son had to die to start for Him. One day they're all going to be together with Him - you know that ...

We all must have come from some family, or we wouldn't be here! And we know that a family reunion, even with those who we know are unregenerate and tiresome in their rejection; still they are our family, and there is a certain amount of pleasure, tinged with grief perhaps, but still there is a Hope that they shall be saved - but There, we're all There! Once for all! No one missing from the Family! May the Lord bless you to remember that.

Shall we close by reading that together, this verse we have been concentrating on today,

Hebrews 9:22 *"and almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission.**"*

The end of the morning session of the Third Day, Seek Ye The Lord "**By The Blood of Christ**".

6. – The Blood of The Cross

Evidence of Death

Hebrews 9:22 *"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."*

In the 66 Books, or Messages, of the Scriptures of God's Word, you will find that "**blood**" is always the evidence of death – not of life, but of death. Wherever it is written in the Bible, "**blood**" is the evidence of DEATH – violent, physical death; sacrificial or spiritual death.

It is the evidence of death – never of life, except in explaining about the death, when using the word "life". This is in the place where it says, "*For the life of the flesh is in the blood*", and immediately it continues by saying that the life was poured out in death [*Leviticus 17:11*].

"**Blood**" in the Bible is always associated with **death**. It is the Evidence of death... and it is used as such all the time. When you read the Scriptures with a particular word in view, as sometimes the Holy Spirit would have you to do, it is always good to read where it first occurs and when it last occurs. Usually, you will find, that is where the meaning of the word will apply throughout your study.

The First Occurrence of the word "**blood**" in these Scriptures is in *Genesis 4:8 – 10*. It doesn't say whether Cain hit Abel with a stone, or if he drove a spear through his heart... How terrible that the first mention of this word "**blood**" is of this terrible death of Abel. It happened to be a violent death, if you take it as it is written. Death; the death of Abel. The evidence of that death is by what God said :

v10 *"And He said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood – not of thy brother's mangled body, or his crushed head, but "the voice of thy brother's blood" – crieth unto Me from the ground."*

Everywhere you will find "**blood**" is the evidence of death, as it is in this case; violent physical death. Not a dying from disease, or of old age, or from natural causes. Violent, physical death is an unnatural cause. The evidence, the blood, is here : "*the voice of thy brother's blood*". To God, that is always the evidence of death. That has a bearing on the whole Bible. From then onwards we find ourselves plunged into an ocean of tears and agony, anguish, pain – and death...

The Last Occurrence, or use by the Holy Spirit of the word "**blood**" in the Scriptures, is in *Revelation 19:13*. Two verses before this is the Vision John saw where Jesus Christ was coming out of Heaven :

v11 *"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war."*

v13 *"And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God."*

This is, of course, Evidence of Death. We'll look at *Isaiah* ...

Isaiah 63:1 *"Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in His apparel, travelling in the greatness of His strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save."*

Putting these two Scriptures of *Revelation 19:13* and *Isaiah 63:1* together : The "**vesture**" is the outer garment, or the cloak, or mantle. *Isaiah* calls it "**apparel**". *Psalms 22:18* is fulfilled in the records of *Matthew*, *Luke* and *John's* Gospels.

So we see that sometimes a difference is made between the “*garments*” or “*raiment*” to use another word [Luke 23:34 & John 19:34] as general clothing, and “*vesture*” which is another word for the outer garment. And the word “*dipped*” means soaked – His vesture was **soaked** in Blood...

Edom, the place from which Isaiah saw Him coming, is in the South of Palestine. And **Bozrah** is its capital – so it is in the same area. The prophet Isaiah is locating the place.

“*With dyed garments from Bozrah*”. Dyed means stained, that is, not the colour it was originally. “*This that is glorious in His apparel*”. So the “*garments*” and the “*apparel*” are different types of clothing. “*Apparel*” would refer to His outer garment; the robe, the cloak, or, the “*vesture*” as John described it.

“... travelling in the greatness of His strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” The Answer comes from Christ prophetically. It is Christ coming from Edom, with dyed garments, from Bozrah. “*Travelling in the greatness of His strength*” would mean His extraordinary advance, because He and the Church, coming from Heaven, will be on horseback. It refers directly to **the Battle of Armageddon** ...

v2 “*Wherefore art Thou red in Thine apparel, and Thy garments* – in each case the **garments** and **apparel** are mentioned separately – *like Him that treadeth in the winefat?*” His garments – His ordinary clothing – looked to Isaiah as though they were stained with the juice of pressed grapes. Then Christ gives the Answer :

v3 “*I have trodden the winepress alone...*”

We have to go to the Scriptures which refer to this, which is **Revelation 14**... **This** is the “*winepress*”, not of pressing juice out of fruit, but the “*great winepress of the wrath of God*” [v19] The first references to the winepress in this Chapter are in **vs14 – 15** – the Son of man [Christ] with a sharp sickle in His hand.

v16 “*And He that sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*” This is a graphic picture of what is going to be done...

vs17 – 19 “*And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him [the angel just before him] that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. 19. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.*”

The prophet Isaiah said, “*Wherefore art Thou red in Thine apparel, [cloak] and Thy garments [ordinary clothing underneath] like Him that treadeth in the winefat?*” And Christ [v3a] answers, “*I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people* – meaning God’s people who should have been with Him – *there was none with Me.*” The Church will be with Him, because He comes out of Heaven with the armies from Heaven!

The Vision that Isaiah sees of Christ with all His ordinary clothing looking as though they were stained with the juice from a winepress is this **Winepress of the Wrath of God** to come.

Isaiah 63:3b “*For I will tread them in Mine anger, and trample them in My fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon My garments, and I will stain all My raiment.*”

Revelation 14:20 “*And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, – now it ceases to be a matter of fruit; it is the story of the massacre of the armies of the Beast [the man, the Antichrist] at **Armageddon**, by Christ and His armies – even unto the horse bridles, – it is not told us how the armies of the Beast will be manoeuvring, whether on foot or on horseback, but certainly Christ and His armies will be on horseback – by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.*”

Sixteen hundred furlongs is two hundred miles [8 furlongs to the mile] which is about the distance between the Place of the **Battle of Armageddon**, Megiddo in the North, right down to **Bozrah** in Edom in the South. So the Battle will cover a large area, because of the thousands and thousands of contestants making up the armies of the Beast.

They will all be gathered in that great Plain spreading right over the Plain called in the Greek, the Plain of Esdraelon [pron. Es-dra-e-lon], and in Scripture, “*the valley of Jezreel*” [Joshua 17:16; Judges 6:33; Hosea 1:5]. The Battle will be fought all that way...

“*even unto the horse bridles*” – the ‘wine’ from the Winepress of the Wrath of God will be up to about three feet deep, up to where the rider will be sitting on the horse, as they will be wading through the masses of men slaughtered by Christ.

It says in Ezekiel [38:21b] that they will turn upon each other in the terror caused by the Presence of Christ in this supernatural army descending from Heaven. But “*He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood*” before He ever came to that Battle!

Isaiah 63:3 “*I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with Me: for I will tread them in Mine anger, and trample them in My fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon My garments, and I will stain all My raiment.*”

This is what Christ said in answer to the prophet’s question : “*Wherefore ... and thy garments like Him that treadeth in the winefat?*” He said He would tread the people in His anger. It is the Jew that is the direct receiver of all God’s Judgments. This will be “*the time of Jacob’s trouble*” [Jeremiah 30:7] – unrepentant, and unrelenting in their hatred of Christ. The mass of Jews will suffer what God said they would suffer : their city totally destroyed by fire, and now their massacre.

“*and trample them in My fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon My garments...*” Obviously they must have been on horseback, because of the trampling, which will be from the horses.

Horses from Heaven!! When men are on horseback they are more likely to crush bodies lying about. “*and trample them in My fury...*” Rejected Love. All these centuries the Jews have rejected the Love of God; they are Christ-haters.

vs3b - 4 “*and their blood shall be sprinkled upon My garments, and I will stain all My raiment. 4. For the day of vengeance is in Mine heart, and the year of My redeemed is come.*” We can understand from that, that in some way, Christ comes out of Heaven wearing that outer garment which had already been stained with Blood...

Revelation19:11 “*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.*” This is a picture of Christ coming out of Heaven, not out of Armageddon...

We are seeing that “*blood*” in the Bible is always indicative of violent, physical death; sacrificial death or spiritual death, and here we see that Christ will come riding out of Heaven wearing, not only His indoor garments, but this cloak, this “*vesture*”, this “*red*” “*apparel*” which Isaiah saw so many hundreds of years before. John said plainly that it was “*dipped in blood*”. It had already been soaked in Blood, and He hadn’t yet got to the field of Armageddon!

“**Blood**” does refer to death : anyone wearing clothing soaked in blood would be questioned at once – ‘how did that happen?’...

Joseph’s coat was taken by his brothers and soaked in an animal’s blood to indicate that he had died, that he had been violently killed by a wild beast [Genesis 37:31]. So they presented the blood-stained coat – his outer garment – to Jacob, who accepted their story at once : “*And he knew it, and said, It is my son’s coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces*”, v33.

Psalm 22:16-18 “*For dogs have compassed Me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed Me: they pierced My hands and My feet. 17. I may tell all My bones: they look and stare upon Me. 18. They part My garments among them, and cast lots upon My vesture.*”

So we see the “*garments*” and the “*vesture*” are obviously two different types of clothing. We don’t wear our top clothes when we sit at home, but we put on an outer garment when we go out! So the Scriptures distinguish the clothing like that.

v18 “*They part My garments among them, and cast lots upon My vesture.*” This incident is mentioned by every writer of the Four Gospels – but John writes in a little more detail...

John 19:23–24 “*Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also His coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. 24. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted My raiment among them, and for My vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.*”

In this Gospel, it dilates upon the difference in the clothing which is stated simply from *Psalms 22*, in *Matthew*, *Mark* and *Luke’s* account. But **John** says clearly that the coat was different, and he gives the reason for their not parting it amongst them. They cast lots for it because it was one whole garment. It was woven from the top, and was without any seams.

One of the garments worn by the High Priest, of Moses and Aaron’s day, was woven from the top throughout also... It had a hole in the top for slipping over the head like a cloak – and that was worn by the High Priest...

Exodus 28:31–32 “*And thou shalt make the robe of the ephod all of blue. 32. And there shall be an hole in the top of it, in the midst therefore: it shall have binding of woven work round about the hole of it, as it were the hole of an habergeon, that it be not rent.*”

John says : “*the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout*”, and the soldiers end up by saying, “*Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be*”. In each case the Scriptures do not conclude the matter. They don’t say whether the soldiers did appropriate the cloak, or take it away. John just says, “*that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, they parted My raiment among them, and for My vesture – that is the coat – they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.*” The other Gospel references are, *Matthew 27:35*, *Mark 15:24*, *Luke 23:34*.

There are then, two sets of clothing. In these Scriptures we see that something was done with the vesture or coat. First of all it was specially treated by the soldiers; they didn’t tear it apart. They would not have taken these garments to wear them – it was like a memento of the crucifixion. This was a special crucifixion. The whole place was agog; there was much injustice and confusion. A notorious criminal had been released and this Man had no legal proceedings against Him, and was being treated the worst.

He was hanging on a cross with a face not recognisable, and a form not recognisable according to *Isaiah 52:14*, “*His visage [face] was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men*”. That garment must have been saturated with His Blood...

We will see in these Scriptures the violence that was done to Him for our Salvation :

Matthew 26:67– 68 “*They did they spit in His face, and buffeted Him; and others smote Him with the palms of their hands [margin, or, rods] 68. Saying, Prophecy unto us, Thou Christ, Who is he that smote Thee?*” They beat Him; and this would have gone on through the night.

Matthew 27:2 “*And when they had bound Him, they led Him away, and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.*” Then they dragged Him off to Pilate, who examined Him.

v26 “*Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.*” Pilate released the murderer and had Jesus Christ scourged. They didn’t bandage Him up – and that scourging was a fearful thing... Then they took Him to the Hall, taking off His outer garments and putting on Him a scarlet robe, obviously in mockery. A king or a royal person would wear a purple/scarlet robe. [refer *Luke 23:7 – 11*]. Then they plaited a crown of thorns...

This is where the injuries took place. He had been beaten up all night, so His face suffered. Matthew omits the record of Him being taken to Herod. He went there and things were done to Him there...

v29 *"And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand: and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!"*

The crown of thorns must have caused the Blood to stream down His face and onto His clothing. It only takes a little while for blood to stream from the head and to the face, and onto clothing... If nothing is done about it, the blood will soon soak into the clothing. And they didn't stop it. That was God's intention, that *"without shedding of blood is no remission"*. God meant every word of it. He said He was going to have Christ's Blood shed, and He did. He saw to it, that **all our sins should be taken away**. **That** is what it Cost God to save your soul...

v30 *"And they spit upon Him, and took the reed, and smote Him on the head."*

They took a branch from a tree, and hit Him on the head. All that was planned and allowed for by God. He used the evil violence and hatred of men for His Son to fulfil His own purpose of saving those same men's souls if they would be saved. It would be glorious to know in Eternity if we saw those soldiers, or some of the High Priest's followers who had beaten Him up, had repented and been born again!!

v31 *"And after that they had mocked Him, they took the robe off from Him, and put His own raiment on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him."* So onto that Blood-soaked frame they put back the garment - the coat. It is a most extraordinary thing that He will come out of Heaven clothed in a *"vesture dipped in blood"* - the outer garment; and the last time *"blood"* is spoken of in the Bible...

The **First** Scripture (*Genesis 4:10*) about *"blood"* means death. *"The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto Me from the ground."* It is God that we sin against. Murder is commonplace today. The taking of human life is as nothing. John says, *"no murderer hath eternal life"* [1 John 3:15]. To take human life is something God cannot stand because every life belongs to God, so what belongs to God is taken away in the murder. God is the Originator and Owner of life, of all life, not only when we become Christians.

As soon as man was created, he became God's possession. *"... it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture"* it says in the Psalms [100:3b].

God said to Cain, murderer of his brother Abel, *"What hast thou done?"* [Genesis 4:10] It started a long list of murders which must be accounted for... *"The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto Me from the ground"* God said to Cain, and it is so beautifully turned the other way in Hebrews 12:24, *"the blood of sprinkling - as applied to the whole human race - that speaketh better things than that of Abel"*.

And so the **Last** reference to *"blood"* in the Bible is this description of Christ coming out of Eternity to judge the world, where we see that *"He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood."* It was soaked in Blood. But there is no blood in Heaven!! He did not just soak the vesture in blood and come out - that would be pointless. So, as we see that *"blood"* in the Scriptures means mostly a violent death, and that Christ Himself suffered a violent death, the Blood must be His own, soaked into that special garment the soldiers could not destroy! And just as the **first** reference is the violent physical death of Abel which affected God greatly : *"the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto Me from the ground"*, so the **last** reference is a reflection on the violent physical death of God's Beloved One...

Isaiah 63:1 - 6 is a very violent prophecy of the terrible end of those who reject the shed Blood of Christ.

v1, shows the Vision of Christ coming from Edom in the South of Palestine, with its chief town, Bozrah, and Isaiah asks, *"Who is ... this that is glorious in His apparel, travelling in the greatness of His strength?"* Without resistance, Christ and His armies will wade through those slaughtered hosts, because Christ must win!

v1b "I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save." Christ speaking. God has picked this Vision out in all that terrible slaughter, which we read of in *Revelation 14:20* where the blood ran for two hundred miles, and up to the horse bridles. In all that shambles of slaughter, this Man with a different appearance is seen picked out...

v2 "Wherefore art Thou red in Thine apparel, and Thy garments like Him that treadeth in the winefat?" The distinction is made in every case.

Here is the Answer again :

v3 "I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with Me: for I will tread them in Mine anger, and trample them in My fury;" – this is a prophetic Warning which the Nation of Israel never heeded, that they are going to be amongst those suffering in the Battle of Armageddon - *and their blood shall be sprinkled upon My garments, and I will stain all My raiment.*"

It doesn't mean that He picked up the Blood and stained all His raiment, obviously not... But it is easy to see that He could say, "their blood shall be sprinkled upon My garments" as they ride through those masses of dying and dead people...

v4 "For the day of vengeance is in Mine heart, and the year of My redeemed is come." Again, the two thoughts : the **Slaughter** at Armageddon, and, **Redemption** through Blood.

We see the violence of sin. How violent God has been to His Son in dealing with all this terrible sin...

Throughout the 66 Messages of God in these Books called the Bible, the blood is always the Evidence of Death. The word "**blood**" is used about - **338** times in the Old Testament, and about **101** times in the New.

It is used by the Holy Spirit in all those instances as Evidence of Death; never of Life, except to say that the blood which gives life to a flesh and bone body was to be poured out in Death, as it is written in :

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 an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul". It is the blood poured out; the shed blood, violently poured out blood... In that case it would be **Sacrificial Death**.

The word "**blood**" in the Bible confronts you with Death. It is full of Death, because it is full of ... Life!! Death to sin, and Death to sinners – but first Death to sin!

And **Firstly, Violent Physical Death**.

We're seeing that first, not because the First Reference is about violent physical death, but because the word "**blood**" is used most often in the Scriptures in connection with violent physical death. In the Bible you are confronted with Death when you are confronted with the word "**blood**" ... The **First Reference** is in *Genesis 4:10*.

Then **Secondly, Sacrificial Death**. We read that in *Hebrews 12:18 & 22 - 24*.

v18 "For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest."

vs22 - 24 "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23. To the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24. And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

You have come to **Eternity**. You haven't come to Judgment. You haven't come to a revelation of how sinful you are; to a catalogue of your sins, but you ARE come to a sinless Eternity, and to the Saviour, to the Remover of your sin and to the Results of that removal...

v22a "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem..." That is one of the Results of the removal of sin : access to the Heavenly Jerusalem, the Holy City. It is made for redeemed people – redeemed only by the Blood of the Cross. You cannot be redeemed by any other means, at least, not from God's Wrath.

v22b "... and to an innumerable company of angels" who are there only to serve the redeemed. They are servants of the heirs of salvation, we are told in **Hebrews 1:14**.

v23a "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn – those are the redeemed – which are written in heaven..." Only because the Blood of Christ was poured out.

It is really good! It is all to do with Salvation, and the Holy Spirit is free in His use of it. He doesn't talk about it politely, because it wasn't a polite action. It was vulgar; it was violent, and it was vile. Really it wasn't legally just to crucify Christ. But outside the Law, God's Mercy and Love found a Provision for me so that I might come to Christ outside religion, outside legalities, outside all ritual and 'churchianity' – outside my life, outside my morality; outside my standards of life, my family background; outside my community – outside everything!! It is beyond all standards. There is **nothing** to compare with the Death of Jesus Christ, and nothing to justify except **God's Desire for me to be saved**. Nothing. There was no legal justification for Christ to have suffered any pain, let alone to die in those sufferings.

v23b "... and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect..." All through the Work of the Blood, the Result of Calvary. What the Price paid for our Redemption produced!

v24 "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel." Right There in Eternity is the Evidence of Death. Right There where there is Glorious Life, where there is redeemed life, where there is Eternal Life, saved life, forgiven life, holy life, and sinless life in the Person of God and the Seraphim [the four living creatures around the Throne, *Revelation 4:6 – 9; Isaiah 6:2*] and the Angels and Jesus Christ. In all that, the last thing mentioned is this : "and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

The **Third** kind of Death is **Spiritual Death**. We see that is the following verses

1 Corinthians "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither **15:50** doth corruption inherit incorruption."

We are seeing each of these different kinds of Death separated under their different references. **Spiritual Death**; "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God". With blood in your veins you are physically OUT from God's Kingdom. With Christ's Blood out of His veins, spiritually you can be born-again – because "it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul" [**Leviticus 17:11**].

Luke 24:38 – 39 "And He said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? 39. Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have." After His Resurrection, when He appeared to them; He said, 'See the marks for yourselves. They had seen Him crucified; John was standing right there... He told them to get hold of Him and see He was not a spirit, for they thought He was. A spirit is a living person, but without human substance, yet nevertheless a person; a form one can touch, but is not like us. Notice He said, "for a spirit hath not flesh and bones" – not 'flesh and blood' – "...flesh and bones, as ye see Me have."

v40 "And when He had thus spoken, He shewed them His hands and His feet." He had no Blood! He obviously looked different. That is why He said, "Handle Me and see". This is all very wonderful! We take it all in passing, but there is tremendous value in reading these words carefully...

What do you read it for? To see that you are saved! To go out and live a saved, redeemed life from which no sin has been kept back. God has not left one sin of yours unaccounted for. All has been disposed of. That is what we are doing all this for, that we may live that Bloodless life, representing a sinless life; the life of the Spirit; a spiritual life. *Romans 8:6* shows us, "*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace*". The carnal mind, the flesh and blood man, **cannot** obey God's Word. It has to be by God's Spirit.

Christians today are more conscious of their flesh and blood bodies than the Spirit of God. That is why our relationship with each other is always uncertain; hedged about with uncertainties, not a spiritual assurance that I am behaving in a Spirit-filled way, and therefore I am of help to everyone else. I am not a reminder of wrong and the flesh and blood living. Christ never reminded people of this world; He always reminded them of God, not because He always spoke of God, but because He lived a Spirit-filled Life under the control of the Holy Ghost. It was in many ways a normal, ordinary Life lived spiritually.

And that is what we can do. That is the Cross, because the Cross must be applied when you are a flesh and blood person. Christ had to apply it. He went up the hill to Calvary, and He was hung up on the Cross, but we have to do it every day. He had to do it for a particular Purpose.

"Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." **"Blood"** in the Bible confronts you with DEATH. Plain, simple death! Violent death; Sacrificial death; and Spiritual death.

Go through the Bible and pick out the Scriptures with that meaning in your mind. Ask : Is this Physical, or Sacrificial, or Spiritual Death?

Most times *"blood"* is found to indicate violent physical death about **240** times in all, in the Old and New Testaments.

Sacrificial Death is used by the Spirit about **147** times - much less than violent physical death.

Spiritual death has about **52** references...

Work through the Bible and you will learn so much of what God thinks of murder, of taking a man's life; of what God thinks of sin in that sacrificial death, and of what God thinks of a man without Christ - a flesh and blood man; the man dead in his sins; so dead that he cannot know anything about God, unless God tells him...

The end of the afternoon session of the Third Day, *Seek Ye The Lord "By The Blood of Christ"*.

RECOMMENDED READING :*Colossians 1:9 – 20**Hebrews 9:1 – 10**Acts 20:25 – 32**Genesis 4:1 – 10**1 John 1:1 – 10**Leviticus 17:1 -14***7. – Not Without Blood****Not Without Blood**

Hebrews 9:6 – 7 "Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. 7. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people."

"... **not without blood** ..." We have seen that God has proclaimed through this phrase alone, and through many others, that there is no contact with God for man without blood. That is, without the Evidence of the death of a sacrifice. "...**not without blood**..."

We must beware of coming into our services "*without blood*"; without being conscious that our only contact with a Holy God is Forgiveness or Redemption – forgiveness of sins and redemption through the Blood of Christ.

So the high priest took the blood of the sacrifice ... but we do not have to take the blood of a sacrifice. That Blood of Christ was poured out once for all, but we do have to come in with that Evidence in our lives; the Evidence of the Death of Christ. Most Christians do not... They come into their meetings as they are, without being conscious of the Fact that their only means of contact, their only ability or appearance of cleansing which they possess is through the Blood of Christ.

"... **not without blood** ..." "... **not without blood** ..." In teaching Moses and Aaron and His people this point, the LORD said this to Moses :

Leviticus 16:1-2 "... Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not; for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat."

It is a regrettable thing to observe that while God states and claims that through the Blood of His Son the beneficiaries of that Sacrifice should be more holy, they are in fact less holy... Most Christians do not have the faintest idea of what they are doing. The Book of *Leviticus* speaks of the activities of the Church; the congregation coming to God – "...*not without blood* ..."

Aaron was not free to go into God's Presence any old how and at any time. He had to go in **with the blood**, and sprinkle the mercy seat as God said [*Exodus 30:10; Leviticus 16:13 – 14*]. Now, we can come at any time to God, not because we are free to come to Him any old how, but because the **Blood of Christ has been shed**.

Often our worship is polluted with self. It has not the deep consciousness that the Blood of Jesus Christ has made us clean – nothing else; not our worship, or our words, or our coming there. "... *come not at all times* ..." God told Moses to speak to Aaron, and both of them were chosen for the Purpose! Aaron was the high priest...

vs2 - 3

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat. 3. Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering.”

v14

“And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.”

That is the Reason why he was not to come at all times – when he wasn’t ready. God was ready, but Aaron had to do specific things...

We are to come to God “... *not without blood* ...” May the Lord help us to clean up our worship; it is so full of self. Whether we are silent or speaking, we can worship God, but don’t you find that self is predominant in modern Christian worship of God?? If it is full of self then it is not pure, so it does not produce the immediate favourable reaction of the Holy Spirit. If we all came with that Principle in our hearts : “... *not without blood* ...”, the things God would do!! We might not be able to contain them!!

Many people come wanting things, but not coming aright. The message of the Blood is that there is no contact with God without Blood. The writer to the *Hebrews* remembered that by the Spirit, “*come not at all times*”, so he related to them what God had told His people.

There is no contact with God without shedding of blood. There is no cleansing by God without shedding of blood.

The One Thing Left Unchanged

Hebrews 9:22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.” That puts it in the opposite way, but let’s look at it as God would like us to today ... “...*almost all things* ...” – all the vessels were made holy. They were purged with blood. The mercy seat, everything was purged with blood... But the ONE thing that remained untouched by the law of the sacrifice of bulls and goats was ... HUMAN NATURE. They came in unchanged, and they went out unchanged. And NOW that has finished for you and me. NOW, the Blood of CHRIST has obtained, secured, for us REMISSION of our sin, and of our sinful nature!!

So we may all come in; we ought to come in without our natures of sin, without our habits, without the carnal contacts that we make in the course of our day to day living... To come to a Communion Service, you are coming into the Presence of God, and to come in with your mind on some engagement you may have is blasphemy.

It means you have nothing of that Vision of the Cross in your life – nothing at all.

You are supposed to be coming into the Presence of God – and we don’t need a priest dressed up to remind us. The Spirit of God will remind you, that without shedding of blood is no remission. You come in on that phrase, in that attitude, that it is the Blood that has been shed : **the Blood of Christ**.

When we come in with that kind of attitude, we can affect people all around us, but we rather affect people the other way! We are conscious of ourselves and not of the Sacrifice... There is no cleansing by God without shedding of Blood. The Bible puts it the other way, which makes it more forceable : “*and without shedding of blood is no remission*”. So we have that... You can hold on to that Statement. It is marvellous in its import, its force, and its point. “*Without shedding of blood is no remission*” – therefore you HAVE remission because the Blood HAS been shed! You could come in every Sunday saying, ‘I have full remission’, but be conscious of the Fact that you have been washed, that you have been made clean by the Blood that was shed, and that there is NO contact with God without the Blood of the Lamb; there is no cleansing by God without shedding of Blood...

If you are conscious that you are coming into His Presence through that Sacrifice only, and not through anything else, then you will be conscious most of all of anything you may have acquired between one meeting and the next that you know is not clean, and you do not feel clean about it. So you would be intent on getting that thing cleansed away. There is cleansing when you come, not only contact, but also there is cleansing. So many Christians are intent, not on bad things, but on their own experiences, their own testimonies, and those they want to pray for. But that is not how you are to come into God's Presence at all. And that is why there is no effective response from the Holy Spirit...

Then there is that great Scripture which tells us there is no covering up! God cannot cover your life up, as it were, without Blood. It all goes together - we read, "*for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul*".

Leviticus 17:11 *"The life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you - that Life and that Blood - upon the altar - the Cross - to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."*

The **only** Reason that we should have a feeling of well-being, and safety, and the Presence of God is through the Blood; that we are conscious that Christ poured out His Blood. This is the Vision that God would have us to possess...

The Meaning of To Atone

To **Atone** means to cover - the soul is covered. "*for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*" It is a covering for the soul. So the Sacrifice of Calvary, the Evidence of the Death of Christ is God's Way of looking at us, so that He may see us as clean all the time. The Blood of the Cross, the Evidence of Death, the Fact of Calvary, the Crucified Christ - that is the covering for your soul. The Blood is Evidence that Christ has put our sins away, and that Evidence is what God uses as a covering for our souls. It is a Protection, and a Communication to us that all is well between us and Him!!

If you go into a church and you go out with a grievance, that is terrible - but Christians do that all the time! Why is it terrible? - because the Blood of the Covenant does not mean a thing to the life that behaves like that. But it means everything to God. It means that God wants you to feel free to contact Him. ("*Not without blood*").

It means to God that He is quite satisfied you are completely cleansed from all your sin. It means that much to God and it means that He has provided adequate protection - a covering - against yourself, so that He may always deal with you as with Christ.

Paul put it another way, knowing the church he was going to visit, he said, "*I am determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified*" [1 Corinthians 2:2].

The word "**atonement**" is used many times in the Old Testament, but only once in the New. That is in **Romans 5:8 - 11**, where it is important to show you your position...

v10 *"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."* The Atonement is like reconciliation; it means we are changed towards God. It is like a covering of the Sacrifice. The covering of the Blood brings us into contact, into close communication with God. That is what He is able to do through the Blood. "*For it is the blood that maketh an atonement - a covering - for the soul*" [Leviticus 17:11].

When you go into a Communion Service, you go in conscious of your protection, your well-being, your salvation, through this Sacrifice of Calvary. That is the only way you can be in direct contact with God by His Spirit - a living contact. It is only the consciousness of the Cross that makes God and you contacting each other possible in a living and beneficial way.

v11 *“And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”* The “atonement” – the covering for your soul. The soul represents you, the living person. It represents man in the sense that he cannot die. Your soul will never die, and that is what you are, a living soul, and you will always have to have a body. When you die your body here perishes, but you are still alive in one place or another, and at the ultimate settlement [meaning at the First Resurrection, the ‘Rapture’] your soul must receive a physical body. The soul is you! It is for you that Christ died, not your affairs, your way of thinking; He died for you, that you might be happy with Him; that you might have that sense of well-being, of being protected and cared for, with all the ferocity of evil around us.

The Blood of Jesus Christ alone gives us a constant contact with God; nothing else. The Sacrifice of Calvary is the only basis for the Spirit making the contact between you and God; nothing else.

The Blood of Jesus Christ – by the Spirit we read and know that – is the cleansing. We know we are cleansed when we read by the Spirit. That is the only way you can get cleansing. It is not by any works you can get cleansing. It is not by any works of righteousness that we have done. We do not get cleansing because we come to God. We come to God because we have got the cleansing through the poured out Blood. So you have to come clean! We have to come contacting God, cleansed by God.

That last blessed great experience and position : the covering by God. *“For it is the blood that maketh an atonement – a covering – for the soul.”* It keeps you safe until Jesus Christ comes for you or until you die. It keeps you safe. God guarantees us His protection in everything because the Blood was shed – but we must believe it and use the Power of the Blood.

The Evidence of Death

In the Bible, the sixty-six Messages from God comprising the Scriptures, “*blood*” is always the evidence of death, never of life, except where it explains that the blood is the life and it is poured out in death – as we read in *Leviticus*.

It is the Evidence of **Three** Forms of Death : violent, physical death; sacrificial death; and spiritual death. It is the Evidence of Death...

As always when you study a word like, say, the word “*blood*” in all its context and meanings in God’s Holy Word, it is advisable to read its first and last occurrence in the Scriptures. There you will generally find the meanings conveyed throughout the Bible.

In the First Reference, *Genesis 4:10*, “*And He said, What hast thou done? – God speaking to Cain – the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto Me from the ground*”. The death of Abel. Death. “*The life of the flesh is in the blood*” – and that life had been taken; the life was gone, the life of the flesh. The crying of Abel’s blood to God was the crying of murder, of sin, hate, envy, disagreement, dissention, strife, malice, evil – not for mercy, because the life had gone, the blood had gone, and that death was crying out to God.

Cain was defiant, saying, when God asked him where was Abel, “*I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper?*”, when he had just left his brother’s corpse violently slain. “*Blood*” : Death; physical, violent.

The Last Reference is *Revelation 19:12 -13*, “*And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood...*” So this also speaks of Death, in this case, Christ’s Death. Abel’s death to start with, and Christ’s Death to end with! That is a good thing, to end with Christ’s Death! For in that Death, of course, we have Life!

Hebrews 12:24 puts the two deaths together : “*the blood of sprinkling – which we come to, it says, when we come to God – that speaketh better things than that of Abel*”.

So, putting the totals in a different form, we find that the word “*blood*” is used by the Holy Spirit in the sixty-six Books of the Bible, comes about **338** times in the Old Testament, and about **101** times in the New. It is used as Evidence of Death : violent, physical death, sacrificial death or spiritual death ...

Genesis 4:8 - 10. Violent, Physical Death;
Hebrews 12:22 - 24. Sacrificial Death;
1 Corinthians 15:44 - 53. Spiritual Death

v50 *"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."* The blood in my veins is the sign of my human nature. That is why you are to live by the Spirit of God. You cannot live contacting God with your carnal nature. Most Christians endeavour to do that, forgetting that their carnal nature hasn't been improved. They have been given a new life, a new nature; the Nature of God in Jesus Christ!

Human nature cannot live with God. And if I can't live with God for some reason or the other, I am dead, spiritually dead, even though I am still breathing! and a natural man, which means the things of the Spirit are foolish to me, not discerned, not knowing how to contact God. There is the barrier... So flesh and blood represents that in the Bible - the spiritual death of man. "...neither doth corruption inherit incorruption" - spiritual death. BUT, if you are in contact with God, you are spiritually alive!

So I have said already that throughout the Books of the Bible, the word "blood" is used most often as violent, physical death - about **240** times. It is used of sacrificial death about **147** times - considerably less - and of spiritual death about **52** times.

Mentions of Blood Throughout The Old Testament

In the **39** Messages from God in the Old Testament Scriptures, the word "blood" is used in these different Books. (The figures are approximate!)

GENESIS	10 times	PSALMS	15 times
EXODUS	27 times	PROVERBS	7 times
LEVITICUS	86 times	ISAIAH	16 times
NUMBERS	15 times	JEREMIAH	10 times
DEUTERONOMY	21 times	LAMENTATIONS	2 times
JOSHUA	5 times	EZEKIEL	50 times
JUDGES	1 time	HOSEA	4 times
1 SAMUEL	8 times	JOEL	4 times
2 SAMUEL	9 times	JONAH	1 time
1 KINGS	12 times	MICAH	2 times
2 KINGS	13 times	HABAKKUK	3 times
1 CHRONICLES	4 times	ZEPHANIAH	1 time
2 CHRONICLES	8 times	ZECHARIAH	2 times
JOB	2 times		

You will get a good indication of the trend of the Messages from the word "blood" alone, or the emphasis of God in these different Messages. Obviously, *Leviticus* in the Old Testament is the Book that provides you with the greatest illumination in the Bible of the Sacrifice. The terrible violence of the Sacrifice for sin can only be seen as you read through that Book. **86** times "blood" is used. It is almost entirely Sacrificial.

Then in *Ezekiel*, where "blood" is used **50** times, it is almost entirely to do with physical death - violent, physical death. The very few uses of the word "blood" by the Spirit in *Ezekiel* are to do with Sacrificial death. These are some indications to help you in your study...

Mentions of Blood Throughout The New Testament

The New Testament mentions of "blood" also indicates violent, physical death, sacrificial death or spiritual death :

MATTHEW	12 times	GALATIANS	1 time
MARK	3 times	EPHESIANS	3 times
LUKE	8 times	COLOSSIANS	2 times
JOHN	6 times	HEBREWS	22 times
ACTS	12 times	1 PETER	2 times
ROMANS	3 times	1 JOHN	4 times
1 CORINTHIANS	4 times	REVELATION	19 times

In the Book of *Hebrews* we have the most references, the most uses by the Spirit of the word “*blood*”. So with these facts before us we should be helped to make this great eternal study useful and practical in our lives. Don’t let go of this study. We do need to be pure in our lives. We do need to have a pure worship; a clean vision. Our words should be pure words, so that when we pray, and when we speak, people are given the sense of the Presence of God...

That is how it should be, and if it isn’t, take yourself in hand and find out why... It is no good blaming yourself. Just take courage and know that there is the Blood that has made the Atonement for your soul – the covering. It keeps us from depression or discouragement or despair when we remember the Blood.

When Christians are failing in their spiritual walk, it is because they have not the Spirit’s vision of the Work of the Cross. The vital source of all our lives with God, even to your revelation of the Word of God, it all comes out of Calvary, nothing else – ‘nothing but the Blood of Jesus’ [Redemption Hymnal No. 333 R. Lowry].

In *Genesis 9:4 – 6* we have the Evidence of violent, physical death. Even a beast is responsible to God for killing a man [*Genesis 9:5*]. The blood shortens the life because it is the sign of a lack of contact with God. The blood in our veins means that we have been given that way to live. “*The life of the flesh is in the blood*” – but the Life of God is through the Blood of Christ, by the Spirit. A man forfeited that, but in order that he may live to repent, God gave him blood...

Immediately you have a mighty teaching here that God has set His face against murder; against the killing of man, and where men had to kill animals for food, they had to acknowledge that God was the Owner of that life. They had to cover the blood with dust to show they were not in control, and that they couldn’t shed blood just as they wanted to [*Leviticus 17:13 – 14*].

God acknowledged that because of sin, they were killing an animal for food. Where they killed an animal for a sacrifice, they had to bring the blood in to the priest, acknowledging that God was the Owner of all life. Because we have sin our lives have been shortened, but God is still in control, and it is to God that man is responsible for his life.

v6 “*Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man.*” To execute a man, by what we call Capital Punishment, for taking another man’s life is Biblically sound and intended... It is the evidence of violent, physical death.

Genesis 37:22 – 31 is the story of Jacob’s sons when they got hold of Joseph. They wanted to kill him, but Reuben said, *v21*, “*Let us not kill him... Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness*”.

vs31 – 34 “*And they took Joseph’s coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; 32. And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, this have we found: know now whether it be thy son’s coat or no...*” Again; violent, physical death.

The Holy Spirit throughout the Bible always speaks of death when He speaks of “*blood*”. So we can go on through the **240** times that it is used in the Bible where we find it is the evidence of death, violent physical death.

And we see there is also evidence in the New Testament of death in a violent, physical way :

Matthew 23:30 – 35 “...the blood of the prophets...” Violent, physical death. The word “blood” is a terrible word...

v36 “Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.” – all this murder shall come upon this generation...

Matthew 27:6–8 “And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. 7. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in. 8. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.”

vs24 – 25 “When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. 25. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.”

These two passages speak of the violent Death of Christ. The silver pieces were the price of death. They paid Judas that much to get their hands on Him, to destroy His human life. Pilate said, “I am innocent of the blood of this just person” – ‘I am not responsible for His violent death’. He saw they were bent on the utmost violence. The very sight of Christ’s Face and Body showed Pilate that...

[Then the Holy Spirit moved to bring a prophecy :

“Yea, Grace is poured into thy lips, yea, the Grace of thy God, which thou shalt tell forth. Yea, the grace of thy Lord. Mercy which passeth all thine understanding hath He poured upon thee, that thou should speak of Him. Yea, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain; yea, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain. Yea, Grace is poured into thy lips that thou might testify of the Grace and the Mercy of thy God. Yea, worthy is the Lamb that was slain!”]

The end of the morning session of the Fourth Day, Seek Ye The Lord “**By The Blood of Christ**”.

RECOMMENDED READING :*John 6:50 – 55**Revelation 1:5 – 6**Acts 20:28**Revelation 5:9 – 10**Hebrews 9:11 – 12***8. – Made Nigh By Blood****Life through His Blood**

John 6:53 - 55 "Then said Jesus unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. 54. Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55. For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed."

God claims Eternal bounty, and Mercy for the whole human race **solely and only through** the Blood of Christ. I cannot live one day in this world except I depend solely on the Death of Christ as my sole contact with God.

To eat the flesh of Jesus Christ and to drink His Blood must be a daily thing; an essential part of your daily life. Then your contact with God is secured. It means a living an effectual life with God. Christ's Death has brought us to God – the relationship has been made concrete. Except I depend on the Death of Jesus Christ I do not have the Life of God as a reality within me...

v54 "Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." All those who do this will be those people in the First Resurrection.

Revelation 20:6 says, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection" – "hath part"; this is the same thing as eating His flesh and drinking His Blood; having a part in Him. The Lord Jesus lived by **the Word of God**. If we are to be a part of Him for Eternity, we must also live by that same Word. That is the relationship which He has purchased for us...

Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood."

This statement clearly shows Christ as **God**. So as **God** He has got Himself an assembly of people **He** claims to be sinless. **God** would only purchase sinless things! We must own up to the fact that if we are sinful, living sinful lives as Christians, it is our own fault – not Christ's! We are not different from the world because of our superior quality – the Lord said, "For I say unto you, That except your right-eousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" [*Matthew 5:20*]. All we have to claim as belonging to **God** is the Righteousness of **Christ**.

Hebrews 9:11-12 "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12. Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

Christ entered God's Home as **a Perfect Man** – that is, without Blood. *Chapter 9 of Hebrews* goes on to say in *v14*, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" – "**purge your conscience**", in other words, by His Blood He has made you to be accepted by God as one with a con-science that is **sensitive to every movement of God**; able to be activated by the Holy Spirit, as **His** was...

In our sinful state without the shed Blood of Christ, our conscience was dead, guilty and unclean. Now it has been made clean. If you are aware of that, that your conscience is clean, then you are more aware of God than other people, who are full of their own ways, and their own words and their own ideas... But you will be listening to God – with your pure conscience.

Revelation 1:5-6 *“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood. 6. And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”*

Look at the immediate transformation to once-sinful men by the shed Blood of Christ! Once we needed washing, now we are made kings and priests! It is not a gradual transformation. Now we have Eternal Life – and therefore a complete transformation.

Revelation 5:9-10 *“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10. And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”*

Our position now has nothing do to with our background. We are transformed by the Blood of Christ alone. So we can have wholesale murderers believing the Gospel and knowing that they are being accepted by God through that shed Blood... And what about signs and wonders? It is the Word of God which produces by its transforming Power the signs and wonders.

We are not to put any stress upon what our background was. That limits the boundless limitlessness of the Gospel. By the shed Blood of Christ we have been severed from, as Peter put it, *“the vain conversation – the worthless behaviour – received by tradition of [y]our fathers”* [1 Peter 1:18]. Remember the thief on the cross? he went straight into a safe Eternity because he looked to Christ for his Future life.

Hebrews 12:18 - 24

“For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, 19. And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: 20. (For they could not endure that which was commanded, and if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: 21. And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) 22. But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels; 23. to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven; and to God the Judge of all; and to the spirits of just men made perfect; 24. And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.”

This is the Revelation of the Remover of sin and of His Redeeming Work...

Better Things

The poured out Blood of Christ speaks of *“better things”* – the continuous contact with God. The blood of other deaths could not produce that, whether the blood of an innocent animal or of the death of a righteous man like Abel.

The poured out Blood of Christ shows us that every one has the right to continuous contact with God. The Blood is the means by which we get the covering – the assurance of His eye ever upon us. We must experience **cleansing**, not condemnation.

1 Corinthians 6:11 *“And such were some of you: – thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners, v10 – but – there’s that revoking **“but”** again! – but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”*

These are the “*better things*”... The Blood of Christ must produce a good – a **better** – effect upon our lives, our thinking, our actions and reactions, our whole bearing in the way we go about our lives.

John 1:12–13 *“But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: 13. Which were born, not of blood, – sinful human blood – nor of the will of the flesh – sinful human flesh – nor of the will of man, but of God.”*

There is the transformation – the complete transformation : “*born ... of God*”. We have been completely transformed in our relationship with God, and being filled with the Holy Ghost, we will always be conscious of the effect of Calvary upon God. God can only bring us close to Himself because of the Blood of the Cross. **That** is the effect that Calvary has had upon God...

- So we have cleansing through the Blood; we have access to “*better things*”.
- We have been justified by the poured out Blood; we have been **made right** in the eyes of a Holy, sin-hating God.

Romans 5:1–2 *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2. By whom also we have access by faith into His grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”*

We have been justified by faith; **we have faith that we have been justified** by the out pouring of Christ’s Blood. You must accept that!! It is only the acceptance of that Fact that will make you right before God. We have access; we have peace with God; a right relationship has been established for us to have that access into the circle of God’s Favour. There is no room for anything except the Grace of God.

Here is another of those “*better things*” ... the Love of Jesus Christ! We see that powerfully displayed in the latter verses of **Romans 8** :

Romans 8:34–36 *“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36. As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”*

There is no one to condemn you if God doesn’t condemn you! There is no depth of despair from which you cannot rise above in what men may say about you or to you. His Blood poured out has joined you FOREVER to Christ. That is why there will come such Fury, personal Fury from Christ at the Battle of Armageddon. He has called men His brethren. He has laid the foundation for friendship – a firm, unbreakable foundation. Those rejecters of that time will experience Christ’s great displeasure...

But the Church, His Body, will experience the continual enjoyment of His Love. Only unbelief can sever a man or a woman from this impregnable safety. As we saw in **Hebrews 9:22**, “*almost all things are by the law purged – made clean, made pure – with blood*” – the law could not achieve a breakthrough into human nature, the human mind, with it being “*carnal*” and at “*enmity with God*”. “*It is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be*” says **Romans 8:7**. Sinful human nature is outside the scope of the atoning blood.

But now that the Lord Jesus Christ has poured out His Blood, all barriers of that disgraceful human nature, the doubts that cloud the relationship, are swept away by Christ. Human nature doesn’t like correction. And here’s the Nature of God : Love doesn’t force its correction!

Therefore there has been dissolution of human nature in God’s sight because of the Blood of Christ. God is now free to treat every one of us as His children of like nature, of like character and of like conduct! Hallelujah! Hallelujah to the Lamb!

Taking our title for this afternoon's study – **Made Nigh By Blood** – which is from *Ephesians 2:13*, “*But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ*” – that is it : we were “*far off*”; we were outside God fatherly care...

This is the sentiment expressed by Christ when He was suffering on the Cross : *Psalms 22:11*, “*Be not far from Me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help*”. He didn't want to be cut off from God as His Father.

The prophets had a vision of the Grace of God, even though they didn't know that it would eventually be expressed in the Suffering and Death of Christ... But our emphasis must be on God's Grace, too. Don't discuss the wickedness of men around us. It will be an un-righteous anger that will well up within you as you do focus on those things. All men have been “*made nigh*” by the Blood of Jesus Christ. We must believe only what GOD has done through Calvary. We don't need to enlarge on the troubles and evil doings of other men. We are to concentrate on what God has already achieved; we have been made as close to God as if we were seated next to Him on His Throne!

Believe that we have been given – freely – His **Eternal** Life. Through Christ's Death there **is** Victory over all things. Christ praised God even from the Cross, vowing to declare God's name before His resurrected brethren on that Resurrection Day, saying, “*in the midst of the congregation will I praise Thee*” [*Psalms 22:22*].

So if we are part of Him, we also must praise God in all our circumstances, as He did. It must come from our individual lips; it must come from each individual heart. When we see that complete transformation in another person, it does bring joy to you, isn't that so?

Ephesians 2:13 “*But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*” That's where we are now – “*made nigh*”. It means that God now claims that my human nature has **vanished out of His sight**, as though I am sitting with Him on His Throne!! – that's how close “*made nigh*” means to Him!

Ephesians 2:6 “*And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*”

We have been “*raised*” to that position; therefore we are counted as being without human nature any longer! **That** is the Position we have in Christ Jesus – a Position of the highest privilege.

Romans 6:23 “*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

Another “*but*”, completely revoking the previous situation! “... *but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*”. So we are counted as being seated on that Throne in God's Heaven **with** Christ – “*made nigh*”, and that utmost Power is available to each of us!

It is the highest prestige, the highest reputation that we share with Christ, who according to *Hebrews 7:26* is “*holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens*”. And we have been given this Position BEFORE we get there!

Let it move within us today, and work out in our souls, this Glorious Fact that **because** of the poured out Blood of Christ, God has placed upon us the **same** privilege, the **same** Power, the **same** Position, the **same** reputation as **Jesus Christ**!! Hallelujah! Praise His Name!!

The end of the afternoon session of the Fourth Day, *Seek Ye The Lord “By The Blood of Christ”*.

9. – The Blood of Sprinkling

Satan's Failure

1 Corinthians 2:7-8 *"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8. Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."*

The Scriptures declare quite plainly and openly that Satan and his unholy, unclean demonic legions of spirits, know **more** than even redeemed men understand of **the Power of the Blood** – that is, of the Scope of God's Giving to man through the Cross, through Christ Crucified.

Now this is an extraordinary Statement made by the Spirit of God : *"Which none of the princes of this world knew"* – they didn't know God's hidden Wisdom, that is, they didn't know God's Answer, firstly to the evil already existing in the world through Satan being in the world before God created man... and then, they didn't know God's Answer to Satan's infection, or affecting, the created man with sin. There was the double crime, and there was a double Answer. And it says, if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory.

So working from that point this morning – Satan knows more than you do, you who say you are filled with the Spirit, of the value of that shed Blood to God, on your behalf, because Satan is your enemy and his whole life is full of plans and actions to destroy us. He is our open declared enemy. But that emphasises this Statement – if he had known what God would do, if he'd known how God would react and use that Death, he would not have crucified ... it means, he would not have pressed and persuaded men; he would not have filled Judas Iscariot with himself, and filled Caiaphas, and filled Pilate, and filled the Jews to hurry and harry their Saviour to the Cross. He would not have done that. He would have tried some other thing.

Now it is not that the Spirit of God is holding back information from you, it is because we are so filled with our human nature – the very thing that Satan infected us with – and we do not let go of that in respect to the Cross. We are supposed to, but we don't – and that is what hinders us from seeing what Satan sees ...

Satan sees clearly how much God has used that Cross, to give Himself freedom and room to move on your behalf. So Satan's accusations and efforts to destroy man falls on God's deaf ears, and God is blind to our crimes – they have been blotted out by the Blood of Christ. So Satan's most powerful weapon, accusation of sinful man, has been destroyed by God. But man, because of his human nature, because he's been brought into this world in a flesh and blood body will not really see that it is only by the Spirit we can live.

Satan was already in existence when man was made, and so were his unclean spirits. They had already sinned. They are what the Bible calls *"angels which had not kept their first estate"* [Jude 6] – that is, the position God, their Creator, had put them in, just like man has left his position of sinless living; a sinless relationship to God...

And so from the beginning when man was created, Satan was unaware of God's Plan to build a Family for Himself – from mankind, of course – through Jesus Christ. When he, Satan, saw Man created, Adam and Eve, he saw that God was doing something to gain to some sort of fellowship with somebody, but he was unaware that **Jesus Christ** was the key to the situation. Jesus Christ was God's Answer to evil present in the world in the person of Satan. But Jesus Christ was already chosen by God to be the Beginning of the Family. That is what we read in *Ephesians* ...

Ephesians 1:3-4 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4. According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:”* – in the Person of Christ, that was **the Pattern** for the Family. And Christ was not only God’s Pattern for the Family but He was also the Provision as God’s **Protection** for the man and woman and subsequent generations from this awful presence of evil, in the person of Satan. And Satan was totally unaware of that.

He thought, Christ had created Man and now Man would have to go it, as it were, under God’s Supervision and Authority, but he was unaware that God was dealing with them from the beginning through Christ; that Christ would be the **Channel** through which Man would approach God – it made it so easy!

Christ is easy to be entreated, full of Mercy and good fruits! [He is the Wisdom from Above, *James 3:17*] That’s not because He died, but because that’s what He is! That’s why He’s God’s Daily Delight [*Proverbs 8:30*]; He’s tender hearted; He’s humble; He’s easily approachable. You can see that Satan had easy access to Christ, but of course, you can’t change Christ’s holiness... He’s easy of access, but you can’t mess around with sin in His Presence. So that’s how it was. But His ease of approach, His easiness, that is, His great love for God’s creation made Him a very powerful Answer from God as a **Protection** for Man against the sin which was already there, the evil; the detesting of Christ; the dislike of His Ways, His Love, His Humility...

So Satan, unaware of this, infected Mankind, as we know, with distrust of God. As soon as distrust enters into any relationship, then sin comes, even to unregenerate men. They may not be sinning against each other personally, until they start to distrust each other. Then sin comes in, in every way. So into this sinless relationship came distrust – of God – then of course, followed by disregard of God. They listened to Satan’s lies, and then of course, that lead to disobedience. All a sorry tale...

That was Satan’s attempt to deprive God of even those two people to love. You can see what hate is. When people are opposed to Christ, they’ll go to any lengths to destroy Love. So he made his attempt to deprive God of the two people He’d created just to love them. God was not getting anything out of them, but He was able to love somebody, through Christ. Through Christ God can love everybody – Christ is the Channel for that Love. So Satan did that with God’s first Creation, the first man; sinless man – not a perfect man, a sinless man. You are not perfect until you have been tried – and succeeded in the trial! Then you become perfect on every point that you’ve been tried on. But until you are tried, you are just what you are, untried, as in the case of Adam, untried sinlessness. But there was Christ to help. He could have gone to Christ immediately, but he didn’t...

And then Satan having infected men, and seeing that now they weren’t any good to God any more, even with God destroying the world and keeping Noah alive, Satan thought he had the edge to God then; Christ was being deprived of His delight to love men and show them how they can live with God.

Then he carried on like that until Christ appeared – God’s second sinless Man! Christ too was sinless – and He wasn’t perfect until He had suffered, until His sinlessness had been tried, but there was God’s Second sinless Man... And here Satan made his second mistake : he thought he would get men – not by demonic powers, but the men he had infected with sin already – to be at odds with God. He got them to crucify this sinless Man, Who he well knew was the Creator. He knew Him to be the Eternal Creator; he knew exactly Who He was. But he knew men didn’t know, so he blinded their eyes and captivated their wills, and destroyed their thinking powers God-wards and persuaded them into this.

Then he thought : ‘That’s sure; that’s fixed it forever’. This is true; that is what comes out of that Scripture we read in **1 Corinthians 2:8** *“for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory”*... He thought that now God MUST destroy all mankind because man destroyed God in the flesh. The men didn’t know that, but Satan knew. Then God’s Answer to that was **Christ Crucified**...

What Satan didn’t know – the *“hidden wisdom”* v7 – was that God had not revealed that Christ was His Answer to **first**, the presence of evil in this world, and **second**, to the presence of evil in Man. First He provided Christ as a **Pattern** for Adam and Eve to live by and then as a **Protection** for them against Satan.

It says, *vs6 - 7, "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect - those that are now accepting the Cross - yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery - wisdom is the Answer of God - even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory."* So Christ wasn't hidden from Satan, but God had not revealed Christ's part in this matter of Adam and Eve. He only saw Christ creating Adam and Eve; that's nothing to Satan, that was Christ's Power of which he was envious, anyway.

But now, God's Answer to Satan : because Satan didn't know that God would use that crucifixion of the sinless, innocent, blameless Christ, God would, because Christ was sinless, innocent and blameless, clear **all** men of their guilt before Him; their sin of distrust of God. To distrust God is a sin, and that must be openly confessed. Christ Crucified has put that right out of God's sight so that men can trust God completely, unconditionally, without 'whys' and 'wherefores'.

Distrust of God; disregard for God and disobedient to God and His Word - God used the Death of Christ, as we have been seeing these past days, to put ALL that out of God's sight. So far from making man's situation worse, as Satan had confidently thought, God has made it **better**, because now, instead of having to grope our sinless, untried way to God, looking to Christ for Protection, all the time, and endeavouring to follow in His footsteps, now we have **Forgiveness**. We have **all** God's Attention toward us; we have God taking no answers from Satan. He's disregarding all statements that man is imperfect, that man isn't tried, that man can't be tempted in all points and still succeed. **That** is how God is treating Man - as someone who is able to meet this awful one and say, 'That's enough of you; I know what I'm doing'. So it really is a **Better Position**.

That's why we read that the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world [*Revelation 13:8*]. From the moment man, through Satan's agency, began his life away from God **that** was the Plan God had in His heart. God said He would have a Family, and a Family God will have! What God says He does! If you choose to be in the Family on God's conditions, you are welcome to be, but if you're not, that is your own fault. But God will have a Family - there will be men and women down these ages who will accept God's Answers - Christ Crucified; Christ the Creator, Christ the Creator Crucified - a double Answer. Some one who knows Everything about Everything!!

Christ knows Everything about God; He knows Everything about Man. He knows all about God from Endless Ages past; there's not a moment when He didn't know God, and there's not a moment when He didn't know you!

And now He's come and been and done it for us!! And so let's start this morning with that thought in you of repentance of some kind, that Satan is more aware of the weapon that Christ has put into God's hand against Satan on man's behalf, by agreeing to be crucified; agreeing to the Conditions in such a way that He was crucified the way Satan took men. God knew it would happen that way, and God wanted Christ to suffer that way. That was the way - the way that cruelty, demonic cruelty, unparalleled ferocity and hatred, would be unleashed by Satan, through men, on to Christ.

If you look at it that way - all these forces of evil, their personal antagonism against Christ that activated these respectable men, these religious men - just fancy, a man of Caiaphas's standing, spitting in the Face of a Man he knew had done nothing wrong. And even if a man was a criminal, what a lack of self control, what a giving himself over to hatred... They spat in His Face, and the soldiers spat in His Face, and they hit Him and beat Him; they were brutal. Once they found that the authorities were willing for anyone to do what they liked with Him, then they gave vent to their own bestiality. They spat in His Face! They are the ones who plucked His beard, the hair from His cheeks. They're the ones who did it. They're the ones who hit Him in the Face, they beat Him; they smote Him. So we can see that now, this extraordinary Statement : "*Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory*".

God's Answer to Men

That is God's Answer. And by the Spirit of God that should be your Answer to Everything. Remember John the Baptist? He was beset by all these antagonistic men to something outside their religion, something outside their formalities, and their dead rituals and the Law of God which they were not keeping anyway, their sacrifices and their Sabbaths, and a man came out with seemingly no education and not being taught in the accepted schools of religion, yet he had a grasp of God...

Then they said, 'Who are you? What is your account of yourself? And why do you come preaching and baptising?' And to all this rain of questions, John said first, 'Oh, I'm not He', 'I'm not the Christ', he kept saying all that in a rather negative way. Then suddenly he SAW his Answer, not in his mind, he SAW his Answer : "*Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world*" [John 1:29].

Then the Holy Ghost who was filling John confirmed it by saying, 'Yes, that's He; that's the One of Whom you spoke and are being sent to preach. Here's the Scripture, I'll read it to you... It's to show you your Vision through the Cross. (John the Baptist wasn't here when Christ was crucified, but he had a vision of the Cross.)

John 1:22 - 36 *"Then said they unto him, Who art thou? ... What sayest thou of thyself? - because he had said, v20, "I am not the Christ". All very true, but negative; it didn't give them an answer. 25. And they asked him, Why - first "Who?" then "What?" now they said "Why"; "Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?" - 'You don't seem to be anybody, and yet you're doing all these things with such authority'. 26. "John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; - and neither did he ... And,*

v29 *"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, - and he gave out God's Answer! He didn't have an answer, but God HAS the Answer. God had the Answer from the foundation of the world - and saith, Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."*

Then John poured out, **v30**, "*This is He of whom I said, - now he was quite sure - v31, And I knew Him not: but that He should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water*". Now he was giving all the reasons.

'Who are you?' - I am a pointer, to the Saviour.

'What are you talking about?' - 'The Lamb of God'.

'Why are you baptizing?' - 'Just that He may be revealed'.

v32 *"And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him"* One must see that to see Christ, one must be in a perfect unanimity with the Spirit of God. You must be filled with God's Holy Spirit.

v33 *"And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost."* So he gave the Full Gospel in one! :

The Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world, and

The Holy Ghost Who reveals the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

So the Two Persons were revealed by one to whom God had given this Message of Salvation...

v34 *"And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God"* - the thing that Satan had been unaware of; not that he was unaware that Christ was the Son of God, but that Christ was the Pattern, He was the Protection and now He was the Perfect Sacrifice. Everything was fulfilled in that Eternal Creator.

vs35 - 36 *"Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; 36. And looking upon Jesus as He walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!"* This is God's Answer.

This has always attracted men of all ages, of all races, of all time, to see, and to behold, and to be convinced that there is Someone who has taken away all our sin. And in taking away your sin, He's taken away the results of your sin; your doubts, your fears - for that is sin.

The result of sin means that you must live a life of fear; underneath you must be fearful of something or the other. You must be uncertain; you must always have problems which will crush you eventually. So all those results of sin are taken away when sin is taken away.

“Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.” And, as I said at the beginning, the Bible says that Satan and his demons are more aware than man of what God has done in Christ and through Christ. That is God’s complete Answer as found in the Scriptures.

So from *1 Corinthians 2:9 - 16*, then everything becomes clear, that we haven’t seen with our human eyes, nor heard with our human ears, nor perceived nor understood or felt in our human hearts the things that God has prepared for them that love Him, but God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit.

Human Nature Consigned to The Past

So now God has by-passed human nature and for every born-again child there is the Person of the Holy Spirit to reveal to you Christ in the Scriptures. The Bible is closed to us without the Spirit – that is what it means... And every Word of God has been so written, so constructed, that it should point to Christ Crucified; the Lamb of God, as your complete Perfect and sufficient Answer for all your problems, which all come out of sin – sin being the creator of all problems; for all your fears only comes out of sin.

If you disconnect your contact with God, then fear must take hold of you. So conversely, if you fear things, you are not in contact with God, through the Blood of Jesus Christ. You have not believed that that Sacrifice was sufficient for you. Satan knows it is; Satan knows that God is on your side and that God will do anything for you through the Blood of the Cross.

So all your life then should be based on this Pattern – Christ Crucified; Christ’s complete confidence that God’s Word was always right, and whatever sorrow, or anguish, or pain, or tribulation it brought Christ into, He always was quite clear that what God did was right. It must triumph; it must bring victory over evil; victory over sin, victory over sorrow, victory over despair and desolation and death. Victory, always victory, because God must win – and the Blood of Christ is the Guarantee, the Pledge from God that He will win for YOU. Not that He will win for Himself; He has no opposition, but that in all that Satan has endeavoured to do, God has provided an adequate Answer for Man, as it is written.

Man then can know the Full Scope of God’s Love poured out through the shed Blood of Christ on the Cross – if he will give heed to God’s Holy Spirit. You cannot understand the Bible – you cannot, in other words, break through this construction, these structural words, to get the meaning of God’s Blessing and Salvation for you except through the Holy Spirit.

v14 *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* Human, or carnal, nature cannot contact God; it cannot. Except you believe by the Spirit of God, you cannot find anything in the Bible to comfort you, and bless you, and show you the way to go...

When Christ asked His disciples Who did they think He was, Peter said, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”* [Matthew 16:16] and Jesus said unto him, *“Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jonah: – He didn’t say, ‘You’re a very fortunate man to have such a brain – what He meant was, that God by His Spirit had given him that answer – for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee – no man had taught him that. No man could show him that that Man standing before him was the Eternal Creator come to be the Eternal Crucified One.*

The only way you know it is true by the Spirit when you read it, is when you know it’s true in your life. It’s written in print, so we say that we believe it, but many people say they believe that Jesus Christ is the Christ the Son of the living God, but they are not born again; they are not living a life of crucifixion; they are full of problems, the problems produced by sin. They can’t control their human natures; they haven’t crucified it; they don’t know anything about that, because they are not believing these things by the Spirit.

If you are moved by the Spirit you will be changed by the Spirit. If you believe the Word of God by the Spirit that Christ died for your sins, you would be born again by the Spirit, using this Word...

v17 *"Flesh and blood hath not revealed this unto you... The blood in our bodies, in our veins, is a sign, the evidence of our sinful human nature, that is the natural man out of contact with God. "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" [1 Corinthians 15:50]. "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee" – the Answer that God gave was, through Christ Crucified, is this : 'I have put away all your sins, and now you will live that sinless life which I have given you by the help of My Spirit, because Christ is now on My Right Hand'.*

But we take half the story! We believe that Christ put away our sins then go out and live our own lives, which means **we are not living by the Spirit of God**. That is what the Blood was poured out for, that we should realise that ALL our lives are useless – we must have a spiritual life, in other words, living by the Spirit. So Christ poured out all His sinless Blood, the Evidence of His sinless Nature which was always in contact with God – being sinless – on the behalf of your sinful natures. That was God's Answer to Satan; Satan's attempt to infect men with sin.

He infected mankind with sin, therefore they became people of flesh and blood – not flesh and spirit, but flesh and blood – and then he proceeded to seize his opportunity, as he thought, of Christ here as a Man, obviously not using His Divine power to live. So he pressed through to get men to crucify the Christ, thinking in those two manners, God will now put paid to men's account.

But here you are – this is God's Answer : *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."* [Roman 8:1] That's what the meaning is of Christ pouring out all His Blood. That is the significance of that Death.

v2 *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and of death" – that is in our human natures*

v3 *"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, – it couldn't produce perfection, because the flesh is weak; the flesh cannot obey God and doesn't desire to be perfect, as God thinks of perfection – God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, – that is, He became not a sinful Person but a Man of flesh and blood substance – and for sin – that is because of sin, sinful human nature in other people – condemned sin in the flesh."*

So God took the crucifixion of Christ, the pouring out of His Blood as sufficient Evidence that He had dealt with every man's sin in Jesus Christ on the Cross. So then, here we have Christ without Blood before God, therefore, we have you and me without sin before God. Christ without Blood; we without sin – we still have to live here, as flesh and blood people, but living as flesh and blood people in respect of our normal requirements : We eat and we drink, which we must do; we must be clothed, we must have a place of shelter, we must sleep, we must rest, and we must work for our living. These are the 'musts' of this world, but the one 'must' that keeps us benefiting from that Sacrifice is that we live by God's Spirit.

That is, all our life to follow God must be by His Spirit, not by the capacity to eat and drink, or to sleep or to rest or to work, or to train or to be educated or to educate others. That has nothing to do with Eternal Life. The Blood of Christ was poured out to give us free access to God by His Spirit, and that is how we have to live. So we read again, [Hebrews 2:14] *"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood – meaning, mankind, whom God had planned to be His children – He also Himself likewise took part of the same, that through death – physical death can only come upon a person of flesh and blood – He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil"*.

So Satan's power of provoking men to disobedience to God and disregard of God and doubting of God was completely shattered at Calvary. God was pleased to accept every man as obedient, very mindful of Him and never doubting Him in any way, because Christ died – that's put to your account!

Your account in Heaven is a very, very long standing account! It dates from Calvary, and it has accumulated interest in that sense, that nothing shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. Not only has God put away all your debts to Him, and we all owe God our lives, because of our sin; we owed Him the debt; disobedience provides a debt; something you have to settle with God, the only Settlement is Eternal Judgment, but not only has God put all that away ... and where Satan thought, 'Now I've crucified the Creator, through men, mankind has had it! they're finished' ... God has not only put away all our debts, through that Crucifixion, but **He has given us an account!** He's opened an account for us, an account of Eternal Life – well, Eternal Life cannot end! It goes on and on, and on and on – eternal. It is an eternal account; you can draw on it all the time.

But if you live a spiritually bankrupt and pauperised life; if you're always prone to the movements of this world, that is, the world governed by Satan – that's what this world is – to doubts, despairs, frustrations, irritations and fretfulness, and assertions of your own rights and your personally – if you do all that, then you're bankrupt. It means that you have all that through the Blood of the Cross and you are leaving it for the pleasures of this world, for a season...

(Hebrews 2:14b) "...that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15. And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." It's death here and the fear of afterwards that grips mankind. So they struggle not to die here – 'I must have food; I must have money; I must have happiness – if I don't have peace, I'll kill myself'. So they strive for these things in this world. But God has destroyed all that strife, in one stroke, through the Blood of the Cross, the Blood of the everlasting covenant.

Remember it says [Hebrews 13:20] *"Now the God of?... peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant"* ... The account cannot be over-drawn! It's there for all Time and Eternity, that great account, which Paul described [Ephesians 1:3] as *"[God] who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ – that's where your 'bank' is, so to speak – that's where your Source of supply is; that's where, by the Spirit only you can go.*

Not by your human contrivance; not through a man-made religion, but through the **Spirit** you go to God's supply; to Jesus Christ. Not through your own efforts, that is, not through your good works : 'I'm a good father; I've looked after my children; I'm a good husband / I'm a good wife, I'm a good son / I'm a good daughter' ... Doubtless there are many like that, but you still have your problems; you still have your fears, you still have your anxieties, you still have your strivings, you still have your lusts and your desires – and that will take you to eternal damnation, good and all. But through **Christ**, your contact with that boundless store of Grace, blessings, power and promises, is by the Spirit, not by my good works; by the Spirit, not by my achievements – 'Oh, look, I've helped to run the country; I've helped to establish a system of godly education, or decent social living' ...

That's not the way you draw on the 'bank' of God. That's not the way; that way doesn't make for anything – Satan doesn't mind all that. You see, he encouraged Adam and Eve to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but it's the knowledge of God, of the Goodness of God, that the Spirit takes you to. And that's how you live, or that's how you should live! That's the way to appropriate the Sacrifice of Calvary.

Behold The Lamb of God

That's the way to understand John the Baptist's vision ... 'Who are you; What are you doing here; What is your report; Why are you doing this?' ... *"Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."* That's the only reason why you preach; that's the only reason why you're alive in this world – *"Behold the Lamb of God"*. That's the only reason why you're a Christian; that's the only reason why you believe the Scriptures: that men should be blessed with the same blessing wherewith God has blessed you; that they too should find Salvation; that they too should find that they're not paupers, nor are they just building up corruptible possessions, something that must end, something that's inadequate even to give them satisfaction and health and life and joy and peace ... but that they now can have access to that Fountain of Grace, that 'bank', if you like; that endless supply of all their need. Everything comes from that.

So that, if you really felt the Call of God today, and where you are working you started to preach as God would have you to preach, you would soon have to be doing it all the time, and you wouldn't have time to do other things. And God would take over, even your financial commitments, that is, you have to earn money to live. Well, then, if you're serving God in that way, then God will provide you with food and clothes and shelter – even in this world He will provide you with everything until the Church's work is done, and He will say, 'Come up here!'

So that is all the Message of the Blood, and that is how we should live. Christians don't live like that today. They surround themselves with all of the care and the comfort and the conveniences of this life, and then set out to preach the Gospel. They even go to Colleges and Schools, and they set themselves up and they build huge buildings ... and there is no sign or evidence of a Crucified Christ in it all. Christ came to **take away the sin of this world!** The lusts of the flesh is sin. The fondest for comfort in this world is a sin. Christ Crucified is a Passion that God shall be formed in me – that's a Passion, and when you have that Passion, you are not so concerned, or you can't really be, for you will have this driving, compelling force of Eternity, and you draw on your endless supply – it's the Blood of the everlasting covenant; that's precious Blood.

So now God can deal with you, as He has always wanted to, by His Spirit. He has always wanted to have a direct line to you; a sinless, clear line, from One sinless Person to another, without the complications of sin. Sin complicates men's thinking so that even Christian men without the Spirit of God write all kinds of tomes, books, about the Bible, deviating from the main supply, the main Source of supply, which is Christ Crucified.

Really you have no reason to doubt God, to be unhappy about anything. Just where you are, live a full life, proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ. Just be happy to do that, all the time. It is a wonderful Salvation! : Christ without Blood; you without sin – both before God. So that now God can deal with you by His Spirit. You who are born again – that is what you are! You're born again, because you're not born of human blood, that's human nature; you're not born again of blood. Don't accept that. Remember that by the Blood of the Cross you are born of God's Spirit, so you are indestructible, in that sense. Where Satan or men say to you, 'Look at that; look at the difficulties, this is the way out', you can say, 'No, the way out is only the Way of the Cross. That's the way out, for me. And God will keep me'.

Where your human nature is getting so pressed that you're getting a bit troubled, God will show you the way of escape. You'll never have it too hard or too big for you. You are born again, not of blood, so you are not dealing with God according to your limited human nature. You are dealing with Him in an unlimited way.

You can do what through Christ? – "*all things*"; the Bible says that [*Philippians 4:13*]. You are more than? – "*conquerors through Him that loved us*" [*Romans 8:37*]; through Christ; He's the Channel. The Blood was poured out of Christ to give you a spiritual outlet, a spiritual reaction to everything; that is an eternal one. You are eternal in that sense. Your life has now become an eternal life. That's the measure of the power of the Blood – and Satan knows that!

And so his only battle is to keep you from believing that. He can't stop you from believing it, but he can divert you. You know, like you can be deceived by someone when you buy something that isn't what you thought it was. You know you've been deceived. Many words, many nice words about it to make you think it is right for you, and you get deceived. And Satan says, 'That's nice; that's the way out', and then you say, 'Yes, that's the way out'. So he can only attempt to deceive you from what is actually yours – your heritage – "*to an inheritance incorruptible...*" [*1 Peter 1:4*] – and I like what Peter wrote by the Spirit – "*reserved...*" You know what reserved is.

It's more important now there are such crowds everywhere, that if you don't reserve a small place even for your little car, you find no place to park it! Once there was plenty of space, but reservation now is quite an important thing. But this is reserved for you, regardless of crowds, it's not because there're crowds going there, but God wants YOU to live with HIM in HIS Home the way He lives, and enjoy His company and His Fellowship, and what's more, His Love!

And that's all that Satan knows about. He knows the Place there; he might even know what is reserved, but know it's open – it's an open secret. Christ was crucified openly, it was not done in a corner. So Paul said, 'Why should I speak about it privately, you ought to know about these things, you heard about it, well, here's the answer, there's got to be a Resurrection, there's got to be a Settlement, and here I am bound with human chains, but as free...' – I was going to say as free as a bird, but freer, freer than a bird, for a bird can't fly into Eternity, but Paul was expecting, not hoping, he knew one day he would be raised from the dead, when they called into question the resurrection of the dead. Paul had no questions for God, no questions at all. He said if He wants me to live here, that's up to Christ; if He wants me to go There, that's my eternal gain; I'm away!

So let us finish this day really knowing what the Blood of Christ has done. Let's have no more wallowing in our own difficulties, which are not your difficulties at all, they are just the difficulties which Satan has persuaded you through the fact that you have a human nature to deal with. But remember that the Blood has separated you; the Blood of Christ has separated you in God's eyes from your human nature.

You don't have to regard Satan at all, which means you don't regard your human nature. He can't deal with you on your spiritual nature, he's got no grounds there. He can't come to you and say, 'Well, do you think Christ was crucified for your sins? Do you think you were Baptised with the Holy Spirit? Do you think you have power with God?' – all that he can't say. But what he can do is to say, 'Well you know you're very tired, or you can't really go to that man's help, look at the distance you'll have to travel, look at the money you'll have to spend, and after all you have to earn your living – all that he can say, because that is what your human nature has ... But you don't have to agree with that!

All you say is, 'If God wants me to see that man, I'll see the man', and away you go, because you know you can do all things – yes? – "*through Christ*". Whatever we may face in all our service for Christ, when we make sacrifices for Him, God loves that and He will make it up, any loss of energy – the Spirit of God is here to fill you with energy, health, peace, joy, to repair anything ragged in your nerves or any part of your system, because God has left an open way for you to come to Him at all times through Christ.

That's what the Blood of Christ gives us – the attitude of a continuous certainty. You cannot be uncertain. If you believe that Christ died for you and you are uncertain, then your belief must only extend to reading it in the Bible, because you believe the Bible to be true, and there it says that Christ died for my sins – "*the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God*" [1 Peter 3:18]. You say that's very good, I'm brought to God. But you don't live it therefore you don't really believe that when you're brought to God, it is God Who takes over. And that is the whole battle, and God has won it. Those are the Answers, God has given us today.

You are born not of blood, not of human nature, not of the will of the flesh – not even of human desire – it's God's desire that you should live by His Spirit. It's God's desire that you should know by His Spirit that the Blood of Jesus Christ has cleared out of God's sight anything that could come between you and God. "*Not of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man*", nor of human effort – it's not by human thinking and study that we become children of God. It is only by believing that God has redeemed you, by the Blood of His Son.

God in Christ has brought you out of your sin – forcibly, before you were even born; before you thought about it. Before a man lifted his voice and said, 'Do it for me', God had violently, forcibly, arbitrarily cleansed all men from all their sin, and said, 'Now, I'm free from that choking influence that Satan has had on men, choking them, blinding them, suffocated them with unbelief, and now I am free'.

The Blood of Christ has cleared the air and cleared the way, and given God free access to man. So Paul said in Roman 5, "*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand – and of course the result is – and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*" [vs1 – 2] So we must be born again; we must be born of God, if we are to really benefit from all that God has taken the trouble to preserve for us in the Bible. Born of His Spirit; born of His Word. "*Except a man be born of water – that is the Word of God – and of the Spirit – by God's Spirit; used by God's Spirit – he cannot enter – that is physically – into the kingdom of God*" [John 3:5].

But then we can go on with what is written in the Book of *Hebrews* ... *"But ye are come... – you are not come to condemnation, as Satan had hoped; you're not come to a wrathful God, hopeless, condemned for murdering His Son, condemned in any case for disobeying God from the start, no, but you are come – ... to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel"* [Hebrews 12:22 – 24].

The *"blood of sprinkling"* simply means that Act, that Work of the Cross that covers every man's life in the sight of God. The Protection you have now is far more powerful than Christ only living His eternal life. Now it is far more powerful, because God by His Spirit works immediately, violently, on your behalf, because Christ suffered. That is a great incentive to God. The crucifixion of Christ has produced an incentive to the speed of God's activity on your behalf. You are come to *"the blood of sprinkling"* – it means every man, every man's life is covered by the Blood of Christ – the mark of His Death, which is His pouring out of His Blood – *"that speaketh better things than that of Abel"*.

The Better Things

So that's the Message of the Blood – the *"better things"* for mankind – sinful mankind, not for good mankind! It's the *"better things"*. The Message of the Blood is for every man, because every man is a sinner. If you say you're not a sinner, then you have shut off the Message of the Blood; you will still be in your sins... *"Better things"* for sinful mankind – better things, that is, any man may look forward freely to enter God's Home.

That's the implication, the meaning, of the word redemption. We are redeemed by the Blood of Christ, so Christ has bought us a place in Eternity, without money and without price by your own efforts; redemption through Blood. Not by the blood of bulls and goats, but by His own blood, we read: *"...He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained – secured – eternal redemption for us"* [Hebrews 9:12]. He has actually, by His Blood, Christ has bought – redemption means that, a buying back of something that was lost, something that had gone awry, there was a mess – and so Christ has bought you a place in the Holy City.

He has bought you a particular spot, and He will furnish it, and He will prepare it – He said, *"I go to prepare a place for you"*, and He said also for good measure, *"In My Father's house are many mansions"* – meaning there's no lack of space, the thing is, He is the Purchaser, so He does the buying of the Place! [John 14:2]. And through His Blood, He is authorised to prepare a Place for you and for me – through the Blood of the Cross.

Hebrews 9:24 *"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made by hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us"*. This is the Church's Programme. It's given there in **Hebrews 9** : **First**, Christ appeared once in the end of the world to put away sin by the Sacrifice of Himself, **Then**, the other part of the Programme, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

The Programme must consist of Christ's physical appearing; He must be seen. Christ must be prominent in every phase of the Programme. His appearance once in the end of the world to put away sin by the Sacrifice of Himself is the **First Phase** of the Programme – the phasing out of your sin; the destruction of your iniquity, of your foolishness, your helplessness, your frustration, your fear, your defeat, your hopelessness, your inability to like God, to love God, believe God and to obey God.

So that's the First Phase of God in His Programme for the Church : **Hebrews 9:26b** *"...but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself"*.

And the **Next Phase** : **Hebrews 9:24b** *"...into Heaven itself He has gone, now to appear in the presence of God for us"* – that's the present Phase, the building, the completion of God's Family, God's Church, the Body of Jesus Christ, the Bride of the Lamb; the building which Christ has started by Himself laying the eternal foundation.

Then the **Third Phase** is this : *Hebrews 9:27 - 28* "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many – your eternal Future is secure by the Blood of the Lamb – and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time" – that will be the Completion of the Third Phase of the Church. And that's the end of the Programme! The rest is all eternal Joy; Fellowship with God forever and ever. "But ye are come ... to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel".

Redemption through Blood. Remission through Blood – that is, Christ will always be our Covering against further payment due to God. The Blood of Christ has liberated you from the responsibility of all your debts to God. He has taken it all over, that's why He's now in the Presence of God...

Now For The Practicalities

If only you believed that! If only you wouldn't mess around, trying to justify yourself. Justification of one's self in a Christian is a sign of unrepentance. Defending my actions means I think I need to do so, but there is no defence – [1 Peter 2:23] "Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously". God was the Creator of Jesus Christ; He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and God made Him a Perfect Man by taking Him to the Cross, so it's God's responsibility.

God is your Avenger; God is your Defender. It means then that you have a clean conscience; you know it by the Blood; you don't go about the place trying to establish your reputation, and your position. You have no reputation or position here; you only have it with God.

Christ didn't have a reputation here, it says that He "made Himself of no reputation" [Philippians 2:7]. Christ didn't have a managerial position; He made Himself a Servant, and when He became a Man, He didn't have any rights at all – "He humbled Himself" [v8a]; apparently that's all Manhood brought Him! Even ... "even the death of the cross" [v8b].

So then, **remission** – your whole life has been put out of God's sight. Now you have no complications; you merely live by the Spirit, through the Blood of the Cross. He is your Covering. The Blood, we say, "for it is the blood – God said [Leviticus 17:11] – that maketh an atonement for the soul" – it covers everything ... everything ... everything. If you in sincerity made a mistake, God – Christ – is your Cover, and God is not separated from you; God is not irritated, so you don't have to defend anything. The only person you should be concerned about in any uproar is God: 'Am I displeasing Christ? Is Christ the One Who is offended?'

And if you do everything according to that Coverage ... If you live according to the amount, shall we say, of money – suppose you cover me in my business, you say, 'I've put so many thousands pounds down', as long as I work under that cover, then I'm safe, because you have calculated it, but the moment I start going out of that and spending more than you've provided then you really can't do much more. You would say, 'I've given you the cover. Why have you gone out of it?'

And also, it could be by my methods: You given enough money to cover a proper, straightforward way of doing the business, but if I seek to get more money by other methods, you haven't provided for that. You haven't provided for the penalty of my making mistakes, and falling into error, and getting caught by some other sharper ... and so it is with your Christian life. God had provided you with enough Cover to live under His banner of Love, and not to go out of it. Once you go out of it, you are on your own, then you need to defend yourself. You need to justify your actions; you need to go about establishing that you're right and the other person is wrong ...

But you don't do that if you know that it is the Blood that has put away your sin. You don't – because you're gloriously free! It's a super life to know these things! And Satan knows that, so what does he seek to do – he seeks to keep on provoking; and people are used, and they say, 'You know, he's done this, and she's like that'. Well, it may be true, but you have to operate under that umbrella of Love; that Covering.

"It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul". That's the way you know you have peace with God. *"Being justified by faith – not by your activities, but by faith. Not by someone's opinion of you, but by faith in the Blood, that's where your opinion counts most with God – 'How much do you regard what I have done for you'. Just like you would say to me, 'Well, I've provided everything for you to run a successful business; I didn't anticipate this crooked way, and I didn't anticipate your telling lies, and I didn't anticipate you getting in another partner. I gave you sufficient coverage for all your activities...*

And that's how God says it, only it's not a business, it's a life. So remember that – better things; better things; better things; better things than the blood of Abel; better things than all man's efforts to make a way for himself. Cain, moved by envy and hatred, when Abel had God's approval for giving a proper sacrifice, and he hadn't, hadn't lost God's love, but he was envious and his reputation he felt was at stake, so he thought, 'I'll do away with my rival, and get back into God's favour, maybe... And that's man's way, to try and use his own efforts to do away with obstacles and difficulties; to do it himself, or get someone else to do it. But my ways are not God's ways – thank God for that! and His thoughts are not my thoughts ... [Isaiah 55:8]

And *"it is the Blood"* ... – and it is good to say it aloud when we pray – for I realised that we'd said it once to a person who was a spiritist (and Satan uses them actively to hate the thought of Christ having died and poured out His Blood) so I learned to speak the words out like that: *"it is the Blood"*, because it does things. I realised I was dealing with the same spirit; I wasn't talking to people. Speak it out, tell your accuser, tell your Saviour, *"it is the Blood"*. 'You said it makes a Covering for my soul'; *"better things than that of Abel"*: reconciliation through the Blood of the Cross.

2 Corinthians 5:14 *"For the love of Christ constraineth us;... – that's what I mean by the covering: All your whole activity is under the constraint of Christ's Love. Outside that constraining Love, you should not go; you dare not go. That's the limit of the Blood. Outside of that, you're outside God's Protection altogether. The constraint of Christ's Love keeps you in a certain area; it's a very narrow place, because the world is surging all around you. But, nevertheless, it is the Coverage you need; it's sufficient for all things. "My grace" we might say with Paul's experience, "is sufficient for thee" [2 Corinthians 12:9]. How? [continuing with 2 Corinthians 5:14] "...because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead." You are to treat every man on that basis, and then you will see you won't need to justify yourself too much or establish your point –*

v15 *"And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves – again the limit of the Cover – but unto Him which died for them, and rose again." The moment I start doing things for myself; the moment self is one that is benefiting, you come out of that Cover. Believe me, the Blood of Jesus Christ is limitless because it gives you endless, unbroken contact with God. Nothing can break it, but if you come out of the Cover here ... here you have to move within a certain restrictive orbit, and the orbit of God's Grace covers you up to the point of you doing what God wants you to do. That's the Coverage, isn't it?*

v16 *"Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh – you don't deal with people according to the flesh, your flesh, his flesh. You must deal with people always on a spiritual basis. My! What trouble we would save ourselves!*

I find today that evil, morality, is so lax, that we find it very difficult, say for men to preach to women, and women to preach to men, and I see why, because we are dealing with each other by the Spirit, we deal with each other on a fleshly basis, and away goes the relationship.

Our success then has nothing to do with the Blood of Christ, but if we really do this and *"know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more"* – we know no difficulties, we know no barriers of pain, or limitations of death, we only know the unlimited resources of Heaven at your disposal to meet everyone of your needs.

"It is the Blood which maketh an atonement for the soul". Let that be your Blessing this morning.

vs16b - 17 *“...yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more. 17. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: – he’s living according to the Life and the dictates and the ways of Heaven, that’s why he is a new creature – old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

And all those things are of God, because they come from God. Everything you utilise in this world for your happiness should be from God. Don’t pander to your flesh – don’t. This is the age of pandering to the flesh. This is the age of easy contrivance with human nature. Don’t do that; have nothing to do with the flesh.

v18 *“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself – that means God has changed you; in God’s eyes you are a new creation; you are living according to the Spirit, so God doesn’t treat you according to the flesh.*

It’s not a compulsion with God, it’s His arrangement; and now that’s what He does. *“Once in the end of the world He put away sin” [Hebrews 9:26]* – now He deals with you not as a person of flesh and blood, that’s human nature, that’s carnal nature, but He deals with you as having a spiritual nature; as having the Spirit of God and living that Eternal Life. May God bless you to know the Power in the Blood! – *“better things than that of Abel” ...*

vs18 - 20 *“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19. To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself ... every minute of that Action on the Cross was an Action of God. God was in it all; God had planned it all. God was, in a very exhilarating and energetic and enthusiastic way, using what Satan thought was going to be the end of man permanently – the murder of His Son – to change us to Himself ... not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God – that is, be a changed person today; be changed to God by the Blood of the Cross. That’s your only authority.*

Be changed because Christ poured out all His Blood. Say, ‘I am a completely changed person; I am without sin in God’s sight’. That’s a change! ‘And therefore I am living a completely changed life – which would be a sinless life, that is, a life going to God. We do have habits of sin, but if you’re going to God, those habits are easily torn out of your system. I mean, you don’t even think much about it; you just do what God wants you to do, and you get into the habit of living that more than conquering life...

v21 *“For He – that is God – hath made Him to be sin for us – that’s the triumph of Calvary. Satan said, ‘Now men have crucified Christ, God can’t find an answer to that; that’s finished. God’s Plan to love men has gone forever’ ... But it says, *He hath made Him to be sin for us* – so in that crucifying of Christ, God made it good for man; He put out all men’s sin because He made Christ sin for us ... *who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him*” – that He might go back to His original Plan...*

Remember [Ephesians 1:4] *“According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world”* – that we might be before God as His children – He is our Father – *that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love*”. It’s come right back to that: *“that we might be made the righteousness of God”*; made by God. So if you’re made righteous by God how can that be overturned? It’s just faith, isn’t it? If you believe that God has done it, then the Fact that Christ has died strengthens that; it empowers you, and by the Spirit Who keeps that Fact before you, that Christ died; that Christ died for you, then always that is true.

We overcome him – Satan – by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the word of our testimony and we don’t love our lives unto the death [Revelation 12:11]. We just say, ‘That’s it; they’re gone anyway! We live unto God’ – *that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*”

10. – *The Precious Blood*

Nothing Too Good

Hebrews 9:22 *“And without shedding of blood is no remission.”* In other words, God claims – not man – that because Christ shed, or poured out, His Blood on the Cross at Golgotha, there is **nothing in all Eternity** too good to give to you! That is the meaning of the Message of the Blood. *“Without shedding of blood is no remission.”*

Then, having accomplished remission, with that remission, God is satisfied that He can feel free, because there are no legal proceedings left! He hasn't to judge you for your sin – that has all been done by Christ. And that is how we ought to be living. To God there is nothing in all Eternity too good in His opinion to give to you. Really you can see that unbelief, depression, and such like, is inexcusable. What releases you from your burdens? And how burdened we are, all falsely...

Remember the Scripture : *“For it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul”*. So you see you have a Covering. You are covered from your burdens. Christ has got hold of them! There is a Covering over you, and you cannot see the weight and the force and the evil suggestion in that burden. A burden suggests something weighty in your life to keep you from enjoying the freedom of the Spirit – that is what Satan means to do with a burden. But what releases it? It is the Blood that provides the Covering for your soul.

In other words, the Death of Christ enables God to deal with you, having brushed the burdens aside. What does He want you to do? Leave the burdens to Christ! You must do that! Does that mean you must be careless? No. You are the more careful to clinch the matter with Christ. But when you tell Christ what your problem is, it doesn't mean that you are carrying the problem. It means that you have let go of the problem! What relief from your care! Another Scripture says :

Ephesians 2:13 *“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”* You cannot be far off from God as far as His vision goes, but you are far off from His Care, or you could be. *“Ye who sometimes were afar off are made nigh...”* God has made a forcible settlement of it. He has violently afflicted Christ that you might know that through that violence you are close to God. The very violence of the Sufferings, of the pouring out of Christ's Blood, is all a violent story.

The word *“blood”* confronts you with death : Spiritual death; violent physical death; sacrificial death. What relief from your cares that God has violently dealt with your sin! He has crushed it all and brought you next to Him! If you really believed you were next to God, you wouldn't have all the cares you have. If you have a care, of course you are pushed and harried by Satan into doing the wrong thing, to make the wrong move... That is why you are not supposed to be full of care! You are supposed to leave it to Christ, because you are next to God.

It is not a question of what to do. It is a question of how to be, because God does give you the power to handle your responsibilities – but they should not be a care to you. The thought that you can handle them comes to you from God by the Holy Spirit because you are nigh to God.

As an adult person, if you are at work and you are feeling sick, you think, 'I'll be alright when I get home. I'll put my head down', because that is your home; you're free. In a family, there will be those to minister to you. The pain may not have gone, and you're still feeling sick, but you are in that knowledge that when you get home there will be someone who cares! So how much more, when you know you are next to God all the time! The Blood has made you next to God – but you have to believe it.

Hebrews 9:22 *“And without shedding of blood is no remission.”* There is nothing in all Eternity too good for you. Just fancy my being able to say to you that God has me next to Him, and He is able and ready to handle every situation. It would be insolence if we couldn't say, 'I am made nigh by the Blood of Christ'. What rest from all your sorrows!

Exodus 12:13 *“And the blood shall be to you for a token.”* God's Pledge that whatever the difficulties, whatever the crisis, even to the last crisis of all, the 'Rapture', God will take those who are believing that Word, who are holding on to and living by His Word, because of the shed Blood of the Cross. The Blood of the Cross encourages, stimulates and enthuses a person to do what God says, because God has pledged His Promises and the Truth of His Word only on the shed Blood.

Exodus 12:13 *“When I see the blood I will pass over you.”* What rest! That Truth will keep you in that Rest. What? No work at all? The more you do for Him, the more Rest you receive from Him! because God has said, *“When I see the blood I will pass over you”*. You will never fail; you will never falter; you will never have more to do from God than that which you can do. But we are sometimes more careful about what we will do for God than to do what God wants us to do! We are so careful about our health, our strength and the means at our disposal ... but what Rest from all that care! Oh! you do not have to be careful about anything! *“When I see the blood I will pass over you”*, God has said!

1 Peter 1:18 - 20 *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19. But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20. Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.” - “Redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ.”*

Redeemed

To *redeem* simply means to buy out of a situation. You buy someone out. That word *redeemed* is used usually in the Scriptures of people, or living things : You redeem your ox out of someone else's possession. It is as though you have sold your life; you give it into pawn. In order to live, a man takes an heirloom from the family's sideboard; a thing that has been in the family for many years, but he must have money, so he goes to a pawn shop and gets it for so much. But he can redeem it later. He can pay the price to get it back...

We have all done that in a sense. To enjoy the fruits of this world, we sell ourselves. But Christ has redeemed us! You are not redeemed with corruptible things, but with **the precious Blood of Christ**.

Redeemed means, to give the whole picture of Redemption in the Scriptures, redeemed out of bondage into freedom. Christ has bought you out. You are a free person! It is as though you were always free - **that** is the Power of the Blood.

Galatians 3:13 - 14 *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14. That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”*

The Law was the curse of the human race; the curse upon the carnal nature. Human nature is abandoned to the wrath of God. It is reserved for the wrath of God. And Christ has bought us out of our own nature! He has bought us out of the Condemnation of the Law. **He has bought us out of ourselves.**

We are bought out of the curse of our human nature, that we may be free, because, when you are bought out by the Blood of Christ, you are free from all that you were in. Your own life, nature, habits, ways, family, background, nationality, thought-life, education - you are bought out of it all, into a place where you can be filled with the Holy Ghost immediately without any preparation - *“that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”*

You do not have to go to a school where you are taught to be holy. You can be filled with the Holy Spirit when you believe you are redeemed. You could be filled with the Spirit now, to know that you are bought out like a slave, and you are brought out of what you had never experienced before – freedom! You are free now to be filled with the Holy Ghost. Free to receive God’s Promise of Redemption!

Galatians 4:4-7 *“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”*

So you are bought out of your own life; out of your own relationships. If you really believe in the Power of Christ’s Blood to God, your ties to members of the Church are far stronger than your ties to your own family. To those who are all conscious and free and redeemed by the Blood, they are tied to each other. You are bought out of every obligation except to be free to serve God. Nothing should come in that way; nothing will, if you really believe you are redeemed!

vs *“... that we might receive the adoption of sons.”* You haven’t got the same substance as God! God is Spirit, but Christ, in order to offset that, has taken on the substance of man, not “*the nature of angels*” [Hebrews 2:16] so that you could feel right in God’s Family. There you will find the Son of God Himself in a human Body. You will be quite at home in Eternity, and not find yourself a stranger at all, because Christ will take you in! Just fancy men will go in feeling at home with angels who are spirits, with God Who is a Spirit, but they will not feel at all awkward or embarrassed because they will go in with the Son of God “*made in the likeness of men*”! [Philippians 2:7]

From *vs* 6-7 we see the freedom there; a freedom which few Christians experience simply because they do not believe it! They know it is written in the Bible, but they do not have it in their hearts...

This is what it means to be redeemed by the precious blood of Christ : You are bought out of every relationship, every obligation, every background, good and bad. You are free from it all. Christians today are often racially minded, family minded, everything minded but God-minded! But you are are bought out of all that. Human families, nations and communities are all a sign of the curse. We were scattered by God, because He couldn’t trust us to be altogether, as these verses show : -

Genesis 11:1 – 9

“And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 2. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. 3. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. 5. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 6. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. 8. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.”

As soon as they were altogether, they started to confront God, and say, ‘We’ll be like that’. That is why we have been scattered. When Eternity comes, there will be one Family. You are in the Family of God, but down the ages it has been whittled down to ‘church life’ being Sunday life, Bible study life, prayer meeting life and the rest of the time we live for ourselves. We live for our families and bid each other the time of day, and go on our way leaving millions in their sins. You must be free from the responsibilities of caring for your own life. You have Someone Who cares; that is God. He is your Father and His care is emphasised and enforced by that Mighty Son of His! Yes! You are in good Hands!!

[Galatians 4] v7 "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." Not only do you have all these blessings, but you actually can look forward to possessing everything that God has. Not only enjoying it, but possessing it through Christ! That is what it means when God claims for you, that through the Blood of Christ shed on the Cross at Calvary, there is nothing too good in all Eternity to give to you! Then we wouldn't be grasping and stretching out our hands for things here! We wouldn't be worried and spending the time we should be giving to God on our own affairs, our own money, our own homes; we wouldn't - we would be free! We would be blessed. If we lived like that, what an impact we would make, because men and women are helpless. They are more seeking God than Christians are, but they do not know where God is, and they do not know where to go...

We live in our own lives and do not see ourselves free through the Blood of the Cross to go out and minister. We look upon it as a job: 'Who can I go and see?' 'Who shall I talk to?' If you really knew you were free, the number of places and voices that would come within your vision and into your ears, only God could know! You have met lots of people; you know lots of souls in need; you know plenty of people who are in distress... I'm not speaking socially; I'm speaking divinely. They need the Christ of God, and I feel sure that men and women, boys and girls, are more aware that they need God than Christians are that they need Him themselves... They say, 'Yes, we're redeemed; we're living our moral lives' - and we draw our skirts about us and forget it is the Blood that has redeemed us...

We must be ashamed of ourselves! Not badly so, but nicely, and get on with it! Be free to take on what God has given us. He is behind us. It's like when you're young and say to your dad or mum, 'That boy hit me', you know they are behind you in the matter. And everything that concerns you concerns God. It says, "He - Christ - is touched with the feelings of our infirmities" [Hebrews 4:15] and He is right beside God on God's Throne. God does know; God is caring, and God is moving for you all the time...

God doesn't need to rest in the way we know to rest - and so *redeemed* means to **buy out into freedom**...

1 Peter 1:18 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers."

Second, *redeemed* means to **release**; released through **payment of the Price demanded**. God demanded a Price to release you and me from His Just Judgment - His Wrath. The Price was heavy because there was no excuse for us. There is no excuse for us to do wrong things; not a single excuse. Many Christians believe they are excused because Christ died - not at all; not at all! No one can be excused breaking the law. That is anarchy; chaos. You yourselves would frown on someone who said, 'I've just shot through the traffic lights'. There is no peace in that, only trouble. That is why the world is as it is. People respect no laws, no standards of living, and laws are meant for people to live properly. If we were not sinners we wouldn't have laws! Laws are made by God and everyone has broken God's Laws, so something had to be done about it...

You can say you are sorry for the next million years! You cannot get off a legal penalty by saying to the officers of the law, 'I'm sorry'. Without the punishment there would be anarchy. The most hardened criminal could say, 'I'm so sorry I shot him; it's that murderous intent that came over me again'. So he'd be let off because he said 'Sorry'. It's as ridiculous as that, and as dangerous! Christians are in themselves almost as much anarchists as people in the world who want to pull down every government and set up governments that do what they want. Many times in our lives we have a sort of government of our own where we do not wish to obey the Word of God.

Christ has released you from all that kind of living; from all your human nature. He paid the Price which God demanded. "In whom we have redemption through His blood..." We have the freedom through the Price paid. The forgiveness of God really means a finish of all the case. Not that you are a released criminal, no, it means that you have never committed a crime at all!! That is what the Blood of Christ has done! He has paid a Price to give you a Life that has no criminal record of breaking God's Laws at all. Won't you believe that today? As Peter said, we have not been redeemed with money - silver or gold - but with the precious Blood of Christ.

1 Peter 1:15 *“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.”* How can you be holy unless you have been cleared of all your background of having been unholy? So you start with God as a clean person; as a person who has never committed a wrong thing. That is what being born again is – some one who has never done anything wrong in God’s exacting sight. The Blood really means that! Only by the Spirit can you believe that, so let it sink into your heart, that there you can live it. Just to believe it with your mind and not work it out in your live means you don’t think it will work for you... But faith without works is dead; dead as a doornail! It has to work!

The Ransom

The price demanded is described as a *ransom*. We have a lot of that today with kidnapers. They kidnap someone who the community would be prepared to give a lot of money to get him or her back. That’s what they do. They want money so they kidnap someone important. If it’s a family member, you beggar yourself to get the person free, if especially if their life is threatened through a non-payment. So the money paid is the price demanded; it is a *ransom*. It is the price paid by the redeemer, the one who redeems the person, or thing, taken. It is the price paid by the redeemer for the release.

The Lord Jesus said of Himself, *“The Son of man came not be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many”* [Matthew 20:28] – the Price paid in full.

1 Timothy 2:5 *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”* There is only one God you have offended, and Whose Laws you have broken, and Whose Word you have neglected, and Who men have refused to obey, so there is only One Mediator Who has paid the Price; *“for all have sinned”* ... [Romans 3:23] **The Price has been paid in full**. All His Blood was poured out, leaving a terribly disfigured Body; ruined and marred, as *Isaiah 52:14* tells us. That is the Price that was paid for you – staying there on the Cross until all the Blood was poured out of His Body; until He gave up His spirit, leaving that ruined Face and Body.

1 Peter 1:18–19 *“Forasmuch as ye know ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19. But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

The Mediator

1 Timothy 2:5 *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”* A *mediator* is one required to effect at all costs or at any cost a settlement of a dispute – that is his job; he has to do it. That is why there is only One Mediator Who could pay all the cost. ‘I want this; I want this’, said God, and Christ agreed to it – a mutilated Body, a mutilated Face, and forever stepping down from His Equality with God to become the Son of God and the Chief, or the Head of God’s Family.

All that He agreed to do to wipe out the difference in the two parties. Whatever the difference was – it is sin – but it was the Mediator’s job to settle the dispute. No reservations must be left. There must be nothing that either party could say, ‘That part was not done’. It has to be done to the satisfaction of all. In this case, it had to be done to God’s satisfaction, because we were ignorant of the whole matter. We did not even ask for it. God is very well aware of the great difference between Himself and sinful man. He is aware of the impassable barrier between unholiness and holiness. So we read of Christ :

Colossians 2:12 *“Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead. 13. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, – this is the settling of the dispute; wiping out all the differences; every difference between the two parties – having forgiven you all trespasses; 14. Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross.”* He took it out of God’s way, and out of my way – but I have to believe that.

God sees quite clearly that it is out of His way, because He does not see you in your old nature; in your sins. It would be dishonourable if someone accepted money from you for something and then didn't let you have the goods! That is cheating! God is not a cheat! But we live like that...

If you know you are redeemed by the Blood of the Cross and you do not live a redeemed life, you are thinking that God has not really cleared the case; He has not liberated you from your sins... For why else would a person not live a redeemed life? Why else would a person live in the world and take the helps and all the bolstering up of his life from the world instead of handing his life right over to God and saying, 'You have made me free; I can live Your life. I do not have to depend on this world; You can look after me'.

The Early Church did live like that, but subtly, like leaven working down the ages, I have seen since I became a Christian [1940s] that men do not live like the Early Church. Before I became a Christian, I believed that men believed the Bible, even though I didn't, but when I became a Christian I saw that people did not believe the Bible. They were depending so much on the world; so much on their own efforts. They were scared to depend upon God. I have always had to go to God, and I thank Him for the teachers I had who told me I was redeemed by the Blood of the Cross; so you must live for God! That is what you are; you are called to serve God.

We talk of special callings and special assignments by God, and we want everything done for us. We want money and a work to do, and everything laid on, but God has called you; you are free. You are more than conquerors! [Romans 8:37] Nothing shall have dominion over you [Romans 6:14], only God's Love! Really you are free! Each one of us is a potential starter of a work where you are.

And what is God's Work? : to redeem souls around you. That is what He died for. He has all the rest of you! Christ did not die to get you all God's Blessings. He died to liquidate your account with God, so that God could be free to be just and legal. God has to do a thing properly. He cannot have any accusation levelled at Him, such as, 'He doesn't care about sin; He let all those sinners in'. No, God's Eternity is a properly ordered Kingdom, so you go in there with One against Whom there is no Record of sin.

There is no Record of sin in Eternity! The Blood of Christ has purified the whole of Eternity! That is one Place where there is no accusation, and the only reason why Satan accuses us is because we are in the flesh. If you realise that these accusations have no weight, no point, no power because of the poured out Blood, you would live a life of freedom! His accusations would be like water off a duck's back! Christ is your shield of faith quenching all the fiery darts of the enemy through the Blood of His Cross. There is only One Mediator, because there is only One God that He has to settle the matter with. No other gods before Him! [Exodus 20:3]

These are the Scriptures on the Mediator :

- Galatians 3:19-20** *"Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. 20. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one."*
- 1 Timothy 2:5** *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*
- Hebrews 8:6** *"But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also is He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."*
- Hebrews 12:24** *"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."*

Not Redeemed With Corruptible Things

1 Peter 1:18-19 *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers. 19. But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish, and without spot.”*

Corruptible means simply, that which must perish. It is already dead because it has the seeds of death in it. It cannot last; it must end. It cannot stand up to anything, not for long. Therefore it cannot be found in God’s Eternity. God is there; God’s Word is there, but that which is corruptible will have vanished away [Hebrews 8:13]. I am giving you these meanings for you to see what God means by the word *“precious”* – the Precious Blood of Christ...

Romans 1:24-25 *“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25. Who changed the truth of God – the incorruptible eternal God – into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”* The creature is corruptible; it will pass away.

1 Corinthians 9:25 *“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.”* You are made kings and priests unto God by the Blood of the Cross [Revelation 1:6], and you are maintaining that position here, so you are living like a king! a king of that Kingdom. Not with silver and gold, but through the precious Blood of Christ, so that itself makes you a different kind of king! You are not dependent on human means at all for your kingship, so it is forever! *“...but we an incorruptible.”*

vs26-27 *“I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27. But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”* This is where Christianity today is utterly undone. It is soft and flabby. It is nothing to do with the Cross of Christ ... but we are going for an incorruptible crown, *“that fadeth not away”!* [1 Peter 1:4] That is where your life is; that is where your Home is; that is where your Love is! That is where all you hope for is to be found ultimately, but now, here, in your heart!

1 Corinthians 15:54 *“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption – something that will never pass away.”*

Vain Things

1 Peter 1:18 *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers.”* **Vain** simply means empty, profitless to God and therefore also to man; serving no useful purpose to God and therefore neither to man.

Matthew 6:7 *“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do...”* Multitudes of Christians are using vain repetitions – Christians who say they are filled with the Holy Ghost – because they have nothing else to say. They do not know what it is to be free through the Blood of the Cross. They do not think it is adequate to say to a Holy God, ‘Thank you, Lord, for redeeming me from my sins’. They think that is old-fashioned, and infantile, so they go on and on saying the same old things which are empty, having no meaning and purpose to God or to man...

So these are all the meanings of all these familiar words so that you can go out and live free through the Blood of Christ!

Here are other references for things *vain* :

Romans 1:21 *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”*

1 Cor. 3:20 *“And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.”*

1 Cor. 15:17 *“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.”*

Galatians 2:21 *“I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”*

Galatians 5:26 *“Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”*

2 Timothy 2:16 *“But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”* Far from shunning it, many Christians indulge in it. *“Vain babblings”* are those things which are vain to God; empty and useless to God. And if they are useless to God, they are useless to you. By the Spirit you would know that...

You might think a conversation is vain because it doesn't interest you. I am not talking about your interests, for that which interests you is not the concern of the Scriptures. The concern of the Scriptures is to show you what God is interested in, and that is your Salvation, and your security and your servicing Him in Spirit and in Truth as He wants. So, please, shun *“profane and vain babblings”* as God thinks babblings to be profane and vain. Why? – *“for they will increase unto more ungodliness”* ... It is something that is empty; useless to God and useless to man; profitless to God, and therefore to man.

1 Peter 1:8 *“... your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers.”* **“Conversation”** in this sense simply means **behaviour**.

Behaviour

Hebrews 13:7-8 *“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. – meaning, their conduct; their **behaviour**. What is the end of their conduct, their behaviour..? – 8. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”* Their conduct ought to be the same as Jesus Christ; every day the same. He is exactly the same in His behaviour in Eternity as He was on the Cross. How wonderful!! If you want to know how He is today, read about Him hanging on the Cross. But that is when He died, you might say. Never mind, that is how He is. How He died is how He is, otherwise you would not be redeemed today. You would not know the Power of the Blood. This is Salvation!

2 Peter 3:11-12 *“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. – it is to do with behaviour – 12. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”* This is concerned with your behaviour...

Philippians 3:20 *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”* This is behaviour as in a community where all have the same pattern of behaviour. Our conversation is in Heaven, meaning we have the same behaviour as that Community in Heaven has; the same as those who live in Heaven...

Hebrews 12:23 *“To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven; and to God the Judge of all; and to the spirits of just men made perfect.”* It is all do to with behaviour.

Traditions of Men

1 Peter 1:18 *“... received by tradition from your father.”* **Tradition** means men's precepts handed down to men by men. Christians are bound with that, and the Bible asks, ‘Are you free from the traditions of men? Are you really free?’ If you are not free, you have not believed the Scriptures. These are things which are basic in Christian experience. I do not have to learn men's knowledge to serve God and train in a career to be someone in this world when I am free by the Blood of Christ to serve God. I did not have to continue in all I was doing... You do have to remain free.

Here are three more Scriptures on **tradition** : *Matthew 15:3-6*; *2 Thessalonians 3:6* and *Colossians 2:8*.

Matthew 15:3-6 *“But He answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? 4. For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. 5. But ye say, whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; 6. And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.”*

Christ put it in that strong way, saying, ‘You are breaking God’s commandments by your tradition, your vain conduct based on what your fathers passed down to you’. How many Christians live by tradition? – vain, purposeless, empty to God; conduct which they received by “*tradition from their fathers*”, when even logically speaking there should be a change because we live in a different generation from our fathers! Men will not have it; they will stick to these things whatever happens because that is convenient to them; it fulfils the lusts of the flesh...

1 Peter 1:18-19 *“... ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19. But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

Precious

We will spend a little time on that word “**precious**”. **Precious** means most valuable, not just valuable; **most** valuable. It means costly in the sense of more than valuable; esteemed above all else.

Hebrews 10:19 *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.”* Above all other qualifications, above all other means of entry, you get into Heaven because Christ died.

That is the only reason why men will be acceptable There – men meaning mankind; human beings! We have a long Record of sin in our veins, but the Blood of Christ is esteemed above all that Record! You may enter a very reserved Place, a very exclusive Place, a very holy Place, a Place of the highest standard of conduct, intelligence, living and capabilities, but the Blood of Christ is above all that! Just fancy, God with His intelligence, His holiness, God Who made everything, tells us to have boldness and liberty to enter His Place, but it adds, “*by the blood of Jesus*”.

Precious – more valuable, more wonderful to God than anything else on this earth because it represents Christ’s sufferings.

Hebrews 13:20-21 *“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21. Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”* It is more valuable, more wonderful to God than anything else on this earth.

It is only because Christ poured out all His Blood for your sins and mine and for the whole human race, that God is prepared to accept Christ in that disfigured Body. That is the only reason. The Blood of the Covenant, the Blood of Christ, is **precious** to God. Those sufferings **must** be honoured. Those Sufferings **must** be given the highest recognition, the highest acknowledgment.

Everyone must bow the knee; everyone must confess with the tongue... The demons, Satan, the condemned souls in the Lake of Fire, everyone in Heaven, **all** will bow the knee. All must say ‘He is Lord, with that disfigured Face, that deformed Body, He is Lord’ to the Glory of God the Father, so that God will not be found wanting. He will not be found an unjust God. The One Who was His Equal, He died, and that means something to God; more valuable to God than any other experience...

Precious also means rare in price, because the Purchasing Power of the Price paid takes in and covers things of Eternity as well as of time. There is no other price that has been paid that takes in everything in this world, let alone Eternity! Everything that is good; everything that God can give you here and in Eternity is covered by that Price. God feels free to give us everything. To Him there is **nothing too good** because the Price covers it all – everything that God has, owns, thinks of, can manufacture, can produce if necessary for your good for your blessings, even for your pleasure and joy throughout Eternity; things of Eternity, things of Time...

It is rare in price. Let that soak in... It is rare in price. No such price has ever been paid. It is the only Price of that value. There is in God's Estimation nothing else that has ever been paid that will equal that Price : **the precious Blood of Christ**.

Things of Eternity... Home... You have been purchased a Home in Eternity! How we want homes here! Paul said, 'I go all over the place, I'm chased about, I suffer many things...' That was his evangelistic record. It is different today. They live in wonderful houses; they fly by plane; they have the best hotels – and Jesus Christ bought them a Place in Eternity! Be ready to be a real pilgrim. Act and enjoy it...

Home? Heaven? Holiness? Christ has purchased for you a holy character. He has got from God the freedom and the agreement to call you a holy person; you are called a holy person! The Bible is full of the figures of slavery to show what **Redemption** really is. The Hebrew canon had a Law given by God saying that when men served you – some people sold themselves to others as their labourers to keep their farms and lands going – they could only do it for six years. In the seventh year they could go out free [Exodus 21:1–6]. They were as though they had never been slaves. There was no comeback at all. Their erstwhile masters had no hold over them. They were as free as their former masters! They were so free that the Law added this lovely provision, *v5* : "And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free", and he was free to say that! But no one else could say that for him; only he. A judge couldn't say, 'I want you to go and work for him'. Christ has purchased that Freedom for you.

You are free in God's sight for Christ to treat you as a holy, humble person; as someone who understands what humility really is; as someone who doesn't show that kind of humility that is all right up to a point. The Humility of Christ has no point at which it stops. He said [Psalm 22:6] "But I am a worm, and no man", 'so I am not entitled to Your Mercy or Your attention while I am on the Cross. I know I am dying, for I have been made sin for all the world'. And all the refuse, the scum, all the filth of the world was piled upon His holy Person.

That is what **Redemption** means – happiness!! We try to buy happiness. We make arrangements to be happy, but God has given you happiness; Christ bought it for you. God is pouring things upon you to make you happy. It is as though something was removed and happiness upon happiness came rushing out upon us from God! The way we live you would think it had passed us by... 'The gush has come upon everyone else but me; I am the only person left out. Everyone else is happy, but look at my state'. That is how a lot of us are, but nevertheless, whether you are happy or unhappy, God is still pouring it out!! Today you can see what God has done! – happiness and high positions in God's Kingdom.

Job 28:12-28 *"But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? 13. Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living..."* This passage, which you can read down to *v28* shows the thing that **cannot be purchased**. As Peter said, "Ye are not redeemed with silver and gold". The Wisdom of God is the Answer to every man's problem.

vs18-19 *"No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies. 19. The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold."*

v22 *"Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears."*

v28 *"And unto man He said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."* That is what God has given you – the precious, **precious** Blood of Jesus.

Isaiah 45:11-13 *“Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons, and concerning the work of My hands command ye Me. 12. I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even My hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. 13. I have raised him [Cyrus] up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build My city, and he shall let go My captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts.”*

Isaiah 52:3 *“For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money.”* It is above everything...

Isaiah 55:1 *“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”* Only God could say that! Which human being could tell you to come and buy without money and without a price?! You have to bring your money when you purchase something! But this cannot be bought with anything except with the precious Blood of Christ, which God has already received... Prophetically it has been said like that: *“he that hath no money”* – especially poverty stricken people who are bankrupt in our sins. We can come as a pauper. We can come and buy because the Price has been paid. You have a Bank, and endless exhaustless supply! You have a Cover for all your debts, for all your lack. There is a Cover that will never end.

Behind it all you have the Authority, the signature, the Security; your Guarantor – your Saviour! He has signed that He will take care of it all. *“...come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without [your] money and without [your] price”*! He says, **“buy”** because it was a reminder that a Price was to be paid...

v2 *“Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? – how many of us are doing that? Be free today forever through the Blood of the Cross – hearken diligently unto Me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.”*

vs3-4 *“Incline your ear, and come unto Me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.”* The sure mercies of David were bought for you; it was promised to David that his Seed would sit on the Throne of God for ever and ever. He would be great, and everything would bow before Him, and He would run everything. David was told that [2 Samuel 7:11-13] and here it is, *“the sure mercies of David”*! 4. *“Behold, I have given Him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.”* That is Jesus Christ! Rare in Price! The Precious Blood of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”* You cannot be careless any more, except at your peril. You must live the life of one to match the Price that was paid. You do not have to strive for it; it was given to you. You just have to believe it, and live it...

“... bought with a price...” The Church of God was purchased with His own Blood. The Church of God is an Eternal Church, not a man-made business. I speak in terms of the ‘local church’ because the whole Church cannot live together physically as we live in different parts of the world. Nevertheless, we should live as an Eternal Church. You should not look upon your local church as the place where you may or may not be ... it is an Eternal thing. So where you are, serve God eternally! You are eternal! You have Eternal Life! God is Eternal! The Church is an Eternal Body. It is not a man-made affair. It is not for this world; it is to run Eternity that the Church is formed; to satisfy Christ, to be with Him, wherever Jesus Christ goes.

That is the concept of the Church purchased with the Blood of Christ. So Paul said [Acts 20:28] *“Take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, – so those among us who are elders, who have any office at all in any church, should be living before their church in a way that would show and encourage the people to live likewise. And the reason why he said that is this – which He hath purchased with His own blood.”* The Precious Blood of Jesus...

People buy buildings and say, 'Come to my church'... May God help us to live differently from now on. **Precious**; rare in price, because its Purchasing Power takes into account and covers things of **Eternity** as well as of time. A Price which cannot cease for ever; it is always there, because the things are **Eternal**.

These are some of the things the Blood of Christ has purchased for you :

The Holy Spirit. You only have the Spirit because Christ died. We should all be filled with the Holy Ghost, and you who are filled, don't go around as if you have something you deserve! The Gift of the Holy Ghost is purchased by the Blood of Christ. Which of us would the Holy Spirit come down upon?

Healing is not your right, except through the Blood of Christ. The **Help** of God is only yours because Christ purchased it! He purchased you into **God's Kingdom**. He purchased you into **God's Family**. He bought you into **His Church**. Now you are by that Position, at the receiving end of all God's **Help**, all God's **Health** – the Health of Eternity; the Health that is in Christ – the **Energy** of the Holy Spirit.

The Life is in Christ, and that Life is the Light of men [John 1:4]. That is yours because God gives it to you. Christ has purchased your right to it. You did not earn it, so you should be grateful and glad to have it! When you are given things, there is a great deal more pleasure, because your pleasure is in the giver. Someone gave you that, who liked you enough to give it. However small or big the gift was, the pleasure goes on, because you remember the one who gave you the gift... And that is what has been given you : Christ bought it and gave it to you, so do treasure it...

It is not something you earned; you did not pay for it. Christ bought Health for you; He bought healing for you. He bought **Help** for you. God is committed to it. He bought the Gift of the Spirit that you may be filled with that Spirit and He may say, 'I am giving you the Spirit; it is a Gift. I have bought the Right to do it; else you would be still in your sins.'

All these things, like **hatred of sin**, **hunger for God**, Christ bought so that you could be filled with the knowledge of God. He has given you **Hope** of Eternal Life. He bought **Eternity** for you! And here you can only hope for Eternity through the Blood of Christ. There is no other Statement : "*Having therefore brethren boldness to enter the holiest by the blood of Jesus*". He has bought you the Right to enter Eternity...

Never Paid Again

Precious, rare in price – not only because its Purchasing Power covers things Eternal and things of Time, but also rare in price because it is **unrepeatable**. This Price can never be paid again; it is too much. It is too much; it cannot be done. It just cannot be paid again. That is another way of steadying your life! Never again, never, never again...

Hebrews 10:10 *"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."* It cannot be paid again. Once for all and the Book of **Hebrews** emphasises that.

v12 *"But this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God."* Not only is the Price sufficient, but it is too big for one Man to pay again. It cannot be paid by Christ, and if Christ cannot pay it, no-one else could! So it had to be sufficient. Only One Offering. Those very Statements here show that that was enough. He could not do it again.

vs13-14 *"From henceforth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool."* With that thought in mind, you should be able to get by! You should be able to live as though it is sufficient for you, and not live as though you are expecting something more from God ... **14.** *"For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."* It cannot be done again. He cannot do it again – "...once offered..." [Hebrews 9:28]

Hebrews 7:27 *"Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself."*

- Hebrews 9:7** *"But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:"*
- Hebrews 9:12** *"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."*
- v26** *"For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."*
- v28** *"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."*

He cannot do it again. You cannot hope for anything more. You cannot mess around; you can't dilly-dally about with your sin and your casual life. You can't do it any more! There is **no more offering for sin**. It is unrepeatable; it is Rare... Such a Price could only be collected over thousands of years that He prepared and paid in full – gushing out of Him ...

- Psalms 22:14** *"I am poured out like water..."*
- Isaiah 53:12b** *"... He poured out His soul unto death..."* So that was the only time He could say, "***It is finished***". Yes! No more; no more...
- Hebrew 10:2** *"For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins."* Now you have been purged – once for all.
- v10** *"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."*
- 1 Peter 3:18** *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."* Don't allow for any gaps in your spiritual life. There is no more offering; it is sufficient! It cannot be repeated. The Price was great; rare; too much to be paid again.
- Romans 6:8-10** *"Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him: 9. Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him – no more Price – 10. For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God."* He lives forever. One Offering, rare in Price.

Peter added : *"As of a lamb without blemish and without spot"*. Precious, precious Blood of Jesus...

As we come to the close this Series on the Blood of Christ, here are a few more comments and Scriptures to give you as complete a picture as possible...

The shedding of Christ's Blood from Gethsemane to Golgotha represented to God the awful Sufferings of Christ. That is why it is an unrepeatable Price. He in Whom was no sin; *"who knew no sin"* [2 Corinthians 5:21]; *"who did no sin"* [1 Peter 2:22]; Who *"was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin"* [Hebrews 4:15], that Person had to wait on the Cross until all His Blood had been shed for every sin of every man.

The Bible is full of evidence that all His Blood was shed. **Luke 24:36-43** is one such passage. And these references from **Leviticus** show that the Blood of the sin offering was always poured out at the bottom of the altar, **Leviticus 4: 7, 18, 25, 30, 34; 8:15 and 9:9**.

- Psalms 22:14** *"I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of My bowels."* Death was upon Him. He waited till all His Blood was shed.

- Isaiah 53:12** “Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”
- Psalm 35:17** “Lord, how long wilt Thou look on? rescue My soul from their destructions, My darling from the lions.” His soul was irreplaceable, that is what is meant by His “darling”.
- Psalm 6:3-4** “My soul is also sore vexed: but Thou, O LORD, how long? 4. Return, O LORD. deliver My soul: oh save Me for Thy mercies sake.” In one place He said, “My soul is continually in My hand, yet do I not forget Thy law” [Psalm 119:109] He waited until God got His Price...
- Psalm 39:4-5** “LORD, make Me to know Mine end, and the measure of My days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. 5. Behold, thou hast made My days as an handbreadth; and Mine age is as nothing before Thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.”
- v7** “And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee.”
- vs9-12** “I was dumb, I opened not My mouth; because Thou didst it. 10. Remove Thy stroke away from Me: I am consumed by the blow of Thine hand. 11. When Thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, Thou makest His beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah. 12. Hear My prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto My cry; hold not Thy peace at My tears: for I am a stranger with Thee, and a sojourner, as all My fathers were.”

v11 – it is said in **Isaiah [53:2b]** “There is no beauty that we should desire Him...” He had to wait to pay the Price. He paid the Price. God wanted the Price. That is why it is **Precious** – the Precious Blood of Jesus. He waited and so His suffering was without letting up. There was no letting up. That is why it is precious to God... Always that Statement means to God the awful Sufferings of Christ because He had to wait on the Cross until all His Blood was shed, and until God was satisfied.

Psalm 89:45-52

“The days of His youth hast Thou shortened: Thou hast covered Him with shame. Selah. 46. How long, LORD? wilt Thou hide Thyself for ever? shall Thy wrath burn like a fire? 47. Remember how short My time is: wherefore hast Thou made all men in vain? 48. What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah. 49. Lord, where are Thy former lovingkindnesses, which Thou swarest unto David in Thy truth? 50. Remember, Lord, the reproach of Thy servants; how I do bear in My bosom the reproach of all the mighty people; 51. Wherewith Thine enemies have reproached, O LORD; wherewith they have reproached the footsteps of Thine anointed. 52. Blessed be the LORD for evermore. Amen, and Amen.”

v48 – He was among the men who had to see it. He could not escape; He had to pay the Price...

Psalm 31:15 “My times are in Thy hand: deliver me from the hand of Mine enemies, and from them that persecute Me.”

All these Scriptures show how much our Lord Jesus Christ poured out His soul and His precious life-Blood to give God back the Family He had planned and longed for from Eternity... Amen.

The end of the afternoon session of the Fifth Day, Seek Ye The Lord “**By The Blood of Christ**”.

As you finish your reading and meditation of the very special **Seek Ye the Lord** Series, will you just close this book, and never consider it again? Or will you keep it by you, constantly referring to its content, to endeavour by the Holy Spirit to really live the Life of Christ in this carnal, self-satisfying Age?

May the Father of Mercies draw you close to Himself that the Revelation of Jesus Christ will be as vibrant and precious to you as it is to Him. Amen and Amen!!