

1 Peter 1:18-19 – Part MM

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

Whenever the topic of the “**blood of Christ**” is mentioned, it is always speaking of that blood as it relates to the believer’s salvation. **Salvation can never be seen or understood apart from the “blood of Christ”.** It can never be seen or understood apart from the sacrificial death of Christ. The word “**blood**” is actually used 100 times in the NKJV, but it is only referring to the actual “**blood of Christ**” on 52 of those times, or nearly one-half of the times that the word is used. Of those times, as juvenile and silly as it may seem to emphasize, the word “**blood**” as related to Christ is always referencing His actual physical blood, and not some kind of deep and mystical spiritual symbol with underlying meanings and applications. Scripture is talking about the actual physical blood of Christ. The following are just some of the verses related to what the “**blood of Christ**” has actually accomplished. - **Matthew 26:28, John 6:54, Romans 5:9, Ephesians 1:7, Ephesians 2:13, Hebrews 9:12, Hebrews 9:14, Hebrews 10:19, 1 John 1:7.**

Mt 26:28 (NKJV) **For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

Jn 6:54 (NKJV) **Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.**

Ro 5:9 (NKJV) **Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.**

Eph 1:7 (NKJV) **In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace**

Eph 2:13 (NKJV) **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

Heb 9:12 (NKJV) **Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.**

Heb 9:14 (NKJV) **how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

Heb 10:19 (NKJV) **Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,**

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

Here is what needs to be deeply appreciated. It is the simple fact that **God’s forgiveness of sin demands a perfect blood sacrifice.** I know immediately that someone is going to ask the question as to why was this necessary, and then they will ask that if God is really God, then why He could not devise some other

spiritual strategy that was less costly to Him and to His Son. I actually have no answer to that question simply because God does not provide an answer. However, no matter what the reason (if there could be one), it was God the Father and God the Son that suffered the greatest cost possible. What God the Father and God the Son sacrificed in the Incarnation and in the Atonement cannot be measured or quantified. It was the greatest sacrifice eternally possible and should create the greatest possible reverence for them. [Hebrews 9:22](#) says,

Heb 9:22 (NKJV) **And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.**

In very simple terms, the word “blood” represents the cost involved in salvation. There is nothing about salvation or forgiveness that is free. It is not something that God can just “give” to someone because He “feels” like doing something benevolent for them. If there is any single idea that should be gleaned from this, it is that forgiveness has always had a very high cost associated with it. The shedding of perfect innocent blood was always an integral part of God’s saving and atoning work. All of the believer’s hope is based on the simple fact that God has provided a means of forgiveness that effectively deals with their sin. A sacrifice has been made that makes salvation even possible, and if someone loses sight of the immeasurable magnitude of that sacrifice, then in essence they will take this amazing salvation for granted and their Christian life will lack any meaningful substance whatsoever.

At a very personal level, as much as I have studied on the Incarnation and on the Atonement, I simply have not been able to come to grips with the actual cost. I somewhat understand what took place in the Incarnation and I understand some of what took place when Christ died on the cross, but its magnitude is not something that can actually be quantified. Whatever someone’s idea of its magnitude, it is much, much greater. Unfortunately, people’s tendency is to often approach Scripture with the idea of “what is the benefit or advantage in it for me”, or “what can the Christian life do for me”. However, this unhealthy preoccupation with what Christianity “can do for me” is a very harmful and meaningless aberration of the doctrine of Christ.

The problem is that the more someone or some group diminishes and relegates the work of Christ to a less important position, the more they demean salvation and open themselves up to all kinds of unbiblical teaching that can have far-reaching eternal results. Eventually what people want from salvation becomes the object and focus of their attention, and in that attitude and approach, the person and work of Christ is severely minimized. This is one of the curses of the charismatic movement – this preoccupation with what God can do for me, what can God give me. Nothing could be more dangerous and detrimental to the true meaning of Christianity than to cleverly diminish the Person and work of Christ and make Him a cosmic genie that answers to man’s every want. By becoming a man-centered Christianity rather than a God-centered Christianity, false teachers within the mainstream Christian church have nurtured, cultivated, and advanced a subtle attack on the Person and work of Christ. False teachers have de-emphasized Christ and His work and emphasized man and his needs, and the result is that they have given birth to making God in their own image. “Give me a God that I like” is the modern day mantra within many parts of the Christian church today. If someone follows the over-riding result of that approach to the Christian life, they very easily may become like [Romans 1:25](#) which states,

25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Now, without any question, the “**blood of Christ**” is one of the most sacred elements of Scripture. Nothing in the entire universe has more value than the very blood of Jesus Christ. **It is not just the shedding of His blood that is important, but also what Jesus Christ actually did with His blood that gives it even more sacred importance.** We may never study any one specific event that is as sacred as when Christ in **Hebrews 9:12** “**with His own blood...entered the Most Holy Place once for all**”. In some ways, this almost obscure event in the Scriptures is as critical and important as the actual crucifixion and death of Christ. If there was one, then of necessity there had to be second. Christ presenting His blood to the Father was that event that actually completed and finalized what is called the “atonement”, or what would be deemed as the actual redemptive work of Christ. **Without the Father accepting the sacrificial blood of Christ as complete satisfaction for sins, no one could ever be saved.** **Hebrews 9:12** was a monumental event in Scripture – and for the most part it is only mentioned once in Scripture and is rarely if ever even understood by the average Christian.

In reality, this event, though only addressed once in the New Testament, was clearly seen throughout much of the Old Testament on what was known as the Day of Atonement. During that yearly event, the high priest entered into the Holy of Holies, but he could not enter without sacrificial blood. If he had just entered the Holy of Holies without sacrificial blood, he would immediately have died. **Hebrews 9:7** says,

Heb 9:7 (NKJV) **But into the second part the high priest *went* alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;**

What the high priest was doing on the Day of Atonement was simply a picture and a “copy” (Hebrews 9:23) of what was going to take place after the actual death of Christ. In the Old Testament sacrifices, it was not just the killing of the sacrificial animal that was important, but also the actual offering of the blood on the altar that completed the sacrifice. So, on the Day of Atonement the high priest would take the blood of the sacrificial animal and then enter into the Holy of Holies in the temple and sprinkle the blood on the articles at the mercy seat. It was a picture of what was to take place in heaven at a later date when Christ would take His blood into the very presence of God and present it to the Father at the heavenly altar representing that the perfect sacrifice had been made. **Hebrews 9:12 states that Christ “**entered the Most Holy Place once for all**”. **Hebrews 9:24** further reiterates this when it states,**

Heb 9:24 (NKJV) **For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are* copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;**

Now, it is important to be perfectly clear on the simple fact that the magnitude of what Jesus Christ has accomplished in His death and the shedding of His blood cannot be appreciated. No one has any idea how good heaven will be or how bad the Lake of Fire will be. Then to make it worse, no one has any real idea as to how sinful they really are. Men do not understand the holiness of God. It is just an overused spiritual term for most people. Men always see themselves as being pretty good, better than someone else, and not really that bad at all. They never see themselves in the proper light, or from the proper perspective. They may think “*Oh yea, we have done some bad things*”, but deep down they still

see themselves as really being a pretty good person. Spiritually, however, all of that is very deadly. People in churches have heard about “**salvation**” so much that it is just “old hat” to them. Therefore, in all of this it is important to be very careful, very deliberate, and very purposeful in approaching a subject with which everyone is already very familiar. At a very practical level, what must be appreciated is that **unless God’s redeeming information has led to a personal transformation, there has been no genuine salvation in a person’s life.** The great diabolical illusion of the modern church is that people can have **salvation without transformation.** This could be the most damning truth that has ever been accepted in the church, and especially in our church age. That kind of Christianity simply does not exist! There is not one single verse in the New Testament that would foster such a maligning of genuine biblical salvation – and I pray that you will never let anyone convince you otherwise. **There is forgiveness, there is mercy, and there is reconciliation – but it is NEVER without personal transformation.** If that were the case, then we could just eliminate the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit from the Scriptures and we could just eliminate the word “**sanctification**”. **2 Corinthians 5:17** says,

2Co 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

The second part of that verse is the explanation of the first part of the verse. **The truth of God always produces a life transforming effect on the life of a genuine believer.** Never let anyone convince you otherwise. One of my greatest fears for so many people is that we have accepted the falsehood that people have salvation because they made a “decision” at some point in their life, but in reality they have not truly lived as followers of Christ and presently are not living for Christ. You have heard me state this a thousand times, so this is not new. People simply make a decision, but it produces no real substance in their personal life. Christians do this all of the time for their children. They love them and they want them to believe that they are saved, and so they help them to “make a decision”. They may say “the sinner’s prayer” with them. However making a decision or just saying a prayer is not the same thing as being converted. They are not the same! **If someone has truly experienced biblical salvation, then there will be genuine and ongoing biblical fruit to attest to their conversion.** This is the great evangelical lie that we have accepted within the Christian church, and the result is that because we love someone and want to believe that they are actually saved when they may not be saved, we personally forfeit earnest and heartfelt prayer for their salvation. The church has adopted the lie that there can be biblical salvation without biblical transformation – and the eventual result will most likely be eternal separation of those we love from the presence of God in a place of eternal torment.

Now, **the great central point of all Biblical revelation is the person and work of Jesus Christ.** He is the sum total of all that Scripture teaches. So, we need be very clear at the outset that we understand why the Son of God actually came to the earth. **Jesus Christ came into the world to reconcile sinful men to a holy God.** If He had not come and accomplished what He did, we could **NEVER** be saved. **1 Timothy 2:5-6** says,

1Ti 2:5 (NKJV) For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

There is only **one Mediator** that can go to God on our behalf – **just one**, and His name is Jesus Christ, the God-Man. No one else can help us. No one else could have taken our place. No one else could have made an acceptable sacrifice in the presence of God. Only Jesus Christ could have done these things. I want to submit to you that **there was no other way for God to save man except by God the Son coming to die in their place**. There was no other way – none, no other means, and no other method that God could have employed to save men. If Jesus had not died in our place, we could never have been saved.

In God's redemptive work on the believer's behalf, one of the major elements inscribed in that work is the necessity for the God the Father to be fully satisfied with the saving sacrifice that was completed by Christ. Ultimately, **the sacrifice of Christ was as much for the Father as it was for the believer**. God's acceptance of the redemptive sacrifice was actually the ultimate and necessary goal, and in one sense the believer's salvation was secondary. Obviously, it is not secondary to the believer, but if for some reason the Father had not accepted Christ's sacrifice, then salvation would have been a moot point. Just consider the ramifications of that. Just think if Christ had actually sinned against God in some way and His dying no longer had any sacrificial value for sin. If the Father, for whatever reason, had not been willing to accept Christ's sacrifice, then salvation would never have been attainable. There was no one else who could make the sacrifice, it had to be an absolute perfect sacrifice, and then it had to be accepted by the Father. If at any point, either of those elements had gone amiss, then everyone would die in their sins.

So, **Christ actually offering His blood at the heavenly altar is the very pinnacle of the redemptive process**. It could be called the final redemptive work. This was a moment like no other. In reality, God could not fail, Christ could not fail, and the Holy Spirit could not fail. There was no way that the Triune God would ever have initiated this entire redemptive work if they knew that Christ would not endure to the very end and that somehow His sacrificial work would become tainted by some obscure personal sin that disqualified Him from being the perfect sacrifice. That is one of the reasons why it is so important to study the Incarnation. It is to better understand that even though Christ took on the form of a man, He still fully remained as the eternal God. It was His "Godness", His being fully God and fully Man that was the guarantee that what He began in the Incarnation would be completed in His death, burial, and resurrection, and ultimately at the presentation of His blood to the Father in the heavenly sanctuary.