

## **Good News– The Blood of Jesus – 1 John 1. 5-10**

**Opening Prayer** God of hope and love, help us to experience the cleansing blood of Jesus, today. Amen

### **Intro**

Can anyone tell me where this is? - It's the woods opposite our house in Lansdown. A couple of years ago some friends came to visit us. His job is a Forrester and he loves all things trees, to the extent that he's named each of his four kids after trees. Anyway, when they visited, he said Tim you've got a problem. The trees opposite you have got the tree disease ashdieback. That disease is destroying trees across the UK.

Unless you get the trees sorted, he said, they'll completely die and could fall onto the road/house. Anyway after talking to Wessex Water and the Council, ultimately some men came and cut the diseased trees down and what's left is a whole!!!, where the disease was , but the trees around are now safe and healthy.

We're doing a series on the good news of Christianity this term, last week we looked at how Jesus came proclaiming the Good News of God's kingdom, and over the next few weeks we're going to look at different aspects of that Good News. Today in this time after Easter I want to think about the cross, but particularly the blood of Jesus that was shed on the Cross.

### **Blood**

Blood is fascinating stuff. There are whole departments in hospitals aimed at studying the health and disease in blood. There is life in our blood. Our blood truly is a river of life - providing life, health and protection to the body– transporting oxygen from lungs and delivering nutrients and vitamins to different parts of body – White blood cells build our immune system to protect the body from foreign invaders, like COVID. Our blood sustains and protects us. Through **High Resolution Blood Imaging** Scientists say that they can tell an incredible amount about us (including child trauma!!)

### **The Blood**

The theme of Blood appears throughout Scripture. There is blood shed at the beginning of Genesis, After Adam and Eve reject God's rule in their lives, when sin and selfishness enter the garden, From that day on—everything changed. The earth and everything in it was now cursed and relationships were broken by sin.

God sheds the innocent animal blood for skins to clothe a shamed Adam and Eve. (Gen 3:21). In the story of Cain and Abel. God accepted the blood of Abel's lamb, but He did not accept Cain's offering. Why? Because "without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin" (Heb 9:22). We discovered in Exodus that, when God wanted to deliver His people from bondage in Egypt. On the night of the Passover, God instructed each house to slay a lamb and put the blood on their door. God said in (Ex 12:13), "When I see the blood, I will pass over you."

The story of the blood is one involving sin, the law, covenant, sacrifice and scapegoating . In the Ancient world a promise that included blood was distinguished as a covenant, a lifelong promise.

In the tabernacle and later in the temple, thousands of sheep, oxen, and turtle doves were killed and their blood spilt as sacrifices to deal with the problem of sin. And finally, the Lord Jesus Christ died upon the cross. (Rev13:8). He came to die; He planned to die; He lived to die; and He was born to die.- the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. - so that we might live. Through the NT letters we see the talk about *'the power the blood of Jesus'* to live the Christian life.

*(See verses on Screen) So from Genesis to Revelation, the words **'the blood'** are kept before our eyes. The blood brings redemption, it takes away the sins of the world, it enables fellowship with God, brings healing and protection and gives authority over the devil but the blood also brings cleansing and purification—the settling of a matter once and for all and the blood of Jesus represents the greatest expression of God's self-sacrificial love towards us.*

But how is the blood of Jesus Good news for us? lets look (briefly) at this passage from 1 John

### **The blood of Christ - (1 John 1. 5-10)**

John's purpose is to show us what Fellowship with God looks like for a Christian, what sharing in God's life brings, what our inheritance is, what the Good News means. The Bible talks about fellowship with God in a way that evokes God's greatness and wonder and a beautiful freedom and the splendor of God's holiness? Yet, John introduces to one of the reasons why we struggle to experience it.....it's the issue of darkness. darkness of the world, the darkness of our hearts, the darkness of the devil.

### **Redemption Through the Blood of Christ**

God is light, and John shows us that the darkness of our hearts, the power of sin in our lives is a problem. Sin is an enemy of God . Sin has enslaved humanity into unending cycle of rivalry, blame, accusation, scapegoating, condemnation and violence. It's still a real problem in our world, its our problem. But, John says that the solution here is the blood of Jesus, it cleanses us from all sin.

Before this planet was ever swung into space, God had a good plan in His heart that He would send His Son to die upon the cross. That the blood shed on the cross would break the power of sin, death and the devil over God's beloved creation. *"We have redemption through His blood."* –Eph 1:7. His plan of Redemption for all mankind, for eternity, could not be accomplished through the blood of just a goat or ram like in OT times. Redemption of this magnitude required a much greater sacrifice—the blood of His own Son—Jesus.

Religion and the world's answer to the issue of sin (however we define it) is to *perform better*, work harder, get more training, more education, you have to earn and work your way to acceptance and acceptability to try and 'escape SIN' or pretend its not real.

You can't earn or pay for what Christ has done for us on the Cross. You can though joyfully accept this free gift.

A Christian is somebody whose confidence is based completely in Christ's performance. You can't know God's light unless you know Christ's blood. If you want an answer to the darkness, you have to begin with God, the light and the person of Jesus Christ and his blood shed on the cross, that overcomes the darkness.

On the cross and through his shed blood we see "The supreme revelation of God's love and splendour" In Christ's death, and the shedding of his blood we see that God holds back nothing from us, not even the life of his Son. The cross reveals God's glory; from the cross all the secrets of God are displayed. We see God's self-giving, radically forgiving, co-suffering love, and God in Christ's decisive victory over Satan, sin and death. – that's glorious news for those who believe.

### **Cleansing through the Blood of Christ**

Throughout scripture and here (*1 John 1. 7*) John talks about cleansing and purification from sin and unrighteousness. Not just pardon. The picture is of how sin defiles and pollutes us and how the blood of Jesus cleanses us from the stain that sin leaves, cleaning us up on the inside and outside

Do we have that real expectation of God, that fellowship with God means purity, holiness and cleanness? That we can have a clear conscience and a pure heart? Jesus says 'Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God' When we chose to walk in the light, we're allowing the life of the blood of Jesus through the Holy Spirit to clean us, to put sin to death in us. John is making clear that Living in our inheritance, means Not just removal of guilt and shame, but removal of the stain that sin leaves..

Do we have that desire to be clean, to be a pleasing aroma to the Lord?

The greatest thing the blood of Jesus accomplished was this—it washed all your sin away and made you clean and pure—white as snow. From the minute you receive Jesus as Lord of your life, God will not remember any past sin in your life. That's how powerful the blood is!

St Swithins, please hear me this morning the blood of Jesus really does pardon you and cleanse your heart and lives from all sin, there is no sin too great, or too small. None. One writer put it this way "You know with what joy does a weary traveller bathe in a fresh stream? plunging into the waters to experience its, cooling, cleansing and strengthening effect? Lift up your eyes today and see how by faith in Jesus how unceasingly a stream flows from heaven to earth? How the spirit releases the power of the blood of Jesus, to heal, cleanse and purify" That's our inheritance, that's good news, that's ours!!!

This morning Place yourself in the stream and believe the words that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin

## **Conclusion**

As we get a clearer vision of who Jesus is and all he's done for us, as we confess our sin, as we receive his Good News so we experience the transforming power of the blood of Jesus that makes us clean, free from guilt and shame, enjoying fellowship with God and one another.

Every time we take communion, we celebrate, the ultimate blood covenant in Jesus. The promise of his love, his protection and provision shed through his blood. God offered his spotless lamb, to save us, heal us, clean us and deliver us.

This morning, God doesn't want more sacrifices and offerings, he simply wants us. To turn and respond to the limitless grace, love, mercy and forgiveness. in gift of his own Son Jesus and the shedding of his blood. Will you receive Him? God longs for us to live in the light, to live in the way of love, forgiveness and freedom, that brings eternal peace

How wonderful it is to experience 'the blood's' redemption and cleansing personally.  
Praise God

## **Response Prayer**

Use Psalm 51 as a personal prayer for cleansing.....desiring to get any disease out and get free

We thank you, Lord, for the cross and resurrection, for your blood shed for us.  
Forgive us for our weakness and failings, we bring our sin into the light  
Consume our darkness, Wash us and make us clean we pray, purify our hearts  
In Jesus precious name. Amen