

- ***Read Hebrews 10:1-10*** A few minutes ago, we took time to commemorate and observe the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Before this event took place, Jesus instructed how it was that His disciples were to observe and remember this sacrifice. (**Matt. 26:26-28**) The bread eaten represents the broken body of Jesus that was beaten, whipped, and spat upon during His trial and crucifixion. The grape juice that we drink represents the blood that flowed from His broken body. This text in **Matthew 26** and our text we read in **Hebrews 10** both speak about this blood of Jesus. The blood of Jesus, the blood that He shed on that fateful day so many years ago was not just regular blood, but it was blood that contained power beyond that of any other person that has ever and will ever live.
- The powerful blood of Jesus has the ability to act upon us when we combine our faith with action and commitment to Jesus Christ. **Colossians 2:12** speaks about baptism and the fact that God works through us in that action to do something amazing within us. The NET states that we are raised "in the power of God." What does this mean, though? In what way is the blood of Jesus powerful? This morning, I would like for us to consider 5 ways in which the powerful blood of Jesus works upon us in our faith and obedience.

I. His Blood Cleanses (I John 1:7)

- A. The first powerful working of God through the blood of Jesus is the the fact that it cleanses us of our sins. Our sins have separated us from God because of His holiness. God cannot have fellowship with unrighteousness.
- B. This context (**I John 1**) talks about how it is that we can have fellowship with God, Jesus, His Apostles, and all those other righteous ones. It begins with walking in the light. However, if we leave the pathway of light then we must find the way to come back and that is through the blood of Jesus.
- C. If we confess and repent of our sins then the blood of Jesus will cleanse of and wash us clean of our sins and we can be back in fellowship with God, Jesus, and all those holy individuals.
- D. Let us take a moment and recognize that our cleansing is purely a result of the power that is within the blood of Jesus. It has nothing to do with our works or efforts, but the work and power is solely within the hand of God and the powerful working of Jesus's blood. (**Eph. 2:8,9 & Col. 2:12**)

II. His Blood Sanctifies (Heb. 13:12)

- A. Just as the blood of animals set apart the children of Israel as the people of God, let us recognize that the blood of Jesus sanctifies us and sets us apart from the people of this world.
- B. The blood of Jesus washes us of our sins, it cleanses us, and through this we are set apart from those who seek to live for themselves in this world.
- C. We, because of our washing by the blood of Jesus, can be adopted as sons of God. As sons of God and followers of Jesus, we stand out from others because we do not live for self, but we bear his reproach. Those who would mock the name of Jesus would see as as foolish for following Jesus, but they fail to recognize the power that is within the blood of Jesus....that it sets us a part for a greater purpose in this life.
- D. We are set apart to live according to the Spirit. Through the Spirit we live holy and righteous lives, and we are in route to the promise that comes with being heirs of God with Christ through His blood. (**Rom. 8:12-17**) This is made possible because the power blood of Jesus sanctifies us.

III. His Blood Redeems (Eph. 1:7)

- A. We are able to live these sanctified lives as sons and daughters of God because Jesus has redeemed us through the shedding of His powerful blood.
- B. As mentioned earlier, our sins have separated us from God and because of our sinful decisions, we are slaves to Satan and sin. (**Rom. 6:16**) As long as we continue in sin then we will be Satan's slaves, but even if we decide to turn to God we are helpless without that redeeming factor. That redeeming factor is the perfect blood of Jesus that purchases our souls back to God through our faith and obedience. (**Rom. 6:17-23**)
- C. All of these powerful workings of God through the blood of Jesus work together within the perfect plan of Jesus for our salvation. Through our faith and obedience we are cleansed of our sins, we are set a part for His glory, and we are bought back from the death clutches of Satan.

IV. His Blood Justifies (Rom. 5:9)

- A. All of this was done so that we might be able to stand justified before Jesus in the last day. The blood of Jesus works to have the result that we might be justified in the sight of God. **(Rom. 5:6-11)**
- B. This text shows us the plan of God that we might be reconciled back to God through the justifying blood of Jesus. All of these powerful workings of God work perfectly together.
- C. We were enemies. We were unholy sinners. We were unrighteous in our rebellion against Jesus. We were wicked enemies of God. However, God saw it good to redeem, reconcile, and justify us through the blood of Jesus Christ. His life blood was shed so that we might have life, again. He gave his life so that we might have life in Him.

V. His Blood Emboldens (Heb. 10:19)

- A. Finally, back in our original text of **Hebrews 10**, we find that through the blood of Jesus Christ we can be emboldened to a confidence that we could not have otherwise.
- B. We can draw near to God with sincere hearts that have assurances of the blessings that come to those who have righteous faith in Jesus Christ. **(Heb. 10:22)**
- C. We can hold fast to what we have confessed in our faith. We can hold fast before anyone the fact that Jesus is Lord. **(Heb. 10:23)**
- D. We can seek to push one another to love and godliness when we come together. **(Heb. 10:24,25)**
- E. Without being washed in the blood of Jesus, these things can't and wouldn't be possible. We wouldn't and couldn't have the confidence to approach God with request to help us get through this life. We wouldn't be able to have confidence that we can stand firm in our faith. We wouldn't have the unity that we have with those others who have been washed in the blood. Certainly the blood of Jesus is most powerful and working in the life of the Christian.

It can be very easy for us to take things for granted. It can be easy for us to come together each Lord's Day and partake of the bread and the juice and not consider the significance of what these emblems represent. Surely we recognize that there is great power in the blood of Jesus. We are not saved by just anyone's blood. We are not saved by the blood of bulls and goats. We are not saved by our own doing. We are only saved by the blood of Jesus and the powerful working of God through that shed blood. May God help us to recognize our constant need for the blood of Jesus, and may we never take it for granted or let that precious shed blood go to waste by our lack of faith and obedience to the will of God.