

The Blood of Jesus

“This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations.” (Luke 24:46-47)

The question in the heart of many people is why Jesus ought to die on the cross to save us from sin and death, and to give us new life eternal. “Is there no other way than the mutilated death of Jesus on the cross?”

In the book of Genesis, the first Chapter of the Bible speaks about the beginning of the creation – how God created the whole world. He made everything and He put everything in order. Finally He created man, male and female; He created them in His own image. And He put them in the Garden of Eden. God told them to eat from the fruit of all the trees except from the forbidden tree. The man and the woman enjoyed living and fellowshiping with God until they had fallen in to sin, when they disobeyed God by eating from the forbidden tree. After they ate from the tree, ***“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked so they sewed fig leaves together.” (Genesis 3:7)*** God knew what they had done and to cover their nakedness. ***“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” (Genesis 3:21)***

God slaughtered an animal and shed its blood in order to use its skin to cover the shame and the nakedness of Adam and Eve. That symbolized act of God had continued from that time onward. God slaughtered the animal and shed its blood in order to cover the shameful act of men. The shedding of animal blood was used for the purpose of cleansing and forgiveness of sin. ***“In fact; the law requires that merely everything be cleansed with blood and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22)***

Likewise, the principle of shedding blood had permeated many religions and traditions. We find many religions and people presenting to their idols some animal sacrifices of sheep, goats and cattle especially during celebrations or certain season. Many also do regularly and diligently but they do not realize the main idea of shedding of the blood of animal is for the covering of sin.

The Lord God had instructed His people about the sin offering. The sin may be a wrongdoing in speech, in action, in thoughts, or in regard to faith and belief. ***“When anyone anywhere is guilty in any of these ways, he must confess in what way he has sinned.” (Leviticus 5:5)*** As well, ***“If a person sins and does what is forbidden in any of the Lord’s commands, even though he does not know it, he is guilty and will be held responsible. He is to bring to the priest as a guilt offering a ram from the flock, one without defect and of the proper value. In this way the priest will make atonement for him for the wrong he had committed unintentionally, and he will be forgiven. It is a guilt offering; he has been guilty of wrongdoing against the Lord.” (Leviticus 5:17-19)***

Therefore, shedding of the blood is essential for the cleansing of sin. It is essential for forgiveness of sin and essential for reconciliation with God. ***“But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:3-4)*** The word of God clearly said, ***“For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)*** The shedding of the blood is essential for forgiveness. But it is clearly stated that animal sacrifices are not sufficient for taking away sin. ***“Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duty. Again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:11)*** So it is useless that we go on and sacrifice animal for our sins and wrong doing. But God had given us a new covenant to set us free from sin. God sent His own son, the Lord Jesus Christ. ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*** ***“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)***

John the Baptist when he saw Jesus coming he said: ***“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)*** God offered the blood and life of His Son Jesus for us. He offered Him as a lamb for our sins. The Prophet Isaiah said about Jesus, ***“He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before his shears is silent, so He did not open His mouth,” (Isaiah 53:7b)*** The Apostle Peter wrote, ***“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)***

This is the plan of God in sending His Son Jesus into the world, to cleanse us from our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness. This is the will of God, ***“And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the blood of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Hebrews 10:10)*** The blood and the body of Jesus is the only sacrifice that God is pleased with because Jesus is without sins and without defect. ***“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth.” (1 Peter 2:22)*** ***“So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people and He will appear a second time, not to bear sins, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.” (Hebrews 9:28)***

My dear and beloved: God, in His words, has already declared to every one of us His good and perfect plan. ***“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)*** God’s plan for us is to follow Jesus and to accept that His blood and sacrifice on the cross is the only way for us to receive God’s blessing and promise of eternal and perfect life.

My Prayer: “Heavenly Father, thank You for your good plan for me. Thank You for your Son Jesus Christ whom you sent as a Lamb, as sacrifice for my sins. Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ for your blood that was shed on the cross for my sins. Lord Jesus, cleanse me with your blood and forgive me my sins. Lord Jesus, purify me from all sinful acts and thoughts and make my life holy unto You. This is my prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.”