

“The Power of the Blood of Christ”

***Excerpt from Dr. Bruce Bickel’s talk on “A Life of Reverence” September 19, 2014
In the series on Holiness, 1 Peter 1 as our text***

Earthly captives in Jesus’ time were ransomed by the payment of money, because that was the only thing that was valuable to the culture at the time. So if you wanted to get somebody to ransom them, to redeem them, you had to buy them with a certain amount of money.

Notice this, that no corrupt ransom can save a corrupt life. Our ransom was accomplished by the blood of Christ.

Now do you see how pondering the shed blood of Christ produces a reverential spirit? When we consider such a holy, mysterious, devoted love, His coming from such a height and going to such a depth below, a sense of awe is awakened.

We think of being free. That brings about a certain response within us. Let me give you some illustrations here that evoke joy. I want to spend the rest of the time talking about the blood of Christ, if I may.

The more a person believes and loves and rejoices in the love of God, the more he is unwilling to displease Him. The more that you and I stand in awe, and rejoice in the love of God, the less are we likely to displease Him.

Peter says that we are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. Now notice what he didn’t say. Now let’s go back to our passage.

“... knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.”

Now notice what he doesn’t say. He didn’t say, “Christ died for you.” We know He did, but He doesn’t say that. He’s emphasizing the sacrifice and the substitutionary work of Christ on our behalf. Anybody would die for somebody, but only a holy God could shed His blood. The Scripture says this: “Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” It’s the cost of our redemption that produces reverence and life within us. When you understand that you’ve been washed in the blood of Christ, that will produce reverence in you.

The value of anything is dependent upon its usefulness in times of trial. Now notice this. If you were lost in a desert, and you had ten million dollars in your wallet, you wouldn’t think it was very precious. What would be the most precious thing for you?

Men: Water.

Bruce: A cup of water. You see, that’s what Peter is saying. How precious it would be to have a cup of water!

The blood of Christ is precious in so many ways to the believer because of what God accomplished in the shed blood of Christ. Now let me give you just a litany of things. If you want this, I’ll type this up and have it on the Internet, or on our web page. But just listen to it. Just relax, and just think about this. Here is the power of the blood of Christ, and why it is so precious, brothers! You’re redeemed by the blood of Christ. He doesn’t say, “He died for you.” Somebody else may sacrifice his life, but He did more than that. He shed His blood for you, that you might be wrapped in the robes of Christ’s righteousness.

Here is just a litany of the power of the blood of Christ. Number 1. It’s an atoning power Leviticus 17:11, because it produces a reconciled relationship. The blood of Christ accomplishes a reconciled relationship. You have been reconciled to God because of the blood of Christ.

“The Power of the Blood of Christ”

Number 2. It's a redeeming power. Ephesians 1:7. It's a removal of all the bondage to all of sin and Satan. It's a redeeming power. You've been rescued by the payment of a price.

Number 3. It's a justifying power. Romans 5:9. Your guilty position as an unrighteous person has been justified. You've been given credit for the sinless perfection and perfect obedience of Christ because of the blood of Christ. The ransom that has been paid for you produces within us a spirit of reverence.

Number 4. It's a forgiving power. Matthew 26:28. He forgives our treason against God's holiness and His creative ordinance. You've been forgiven because of the blood of Christ.

Number 5. It's a propitiating power. In other words, it removes God's wrath. The reason that you and I do not experience God's wrath is because of the blood of Christ. Romans chapter 9, verse 25.

Number 6. It's also a purifying power. Revelation chapter 1, verse 5. We are dressed in Christ's righteousness. God views you as being wrapped in the robes of righteousness, and so it is a purifying power. God views you as being pure now, because of the blood of Christ. It's not because of what you do. It's because of what Christ did for you, in your gracious and glorious salvation.

You see, brothers, when you ponder this completed redemption, it ought to generate within us a spirit of reverential fear and awe, and the magnificent respect we have for a holy God.

Number 6. So it's also a pacifying power. Colossians 1:20. It is the blood of Christ that made peace for us with God. It's not your making a decision. It was the shed blood of Christ that made peace possible. Romans chapter 5, verse 1. We have peace with God because of the redeeming work of Christ.

Number 7. It's also a cleansing power. 1 John 1:7. It purifies us from all sin. What prevents you from wanting to sin again? It's the blood of Christ, because you have a completed redemption. You've been rescued through the payment of a price, and it impacts you in so many different ways.

Number 8. It's a sanctifying power that sets you apart for holiness. Hebrews chapter 9, verses 13 and 14.

Number 9. It's a purchasing power. He purchased the church of God, the body of Christ. Acts 20, verse 28. The reason we can pray for the family of God around the world is because of the shed blood of Christ, because God purchased His people to form His church. That is the result of the shed blood of Christ.

Number 10. It's a confirming power. The Holy Spirit testifies to us that we are His children. 1 John 5:6.

Number 11. It's a preserving power. Exodus 12, verse 7. It prevents the destroyer, the evil one, from attacking us. It's a preserving power. Satan cannot get to us because of what? Your obedience? No, it's because of the shed blood of Christ. You're protected by that. It's a preserving power.

Number 12. It's an overcoming power. Revelation 12:11. We have overcome. The victory over Satan has already occurred because of the shed blood of Christ.

Number 13. It's an invigorating power. John 6:53-55, because it's a source of life and satisfaction. It's very invigorating. When you can understand your completed redemption, men,

“The Power of the Blood of Christ”

there is a sense of invigoration that stimulates in your lives an activity, because you want to express your gratitude to the One who has loved you so much.

Number 14. It’s a giving power. You’ve been given entrance into the presence of God. Hebrews chapter 9, verse 11.

Number 15. It’s a covenanting power. It’s a new arrangement. God has made a new arrangement because of the blood of Christ. Hebrews chapter 12, verse 24.

Number 16. and lastly, it’s a remembering power. 1 Corinthians 10:16. We remember His shed blood.

You see, we just need to understand two things to have a life of reverence—His coming judgment, and a completed redemption. So that’s what Peter means in verse 21. (*Paraphrase.*) “So through Him, you believe in me.” He has accomplished your salvation. He has called us into salvation. He has applied it, and in Him we now believe. Our life in Christ starts with God and brings us to God.

So why is it that you and I have been positioned, men, to live lives of respect and reverence and awe? Because of two things. The coming judgment, where you know God is going to evaluate you as a family member, because you have the privilege of calling Him Father.

How do you respond in your life choices, because you understand that Fatherly relationship? Do you understand the magnificence of God’s love? You see, when you understand the Fatherhood of God, you understand the magnificence of His love for you in that gracious and glorious salvation that we read about in verses 1-12. And when you understand that, that begins to transform the conduct, the way you make your decisions, because you understand that God loves you so much that you can actually call Him Father. I have a place! I have a relationship! I have all that the psychologists and the psychiatrists say are necessary for a well-based life. And that is this: I’ve got a place and a relationship. My place is in the family of God, and I can call Him Father.

And secondly, do you understand the significance of your completed redemption? You’ve been rescued; you’ve been ransomed through the payment of a price. That price was the shed blood of Christ. Just look at those sixteen things I gave you that the Scripture teaches us about the power of the blood. There is power in the blood. And when you consider your completed redemption, men, it’s going to produce within us a sense of reverence, a sense of awe! You don’t take God flippantly or lightly. I realize that I can call Him Father. I understand this, also. I understand what it cost Him to put me in that position where I can call Him Father. That’s our completed redemption.

And the response, Peter says, is this. You have a life of fearing God—a life of reverence, respect and dignity, because you can call Him Father,

Let us pray. Father, this is such a magnificent concept. Forgive me for my ineptitude in trying to teach it clearly. I just pray, Lord, that You would remove anything that is not consistent with Your revealed will, consistent with Your character, Your nature, or Your attributes, and that only those things that are consistent with that which You want us to believe, and that we remember. Father, thank You that we can call You “Father.” And when we call You “Father,” do not ever let us take that for granted. That is not a flippant response. It’s a love response. It’s a love response, in obedience. But may our lives of reverence be manifested by our aggressive response to be obedient. The rights we have in calling you “Father,” as we are members of the

“The Power of the Blood of Christ”

family, for we do not have the right to be disobedient. And, Father, keep our sin ever before us, because we know that it has already been paid for. And may that response be that we would live lives of respect, dignity and awe in Your presence, for Jesus’ sake.

And all the Brave Men said, “Amen.”