

## Access to the Powerful Blood of Jesus!

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### Introduction: The Blood of Jesus is Powerful!

- A. The blood of Jesus provides the forgiveness of our sins (**Heb. 9:22**).
  - 1. For God to maintain His righteous judgment against sin, justice needed to be satisfied (**Rom. 3:23; 6:23**).
  - 2. It is because of the blood of Jesus that we can stand justified before God on the Day of Judgment (**Rom. 5:9**).
- B. The blood of Jesus gives us peace with God.
  - 1. Sinners are enemies of God who have no peace with God (**Isa. 57:21**).
  - 2. By the blood of Jesus we can be reunited with the Lord! (**Col. 1:20-22**).
- C. By the blood of Jesus, we can have a relationship with God! (**Heb. 10:19-22**).
  - 1. Confidently, we may draw near to God and enter His presence.
  - 2. Through Jesus we have access to GOD! (**Eph. 2:18**).
- D. By the blood of Jesus, a New Covenant was established (**Mat. 26:28**).
  - 1. A covenant far superior to the Old (**Heb. 8-10**).
  - 2. For *all* people who answer the call of the gospel (**Ac. 2:39; Heb. 9:15**).
- E. The church was made possible by the blood of Jesus.
  - 1. The church is people whose names are “*written in heaven*” (**Heb 12:23**).
  - 2. Without His blood, there would not be a church! (**Acts 20:28; Rev 5:9**).
- F. The blood of Jesus frees us from the slavery of sin.
  - 1. The world as a whole is enslaved to sin (**John 8:34; cf. Rom. 3:23**).
  - 2. By His blood, we are redeemed from the bondage of sin (**Eph. 1:7**).
  - 3. *Only* the blood of Jesus can free people from sin (**1 Pet. 1:18-19**).
- G. Powerful blood indeed! Yet, how can a person *gain access* to His blood?
  - 1. Not by faith only (**James 2:19, 24**)
  - 2. Not by praying a prayer (e.g., Saul of Tarsus - **Acts 9:11; 22:16**).
  - 3. Not by good works only (e.g., Cornelius – **Acts 10:1-2, 22, 34-48**).
  - 4. Not by our feelings or emotional experiences (**Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23**).
  - 5. *A person gains access to His blood when he is baptized into Christ.*

### I. Access to the Blood through Baptism.

- A. Baptism is essential for the forgiveness of our sins.
  - 1. Baptism is only for penitent believers of Christ (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; cf. Acts 8:12-13; 35-39; 10:34-38; 16:25-34; 18:8; 19:1-5**).
  - 2. Baptism is required to have our sins washed away (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**).
- B. Yet, is baptism *absolutely* essential for our eternal salvation?
  - 1. Some people object to making baptism a requirement for salvation, calling baptism (immersion in water) the doctrine of “*water salvation*.”
    - a. “We are not saved by baptism; we are saved by the blood of Christ!”
  - 2. Yet, the Scriptures never speak of the water as possessing the actual power to save us eternally (**1 Pet. 3:21**).
- C. Only Jesus’ blood has the power to cleanse us of sin (**Heb. 9:14**), yet *only if* we obey His command to be baptized in His name.
  - 1. Jesus does the cleansing of sin *when* we meet the condition to be baptized (immersed in water) in His name (**Eph. 5:25-27**).

2. Yes, there is something every person *must do* to gain spiritual access to the powerful blood of Jesus! (**Acts 2:36-38**).

## II. What Does the Blood of Jesus and Baptism Have in Common?

- A. *Both* are required to enter into a relationship with the Lord (**Eph 2:13/ Gal 3:27**)
- B. *Both* are required for the forgiveness of sin (**Mat. 26:28 / Acts 2:38**).
- C. *Both* are required for the washing away of sins (**Rev. 1:5 / Acts 22:16**).
- D. *Both* are required for salvation (**Rom. 5:9 / Mark 16:16; cf. 1 Pet. 3:21**).
- E. Therefore, there is *no contradiction* to teach that one must be baptized into Christ in order to gain access to the blood of Christ.

## III. Why Did God Choose Baptism?

- A. Baptism into Christ is when we are baptized into His death (**Rom. 6:3-4**).
  - 1. Baptism is not a mere symbolic ritual, but *the exact moment in time* when a person begins to partake of the blessings of Jesus' blood!
- B. God, not us, is at work at baptism to cleanse us of all our sins (**Col. 2:12-13**).
  - 1. If we have faith in the working of God when we are baptized, we will have our sins forgiven and be raised to a new life! (**cf. Rom. 6:4**).
  - 2. God uses the powerful, cleansing blood of His Son Jesus to save us when we, *in faith*, obey to be baptized into Christ (**cf. Rom. 3:24-25a**).
- C. *Only* when a person has gained access to His blood in baptism does he or she become a Christian.
  - 1. Many teach that baptism is an act of obedience to demonstrate that you are *already* saved, just a requirement for membership in a local church.
  - 2. Yet, baptism is the *final* step a person takes to become a Christian.
  - 3. If this is not true, why was Saul told to be baptized to wash away his sins, if in fact he was saved by faith only when He saw the risen Christ? (**Acts 22:16**)
  - 4. If this is not true, why "*put on Christ*" in baptism if you can be in Christ before baptism by faith only? (**Gal. 3:27**)
  - 5. Baptism is also when a person is added to the body of Christ, His church, for which he shed His blood (**Acts 2:38-47; 20:28; cf. 1 Cor. 12:13**).

## IV. Once We Gain Access to the Blood of Jesus, Then What?

- A. We begin a life of holiness (**1 Pet. 1:1b-2**).
  - 1. Saved to live a life of holiness - *a life of obedience to Jesus Christ*.
  - 2. We pursue holiness (**Heb. 12:14**) or put away sin in our lives because we are now *slaves of God* and freed from sin (**Rom. 6:22**).
- B. We depend upon the cleansing power of His blood throughout our lives.
  - 1. Ultimately, it is by "*the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ*" (**1 Pet. 1:2**) that we can be holy in the sight of God (**cf. 1 Cor. 1:30**).
  - 2. We will *always* need the cleansing power of Jesus' blood (**1 Jn. 1:6-7**).
  - 3. No Christian will ever reach perfection or achieve a sinless life in which he or she never transgresses God's law (**1 John 1:8, 10**).
  - 4. The Lord will continue to cleanse us by the power of His blood, but we must confess our sins to Him to receive His cleansing (**1 Jn 1:9; Ac 8:22**).

**Conclusion: Have You Been to Jesus for the Cleansing Power? Are You Washed in the Blood of the Lamb? (Rev. 7:9-10, 13-14).**