

subject: The Cross of Christ (#5)

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The Blood of Christ

primary text: "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22).

corollary text: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul" (Leviticus 17:11).

Introduction

1. Christ is the object of much Old Testament prophesy.
 - a. He is the seed of woman (Genesis 3:15).
 - b. He is the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
 - c. He is the Sceptre of Judah (Genesis 49:10).
 - d. He is our Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7).
 - e. He is the Shepherd of Psalm 23.
 - f. He is the suffering servant of Isaiah 59.
2. The many sacrifices of the Old Testament foreshadow Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

I. The Comments of Others:

Lev 17:11 -

For the life of the flesh is in the blood - This sentence, which contains a most important truth, had existed in the Mosaic writings for 3600 years before the attention of any philosopher was drawn to the subject. This is the more surprising, as the nations in which philosophy flourished were those which especially enjoyed the Divine oracles in their respective languages. That the blood actually possesses a living principle, and that the life of the whole body is derived from it, is a doctrine of Divine revelation, and a doctrine which the observations and experiments of the most accurate anatomists have served strongly to confirm.

Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible
Adam Clarke, LL.D., F.S.A., (1715-1832)

Heb 9:22 -

And almost all things - It is a general custom to purify everything by blood. This rule was not universal, for some things were purified by fire and water, Num 31:22-23, and some by water only; Num 31:24; Lev 16:26, Lev 16:28. But the exceptions to the general rule were few. Almost everything in the tabernacle and temple service, was consecrated or purified by blood.

Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible
Albert Barnes (1798-1870)

Heb 9:22 -

And without shedding of blood is no remission - The apostle shows fully here what is one of his great objects in the whole of this epistle, viz. that there is no salvation but through the sacrificial death of Christ, and to prefigure this the law itself would not grant any remission of sin without the blood of a victim. This is a maxim even among the Jews themselves, אין כפרה אלא בדם ein capparah ella

bedam, "There is no expiation but by blood." Yoma, fol. 5, 1; Menachoth, fol. 93, 2. Every sinner has forfeited his life by his transgressions, and the law of God requires his death; the blood of the victim, which is its life, is shed as a substitute for the life of the sinner.

Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible
Adam Clarke, LL.D., F.S.A., (1715-1832)

II. The Application for us:

- A. Those animal sacrifices demonstrate the judgment of God.
 1. God's justice demands punishment for sin.
 2. God's holy nature cannot accept sin (Leviticus 19:2).
 - a. God will not accept the sins of surrounding nations (Leviticus 18:3).
 - b. God's name was to be kept in reverence (Leviticus 22:2; 24:11-16).
- B. The blood of the sacrifices depicts the grace and mercy of God.
 1. God could have demanded the wages of sin from humanity (Romans 6:23).
 2. The blood of bulls and goats pacified God's demand for justice (Hebrews 10:4-6).
 3. The ones who aver that there is no grace in the Old Testament should consider the following points.
 - a. Genesis 6:8
 - b. **In prospect**, God allowed Jesus to cover the sins of a fallen race (see Hebrews 9:15).

Conclusion

1. God still demands punishment for sin, and there are only two ways to escape this such.
 - a. One, never sin.
 - b. Two, after sinning, receive pardon.
2. God is still willing to accept a substitute for the sins of mankind.
 - A story tells of a king and his son who lost a hand each.
 - a. Jesus is the lamb of God which taken away the sin of the world (John 1:29).
 - b. Jesus is payment for sin (1 John 2:1, 2).
3. The question is not *does* Jesus save, but *how* does Jesus save?
 - **Hear (Romans 10:17)**
 - **Believe (Mark 16:16)**
 - **Repent (Acts 17:30, 31)**
 - **Confess (Matthew 10:32, 33)**
 - **Be Baptized (1 Peter 3:21)**
 - **Live faithfully (Revelation 2:10)**