

NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

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The Carriage Drive Messenger



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REACHING THE BLOOD OF JESUS

by Bob Pulliam

It is not difficult (using human logic) for us to understand the ritualistic forgiveness bestowed on a person sacrificing under the Law of Moses. The person provided the sacrifice and confessed his sins while laying his hands on the head of the animal. The animal was then slain and the blood poured out for that person's forgiveness. The blood was always the means by which sins were forgiven (Heb 9:22).

It becomes a little more difficult (from the standpoint of human logic) to realize the method utilized under the law of Christ, however. How could a sacrifice provided and slain two-thousand years ago cleanse me of my sins? Many never even think about this. They simply know that God said He would forgive them, and they believe it.

But in many cases they are not believing what God has revealed, rather, they accept what man has told them. Man tells them just to believe on Jesus and they will be forgiven by the blood of Jesus shed on the cross. We all must agree that it is the blood of Jesus that provides this great blessing; but is this the way, given by God, for man to take advantage of the blood poured out so long ago? It was easy to see the mechanism behind the ritual of the Old Testament; but how is blood shed so long ago applied for our benefit? An understanding here requires your attention to two important facts.

Radio Programs: WJLS 99.5FM every Sunday at 9:00AM
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Wednesday: Bible Study 7:30pm

First you must realize that forgiveness takes place in the mind of God, just as it does with you and me. We know that when we forgive someone, it is the attitude toward the individual that changes. The guilt of that person is removed from our mind. Thus we have the old adage, "forgive and forget". The point is, we no longer hold their transgression against them. The same is true with God. Forgiveness is not some magical dissolving of some mystic force or substance in our being. God no longer holds a sin to our charge. God blots such out in His mind.

When this is realized, one can easily see that blood never actually acted like a literal soap to cleanse us. It is an agent of appeasement set in force by God to determine eligibility for salvation. Such is based on the individual's willingness to accept that sacrifice and comply with the conditions attached to it's benefits offered. When the conditions are met, God applies the benefits of His Son's blood to us. This brings us to the second important fact that you need to understand...

The means by which we traverse time to partake of the blood's benefits is in baptism. While pointing out our sanctification in Jesus, Paul wrote, "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" (Rom 6:3) The only way I get into the death of Jesus is through baptism. Jesus' death is where he poured out His blood for our forgiveness. Jesus' death is the only place I can find forgiveness. Baptism is the only way into the death of Jesus. The conclusion is obvious... forgiveness becomes available to man through baptism. After this, I keep myself pure from sin, and as I make mistakes and correct them I can rely on Jesus' blood to continue to cleanse me (I Jn 1:7 - 2:3; see also Acts 8:9 - 22).

Now if baptism is the way given by God to get into Christ (Rom 6:3 & 4; Gal 3:27), what of those who accept man's word that they can just believe and be saved? Even though they may have been immersed later, was it for the purpose given by God (Acts 2:38); and did it really rely on His sacrifice given so long ago? And what of you? Are you *in* Christ?

THE BIBLE DOESN'T BRING IT UP

by Bob Pulliam

You hear a lot of people bring up this subject; but the Bible treats it as being irrelevant. There is a very good reason for this. It *is* irrelevant! What is the question? "What do you suppose happened to such and such a relative of mine? Do you think they went to heaven or hell?" "What about the people on the South Seas islands who never heard

the gospel, let alone obey it?" Never do you find anyone in the Bible asking such a question! As I pointed out, it is irrelevant. After all, if they went to hell, what could *you* do about it?

The relevant question in the Bible is, "What must *I* do to be saved?" It was asked by the multitude on Pentecost (Acts 2:37). It was asked by the Philippians jailor (Acts 16:30). It was asked by the apostle Paul (Acts 9:6). The truly important matter is that which concerns me *individually*.

When I stand before the judgment bar of God, I will be judged for my own actions (II Cor 5:10). It will be my own personal acceptance or rejection of the word that will determine my eternal fate (John 12:48).

Related to this is the response that some people give when they hear the truth, and realize that a dead relative did not believe or obey that. "Well, if aunt Ruby won't be in heaven, I don't want to go there either." What?! This isn't a vacation! And if aunt Ruby isn't in heaven, and you go to hell to be with her; not only will you not enjoy the visit, you also may never find her among the billions of souls who end up there! Clearly, this expresses a greater love for aunt Ruby than for Jesus.

Many people reject the word of God based on the fact that a loved one who passed on did not accept such. These elevate the dead to a position higher than almighty God Himself. And let these remember that the Bible never brought up such a subject. It is nothing more than the imagination of humans who declare their allegiance to man rather than God. Who do you serve?...

THINK ABOUT IT...

- Many a man saves everything but his soul. How about you?
- Death is not a period but a comma in the story of life.
- Blessed is the man who can hear his alarm clock on Sunday as well as on Monday.
- There are some whose faith is not strong enough to bring them to church services, but they expect it to take them to heaven.
- Many people go to church; fewer go to worship.
- The cross is easier for the Christian who takes it up than for the one who drags it along.
- Don't stay away from church because you have the idea that there are too many hypocrites in it. There's always room for one more.
- A church that is not reaching out is passing out.

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