**Nothing But The Blood**

Most churches have the hymn "Nothing But The Blood" in their song books. It is #376 in our books. The song expresses the importance of the blood/death of Christ to our salvation. Part of the song goes like this “What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.” It goes on to say “Nothing can for sin atone – Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

The song expresses such a critically important truth. In Matt 26:28 Jesus said “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” So our salvation from sin is made possible by the blood of Christ. It is the earning basis for the remission of our sins. Without Jesus’ death, we would have no hope.

Eph 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.” “Redemption” has the idea of buying back, like you might redeem something at a pawn shop. So the analogy is that we are in the possession of the devil because of our sin, and Jesus buys us back with his blood. It is a gift; it is undeserved, and that is why it is called “grace.”

Rev 1:5 says “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.” We wash our hands with soap and water, but the blood of Christ is what washes away our sins.

I John 1:7 reads “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” So what actually cleanses our sin? It is the blood of Christ.

But notice from I John 1:7 something that many preachers overlook. The blood of Christ is what cleanseth us from sin, but it is conditional; we have to do something for the blood to cleanse us. We have to “walk in the light.” The “light” is referring to the light of God’s word, so this verse is teaching we must walk in God’s word, we must follow the Bible’s teachings for our sins to be cleansed by Jesus’ blood. Many say there is nothing we have to do to be saved, but this verse refutes that notion.

A simple verse like John 3:16 refutes the notion also – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” We have to believe in Jesus in order to receive the benefits of Jesus’ blood, His death.

II Thess 1:8 shows that not only do we have to believe, but we also have to obey – “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I Pet 1:22 tells us the connection between obedience and the cleansing of our sins. It says "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth." Have you ever obeyed the truth, obeyed the gospel as these two passages direct?

Acts 2:38 reads “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Do you see how we have to do two things (repent and be baptized) in order to receive the remission of sins provided for by the death of Christ? This verse is parallel to the passage we read earlier – Matt 26:28. That verse says Jesus’ blood was “shed … for the remission of sins.” This verse (Acts 2:38) says we repent and are baptized “for the remission of sins.” So if Matt 26:28 proves Jesus’ blood is necessary to the forgiveness of our sins, then the same wording in Acts 2:38 would prove our repentance and baptism is necessary to the forgiveness of our sins. See my point?

Heb 5:9 is one of my favorite passages showing the necessity of obedience to our salvation - "And being made perfect, he (Jesus) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

Matt 7:21 says basically the same thing "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Many churches teach all you have to do to be saved is "accept Jesus Christ as your personal saviour" meaning believe in Jesus, but James 2:24 says - "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." It takes more than just faith to be justified in God's sight; it also takes works.

Rev 22:14 says "Blessed are they that **do his commandments**, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Again the song is right, “nothing but the blood of Jesus” cleanses our sins. But we must "Trust And Obey" to be cleansed of our sins by the blood of Christ. If any preachers tells you that obedience is not required for salvation, ignore what he says; that is a false teacher.