

## Power in the Blood -2

Leviticus 16:3-10

November 16, 2008

### Intro

In chapter 16 of Leviticus, the Israelites are just beginning to implement the offerings of sacrifice and worship. As we have been studying, many of these have to do with the offering of the sacrifice of blood. And as we were discussing last week, there is a scarlet thread of blood that runs through the entire bible. That scarlet thread points entirely to Jesus Christ when he shed his blood on the cross at Calvary.

We were also seeing that the Jews were restricted from eating blood. This is because life is in the blood and all life belongs to God. How precious then is blood if it is the stream of life?

However, the blood of bulls and goats could not take away their sins because the life of a bull or goat is not equivalent to the life of a man. This is because man is made in the image of God.

How precious then is the blood of Christ? Words could not convey the preciousness of that blood! He was the son of the living God, he was the Word made flesh, he was the Lamb of God who takes only the sins of the world.

The blood of Christ is important to us in so many ways that we could not speak of them all. But here in Leviticus it points to many aspects of the blood of Christ that are useful to us to understand.

In other words, when we understand how important it is to us, it even makes that blood much more precious.

**Illus – Those on the Titanic found great value in even a piece of fruit when they saw their need.**

**The preciousness then of the blood of Christ is increased when we fully understand its necessity in our lives.**

### **I. Everyone Needs the Blood of Christ**

- 1 Verse 6 tells that Aaron first had to offer a bull as a sin offering for himself. He was the high priest of God and it is abundantly clear that if Aaron needs the blood of Christ, then everyone does.
- 2 There are no exceptions; whether it be Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Billy Graham, or anyone else, everyone needs the blood of Christ.

#### **A. It has power to save**

- 1 Christ's precious blood has the power to save us from what? It saves us from condemnation, from the curse of the law.

**Galatians 3:10, For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the***

*law, to perform them.”*

**Galatians 3:13, Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us--for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” --**

2 The law created a constant fear or dread of failure.

**CS Spurgeon:** *The life of a Hebrew, happy as it was compared with that of a heathen, was perfect drudgery compared to yours and mine. He was hemmed in with a thousand commands and prohibitions. He was always in danger of making himself unclean. If he sat upon a bed or upon a stool, he might be defiled; if he drank out of an earthen pitcher, or even touched the wall of a house, a leprous man might have put his hand there before him, and he would thus become defiled.*

*A thousand sins of ignorance were like so many hidden pits in his way; he must be perpetually in fear lest he should be cut off from the people of God. When he had done his best any one day, he knew he had not finished; no Jew could ever talk of a finished work. The bull was offered, but he must bring another; the lamb was offered this morning, but another must be offered this evening, another tomorrow, and another the next day. The Passover is celebrated with holy rites; but if it must be kept in the same manner next year. The high priest has gone within the veil once, but he must go there again; the thing is never finished, it is always beginning. He never comes any nearer to the end.*

3 But when Jesus was on the cross dying of our sins, he called out, “Tetelestai” in Greek, it is finished.

**Hebrews 10:10-14 It is finished in Christ**

4 Now we read the law with pleasure. The worst thunders of the law cannot touch us; we are under the blood of the Lamb of God.

5 Everyone needs the blood of Christ. Yet some people insist that they do not need the blood of Christ. They’re good, they recycle, they do good things.

6 But they are then saying that they don’t need the blood of Christ.

**Illus – Some people insist on going to trial. They’re convinced that they’ve lived good lives and are willing to let their case be tried in the courtroom of God. But it will not go well for them. Why would anyone insist on going to trial when God has offered to settle the matter in Jesus Christ?**

**Romans 8:1-2, Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.**

B. Christ’s blood brings us near to God

7 Last week we read that, “The life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls;”

8 Neither great diligence of effort nor even deep repentance will take away our sin.

The blood and the blood of Christ alone takes away our sin.

**Illus – the picture of the two goats together picture the shedding of Christ’s blood and the removing of our sins far from us.**

- 9 But once sin has been taken away, we are free to enter into the courts of God and worship.
- 10 In fact, when Christ died on the cross, the veil in the temple that separated the holy place from the most holy place was torn from top to bottom; which then made a way for us to enter into the very throne room of our God.

**Matthew 27:50-53 The veil in the temple was torn**

- 1 It is therefore only by the blood of Christ that I can be at one with God.

**Illus – I can meditate and repeat the sound of the universe and try to be one with it, but without the blood of Christ, I am not one with God. I can climb mountains and shout God’s praises, I can memorize all the holy writings ever written, I can pray until my knees become hard and calloused, but without the precious blood of Christ applied to my life, I cannot be one with God.**

**Ephesians 2:12-13, -- remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

**Hebrews 10:22, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**

C. Christ’s blood makes us completely clean

- 11 Not only does the blood of Christ have the power to save, not only does it allow us to draw near to God, but the blood of Christ also has the power to make us completely clean.
- 12 The scripture speaks of sin as staining our soul and that is a good picture of its defiling effect.

**Illus – When we were kids we used to pick strawberries every summer. Not everyone was required to pick berries, but it was easy to tell which ones were. All you had to do was look at their fingers because strawberries stain and no amount of washing will remove it.**

- 13 Sin is a plague to the one who is stained by it and it is a grievous thing to the God

who abhors it. We must be made clean; we must have our stains washed away.

14 However, we need to understand that he cleanses our hearts from the stain of sin as well.

15 The awareness of our sin, the knowledge of our sin, is very troubling to our hearts and so we need to fully believe that God washes us from all unrighteousness.

**App- Some people see themselves as permanently stained so they figure they're no use in their trying to do right.**

**1 John 1:7-9, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**Hebrews 9:14, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

1 This should make our hearts leap within us! We need to fully know that God's desire is to convince us that what he does is perfect and complete.

**Isaiah 1:18, "Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool."**

## **II. Christ's Blood Has Authority**

- 1 Look at verse 18 where Aaron up was directed to take some of the blood and put it on the horns of the altar on all sides.
- 2 The altar was the place where the sacrifices were offered. It was about 4 feet by 4 feet square and had a brass horns on each corner.
- 3 The horns of the altar, as is true of a horn in many places in scripture, represent the authority of the blood of Christ.

### **A. Only in Him can we make our appeal**

- 1 The horns of the altar became a symbol of mercy in the Old Testament. Laying hold of the horns of the altar was a form of appeal.

**Illus – Solomon's brother, Adonijah, tried to make himself king. When Solomon was anointed king instead, he ran to the tabernacle and took hold of the horns of the altar.**

**But was mercy based on the altar or the blood on the altar? There would no mercy without the blood.**

**App – Some people today believe that religious things will save them, but religious things have no power unto themselves. It is only by the blood of Christ that we can appeal to God for his power in our lives.**

**Illus – Once there was a very wealthy man who was on his deathbed in the city of London and as he was dying called out for the famous preacher Spurgeon, though he had never met him in all his life. He was unable to go so he sent his brother. At one point, Spurgeon’s brother asked, “Why did you send for Spurgeon?”**

*“Whenever I have a doctor,” the man said, “I always like to get the best; and when I employ a lawyer I like a man who is highest in the profession. Money is no object. I want the best possible help.”*

- 1 But no pastor, no priest, no earthly sacraments, no church membership, no earthly power at all will be of any help. The horns of the altar spoke only of the authority of the blood of Christ. **If a person will not have Christ, there is nothing else on which to lay hold of.**

**Illus – Some Jewish exorcists tried to use the power of Jesus...**

**Acts 19:13, 15, But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, “I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.”... And the evil spirit answered and said to them, “I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?”**

B. By Christ’s blood we gain victory

- 2 Not only does the blood of Christ cleanse us, but the blood of Christ also strengthens us within.
- 3 In fact, in the last days it is by the blood of Christ that saints are victorious.

**Revelation 12:10-11, Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”**

- 4 Why could it be said of them that they “did not love their life even when faced with death”?

5 Because they loved Christ more!

**1 John 4:19, We love because he first loved us.**

**1 John 3:1, See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.**

6 This is the key to becoming those who overcome. It's in knowing how much we are loved in Christ and fully loving Him in return that sin loses its power over us.

**Illus – We know that as soon as we told not to do something, there is a desire to do it. That is the power of the flesh, but when we are filled up at the banquet of God's table, the scraps of the world lose their power and we are victorious. If our souls are satisfied, then the world cannot fill us with those worldly things that can never satisfy.**