



Around the Word  
**Bible Study**  
 Lent, 2016

The Blood of Christ  
 Hebrews 9:6-14

**On the Sacraments:**

"There flowed from his side water and blood.' Beloved, do not pass over this mystery without thought; it has yet another hidden meaning, which I will explain to you. I said that water and blood symbolized baptism and the holy eucharist. From these two sacraments the Church is born: from baptism, 'the cleansing water that gives rebirth and renewal through the Holy Spirit,' and from the holy eucharist."

—St. John Chrysostom

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**Session 2: "The Blood That Cleanses"**

One of the most important features of the Letter to the Hebrews is how it presents the various aspects of the Levitical sacrificial system in light of Christ and His atoning death. In the Old Testament we learn about blood and its relation to life. God reveals that *"the life of an animal is in its blood."* (Lev 17:11) The Law of Moses prescribed animal sacrifices be made because of sin which involved the pouring out of blood at the altar. Dr. Paul Brand describes how blood cells work: *"No cell lies more than a hair's breadth from a blood capillary, lest poisonous by-products pile up . . . Through a basic chemical process of gas diffusion and transfer, individual red blood cells, traveling slowly inside narrow capillaries, simultaneously release their cargoes of fresh oxygen and absorb waste products (carbon dioxide, urea, and uric acid). The red cells deliver these potentially hazardous chemicals to organs that can dump them outside the body."* ("Blood, the Miracle of Cleansing, Part I." Christianity Today, Feb. 18, 1983, 13). To put this in simplest terms, our blood cells deliver life-giving oxygen and at the same our blood cleanses our bodies from the inside out. This gives us an image of what the Bible teaches about Jesus' blood—it brings us the saving life of Jesus even as it cleanses us from all sin.

**Opening: Psalm 51**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God,  
 according to your | steadfast love;\*  
 according to your abundant mercy  
 blot out my trans- | gressions.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,\*  
 and cleanse me | from my sin!**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my trans- | gressions,\*  
 and my sin is ever be- | fore me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you, you only, have I sinned  
 and done what is evil | in your sight,\*  
 so that you may be justified in your words  
 and blameless in your | judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,\*  
 and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.

<sup>6</sup>**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,\*  
 and you teach me wisdom in the | secret  
 heart.**

<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;\*  
 wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and | gladness;\*  
 let the bones that you have bro- | ken  
 rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,\*  
 and blot out all my in- | iquities.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, | O God,\*  
 and renew a right spirit with- | in me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your | presence,\*  
 and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,\*  
 and uphold me with a willing | spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,\*  
 and sinners will re- | turn to you.

<sup>14</sup>**Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,  
 O God of my sal- | vation,\*  
 and my tongue will sing aloud of your |  
 righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open | my lips,\*  
 and my mouth will de- | clare your praise.

<sup>16</sup>**For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I  
 would | give it;\*  
 you will not be pleased with a burnt |  
 offering.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;\*  
 a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will |  
 not despise.

<sup>18</sup>**Do good to Zion in your good | pleasure;\*  
 build up the walls of Je- | rusalem;**

<sup>19</sup>then will you delight in right sacrifices,  
 in burnt offerings and whole burnt | offerings;\*  
 then bulls will be offered on your | altar.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
 and to the Holy | Spirit;  
 as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

**Read Hebrews 9:6-14**

*The Holy Place of the tabernacle/temple was the heart of the Levitical sacrificial system. The Most Holy Place was the place where God dwelt (tabernacled) with His people and foreshadowed Christ's new covenant. The work of the priests and*

*the high priest in the Old Testament all pointed ahead to Christ. The Church's worship in the New Testament bears some similarities, but is very different as it carries out the work Christ gave to His Church; distributing His gifts, and admonishing His people to anticipate His return. Christ now our only priest. He made the final sacrifice – His own body and blood – to reconcile us to the Father.*

**v.6-7:** <sup>6</sup>These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, <sup>7</sup>but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.

Read Leviticus 16, paying special attention to verses 16 and 30. What was the purpose of the sacrificial system given to the people by God in Leviticus?

Read Matthew 23 and Romans 9:30–10:1-4. What had the Levitical Law and sacrificial system become to the Jews by the time of Christ?

Read Roman 3:21-31 and Hebrews 8:8-13 (esp. v. 13). How does Paul and the author to the Hebrews help us to see how the blood sacrifices in the Levitical system are fulfilled in the blood of Christ?

**v.8-10:** <sup>8</sup>By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing <sup>9</sup>(which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, <sup>10</sup>but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.

Read Mark 15:38. How does this event show that what is described in Hebrews 9:8 has come to an end?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34, 1 Corinthians 11:23-25, and 2 Corinthians 3:5-6. How is the new covenant able to “perfect the conscience” where the old covenant (cf. Heb 9:9) could not? What is meant by “the time of reformation” in v.10?

**v.11-12:** <sup>11</sup>But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and

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## The Blood of Christ Hebrews 9:6-14

**more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.**

Read 1 Corinthians 11:26 and 2 Corinthians 1:9-10. Based upon these verses, along with Hebrews 9:12, what are the “good things that have come” referenced in Hebrews 9:11? How do they come now? How will they come eventually?



**v.13-14:** <sup>13</sup>For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Read Numbers 19. Why was the sprinkling with blood and ashes (as noted in Hebrews 9:13) necessary? What would have happened to a person without it?

Read Exodus 24:1-11. What did the sprinkling of blood allow Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the Elders of the people to do that would have otherwise been impossible without their deaths?

Re-read Psalm 51, especially v. 2, 7, & 10, and read 1 John 1:5-10. What does it mean to have our conscience purified? How is this accomplished?

Read Matthew 9:21-22. How does this give a glimpse of the cleansing Jesus has come to do? How does it foreshadow greater things to come? Compare 1 Corinthians 15:35-58.

**Closing: Not All the Blood of Beasts (LSB, 431)**

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