

## **“The Blood of Jesus”**

**Prop Statement – The only method of approaching a Holy God and the NT fulfillment in Jesus.**

**1. Introduction:**

- a.** We are living in a day when you really only need to look at the books being written to see very quickly how man-centered Christianity has become.
  - i.** The main focus of most of what is being pedaled today in mainstream Christianity is man– how we can have a better life.
  - ii.** Many Gospel presentations have fallen prey to this same emphasis, “God just loves YOU so much, and He just wants a relationship with YOU so much that He sent His Son to die for YOU. And if you will just accept Him then He will forgive all the bad things you’ve done and you can have such a better life.
    - 1.** Listen to me very carefully, that is not the message of the Bible. I am not saying that God’s heart toward man is not a heart of love – what I am saying is that is not the main focus of the message.
      - a.** The Bible says that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son – to die an excruciatingly painful, degrading, and humiliating death.
      - b.** Why? Because that was the only way to satisfy God’s Holy wrath that is upon man due to his sin.
    - 2.** And I believe that until that is the emphasis, the Church is going to continue in a state of decline instead of storming the gates of Hell with the message of Redemption by the blood of Christ.
    - 3.** Christianity and the gospel are Christ centered not man centered.
    - 4.** We exist for His glory – He does not exist for us.
- b.** This am I want for us to look at 2 things:

- i. First, we want to look into the OT and see the only acceptable basis for approaching a Holy God which hasn't changed and why it is so.
- ii. Secondly, we want to look at the NT fulfillment in Jesus.

### Stand and turn to Leviticus 17:11

#### 2. Exposition:

a. So very emphatically God says that it is the blood that would make **atonement** for their souls.

- i. Atonement literally means, "a covering"
- ii. When the High Priest in obedience to God brought the offerings on the Day of Atonement he would lay his hand on the animals head and therefore symbolically transfer his guilt and the guilt of the people to the animal. Then he would slay the animal thus offering its life for his own – **a substitutionary sacrifice! Leviticus 16**
- iii. God ordained this to "**Atone for or COVER**" man's sin. The problem is it couldn't adequately deal with the sin because it couldn't take it away.

1. **Hebrews 10:4 "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."**

2. In fact, to fully portray what God would do in Christ by cleansing and removing sin, 2 goats were needed.

a. 1 Goat would be slain as a substitutionary sacrifice and 1, the Scapegoat would have the sins of the people symbolically placed upon it and it would be led into the wilderness and set free therefore separating the sins of the people from them.

b. Can you imagine the weight of that, for a man in those days to know that the little animal was going to die because of my sin and my transgression

- i. Or to be the High Priest and know that in order for fellowship with God to be maintained the bull and the goat must be slaughtered as a substitute for himself and the people.
  - ii. Today, Christ died in my place. My hand as it were was on His head transferring my sin to Him before He was slain – That’s pretty heavy!
  - iii. Oftentimes today, a person can come to faith in Christ w/o any knowledge of these things and it makes me wonder what the value is of that kind of faith.
- c. *But why did all of this have to be? What was the reason for it?***
- d. The Bible declares that God created man for Himself, for His pleasure and enjoyment and for His glory.
    - i. Notice this is not man centered this is God centered.
    - ii. **Revelation 4:11, the 24 elders declare, “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And for Your pleasure they are and were created.”**
    - iii. Let that blow your mind this am – you and I were created for His pleasure.
      - 1. **Does your life, who you are and the way you live, give Him the pleasure He is due?**
      - 2. **Don’t just answer but let your heart and mind process it.**
    - iv. Sometimes the impression is given that God was lonely and in need of some companionship – That’s Ridiculous!
    - v. God never has needed, nor will He ever need man to complete Himself. We are the ones that need Him.
      - 1. He did however through the creation of man in His image somehow receive glory and pleasure through the relationship that existed.
      - 2. **And we as His people will only experience pleasure and joy to the degree that we are rightly related to Him with lives that glorify Him.**

3. Augustine said, ***“Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they find their rest in you”***.
- e. Because Man was created by God, he was and is **DEPENDANT** upon God for everything and therefore **RESPONSIBLE** to God to live a life of obedience to Him.
    - i. Nothing has changed today– this is God’s universe, we live in His backyard.
      - 1. You can’t just live any old way you please and expect God to deal with it.
      - 2. And yet that is exactly what mankind does on a daily basis.
      - 3. You can’t come to my house and do anything you want – and I can’t do it to you either. It just doesn’t work that way.
  - f. Now, when God created man He gave Adam and Eve tremendous liberty with only one prohibition and the consequence of transgressing that prohibition.
    - i. **Genesis 2:16-17 “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”**
    - ii. God forewarned them that disobedience in this one particular would result in death – God could not have made it any clearer than that.
    - iii. And in the next chapter of Genesis we see Eve deceived into eating of the tree, Adam with full knowledge disobeyed the Lord and thus sin and death were introduced into humanity.
      - 1. God did not create man to die. Death entered in because of Adam’s disobedience and spread to all of his descendants down to us because of his position as head of the human race.
      - 2. Paul puts it this way in **Romans 5:12, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death**

**through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”**

- iv. And from that one act of disobedience all of the destruction, misery, pain, suffering and death that we see today exists.
  - 1. But specifically I want to look at the death part – This is perky isn't it?
    - a. But it is crucial.
  - 2. God told them they would surely die so how did they?
  - 3. **First, they immediately died spiritually** – they became dead to God with no more capacity for Him or for relationship with Him as evidenced in the fact that they hid from Him.
    - a. That is precisely what most people are doing today – hiding from God.
    - b. There was shame associated with their nakedness that had not existed before.
    - c. They were blame shifting instead of taking responsibility.
  - 4. **Secondly, Physical death** was also set in motion though they died physically many years later.
- v. But why didn't God just execute them on the spot? He would have been just in doing so? **Grace and Mercy!**
  - 1. We see in Genesis 3:21 that God provided tunics of skin for them to cover their nakedness.
  - 2. I believe that this was the first instance where the life of an animal was taken as a **SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE** for man.
  - 3. Because man is guilty of transgressing the law of God the only way for man to approach Him is by a **Substitutionary Blood Sacrifice. But why?**
  - 4. God gave the 10 commandments to the children of Israel through Moses to reveal His Holy character and to declare His righteous standard.

5. You still run into people today who will make the bold claim – My religion is the 10 commandments!
6. You want to ask how it's going for them because the law condemns – that's all it can do is condemn you.
7. Then what was the purpose of the law?
  - a. The law was given to reveal man's absolute inability to live up to God's standard and therefore look to Him for His grace and mercy in providing a way of approach.
  - b. **Paul said it this way in Romans 3:20, "By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."**
  - c. The law was given to reveal that man is a sinner and there is a vast separation between God and man.
  - d. But because God is gracious and merciful he provided a way by which sinful man could approach Him – Because of His love for man.
8. That was what the sacrificial system provided –
  - a. God could be just in extending grace to the offender because something had died in his place.
  - b. The offender would know that he was right with God only because God had taken his sin and separated it from him to the animal and the animal had died in his place.
9. Today millions of people try to approach God on their terms – it doesn't work!
  - a. **CAN YOU IMAGINE GOING TO THE DR AND FINDING OUT YOU HAVE SOME HORRIBLE DISEASE, THUMBING YOUR NOSE AT THE DR AND GOING HOME TO DO YOUR OWN THING TO FIGHT IT.**
    - i. **That is insanity.**

- b. I asked a Jewish friend one time what they do with sin since there are no sacrifices being made.
  - c. His answer was, they just don't do that anymore.
  - d. On the Day of Atonement they "atone for their sins by "afflicting their souls" by fasting and feeling sorry for what they have done.
  - e. That doesn't work – Period!
  - f. **The writer to the Hebrews puts it this way, "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin"**
  - g. **Feeling bad for our sin doesn't work! Going w/o something doesn't work.**
- g. So now we have looked at the basis for approaching God which is blood atonement and why that is so because man is separated from God due to his sin and therefore God's wrath is upon man.
  - 1. But we also saw that according to **Hebrews 10:4 "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."**
- h. The shedding of the blood of an animal was only for "Atonement" or covering but not fully removing the sin with the corresponding guilt and shame associated with it.
  - i. God doesn't want anyone to live 1 day under the guilt or shame or penalty of their sin.
  - ii. **If you're here this am and you have guilt or shame or regret over your sin – God has made a way of dealing with that.**
    - 1. **You don't have to live with that any longer.**
    - 2. **Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe.**
- i. So finally let's look at the N.T fulfillment of all this in Jesus.
  - i. In **John 1:29**, John the Baptist declared concerning Jesus, **"Behold, the Lamb of God who "takes away" the sin of the world."**
  - ii. **Hebrews 1:3 "When He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High."**

- j. How did He “take away” or “make an end” of sin?
  - i. By living a life perfectly free from sin fulfilling God’s law and willingly becoming the perfect **“Substitutionary Sacrifice”** for our sin and shedding His blood in our place so that ours wouldn’t have to be shed – **HIS LIFE FOR OURS!**
  - ii. **Colossians 1:13-14, “He (the Father) has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom (the Son) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”**
  - iii. **Colossians 1:20, “By Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”**
- k. All the animal sacrifices, from the very first for Adam and Eve to the very last just prior to Him saying it is finished and the veil of the temple being torn in two - foreshadowed His perfect sacrifice for sin.
  - i. How do we know that God was satisfied with that sacrifice?
  - ii. The resurrection - **Romans 1:4** Paul said Jesus was **“declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead”**
  - iii. Again Paul said in **2 Cor. 5:19, “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them.”**
  - iv. God’s stamp of approval upon the sacrifice of Christ was the resurrection.

### 3. Conclusion:

- a. This am we have looked at the O.T and what God has laid down as the only way of approaching Him – Which was the shed blood of an appropriate sacrifice to “atone for” or cover sin.
- b. We have also looked at why that is – because of man’s sin and that the penalty for that sin is death.
- c. And we have also looked at how the blood of Jesus fully and completely satisfies the demands of God.
- d. So what does it mean to you and I today?



- i. If you're here this am and you don't know the Lord. You've never come to the place of acknowledging your sin and guilt before Him and humbled yourself at the cross and received the cleansing of your sin by the blood of Jesus.
- ii. Then today is your day – there will be men up front that will be happy to help you with that.
- iii. Maybe you're here this am and you have received the cleansing of the blood of Jesus.
  1. You brother and sister have been entrusted with this message and if you're willing, God will give you ample opportunity to declare it.
  2. Don't shy away from it and don't soft pedal it – people's eternal destiny hangs in the balance.
  3. The stakes are simply too high.
  4. Declare it boldly and in love.
- iv. Christianity is completely God centered – He is the focus not us.
  1. He loves mankind but not because there is some intrinsic value in man.
  2. He loves mankind because that is one of the attributes of His nature.
  3. His attributes of holiness and justice have to be met as well.
  4. And they have been in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
- e. Let's pray