



THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD

St. Paul's Anglican Church
Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009 All Saints' Day
The Rev. Roy Dickson, Associate



Two Sacrifices Compared in Hebrews

The writer of Hebrews is contrasting the Old Testament animal sacrifices which only offer cleansing from outward sin with the sacrifice of Jesus which offers cleansing of the inner person.

Old Testament: The life of the unblemished animal was taken involuntarily from it.

Jesus: He gave his sinless life voluntarily, willingly laying down His life for His friends.

O.T.: The animal sacrifice was entirely the product of Law.

Jesus: His sacrifice is entirely the product of love.

O.T.: The animal had no knowledge of the purpose of his death.

Jesus: He gave His life in full knowledge of what He was doing and why.

O.T.: The animal sacrifice was a ritual carried out according to a prescribed way.

Jesus: This was not ritual but an act of obedience to the Father's will, for the sake of men. This was an act of redeeming love for eternity.

(Adapted from Wm. Barclay quoting Westcott)

Our problem comes from within:

Matthew 15:18,19 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

Luke 16:15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.

Acts 5:3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

Ephesians 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Two Powerful Passages

Hebrews 9:14

"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!"

Colossians 1:13-14

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

The Answer to our problem comes as:

- The blood of Christ cleanses our consciences from acts that lead to death.
- God rescues us from the dominion of darkness.
- God brings us into the kingdom of the Son.
- God redeems us.
- God forgives us.

This is a work of God's grace. He does it.

Wonderful news, praise God. BUT while we know this is true why do our lives often deny it?

- Laziness....resistance....disobedience....living in our wounds....still in bondage to past issues.... still being influenced by the enemy.
- These all rob us of enjoying the benefits available to us through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.
- Don't settle for less than God's best.
- "God's will for my life - Nothing more.....nothing less..... Nothing else." So.....
- Stay in the Game.
- God can't steer a parked car.
- Confront your issues. Don't bury them. Don't run from them. Don't hide from them.
- Let Jesus apply the power of His cleansing Blood "so that you may serve the living God".