

The Life of a Christian

Part 2

Last time we saw that it was Christ in us that is the solution to all of humanities needs.

We saw that God's plan and desire for Christ to live His life within us is the only way we can become part of God's created family.

The first step in this perfect plan was the blood sacrifice of Jesus the Christ, that all our sins would be atoned by that blood that was beyond price.

This was the only way God could remove the justified death penalty that we have earned as a result of our rebellion against Him, and still remain righteous and just.

What other power is there in this blood sacrifice of God?

What additional blessings to the forgiveness of our sins are found in the blood of Jesus Christ?

The blood of Jesus Christ satisfied God the Father, but it must also satisfy us individually.

The Blood of Christ has this second value which is for us.

Hebrews 10:22 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“So as we go in [into the presence of God the “Holy of Holies”] let us be sincere in heart and filled with faith, our hearts [the driving force of our life] sprinkled [with the atoning blood of Christ] and free from any trace of bad conscience, and our bodies [Greek “soma” – our whole life existence, physical body, mind and spirit] washed with pure water.”* [The Word of God, the Holy scriptures].

The cleansing of our conscience is brought about by the application of the Blood of Christ's sacrifice.

Romans 8:1-2 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“Thus, condemnation [the feeling of guilt] will never come to those who are in Christ Jesus, because the law of the Spirit which gives life [freedom from death] in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.”*

Paul was making this inspired statement directly after acknowledging the influence of his human nature which caused him to sin, against his own desire.

The solution to those sins was the Blood of Jesus Christ and accepting that blood sacrifice and believing God's Word [His Promises] caused his feeling of guilt to evaporate.

John 14:27 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give. This is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”*

Nothing this world can offer can give us the peace of mind, through a clear conscience.

The sense of guilt that is in our conscience before our accepting the atoning Blood of Jesus Christ was a barrier between us and God's Holy presence.

Matthew 27:50-51 [NIV] *“And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.”*

Symbolically the torn curtain between Holy place and the Holy of Holies depicted the Blood of Christ opening up our access to the Father, the barrier our sins had erected was broken down.

Two things are combined here, both accomplished by the Blood of Jesus Christ.

A clear conscience and access to the Father.

A clear conscience is **never** based upon our attainment, it can only be based on the work of the Saviour Jesus Christ in the shedding of His Blood.

Our access into the Holy presence of God the Father is **never** based upon our attainment. Access can only be based on the work of our High Priest Jesus Christ as His own Blood there before the throne of God in heaven [the Mercy Seat] is the substitute for our shed blood and death.

God's acceptance of the Blood of Jesus Christ is the only way we can enter into the Holy of Holies, the presence of God.

This is the simple "A B C" of the gospel message.

My initial approach to God every time is the same, through the acceptance by God the Father of the Blood of our Saviour and High Priest Jesus Christ.

There is a third way in which the Blood of Jesus Christ is a powerful tool for us in our Christian life.

Revelation 12:10 [New Jerusalem Bible] *"Salvation and power and empire [supreme and absolute control] for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for His Christ, now that the accuser [Satan], who accused our brethren day and night before our God, has been brought down."*

Our arch enemy is Satan who accuses us of our weaknesses and sins on a daily basis before the throne of God.

Yet here in inspired scripture we are told that he has been "brought down", defeated, in a great victory.

How has this happened?

Revelation 12:11 [New Jerusalem Bible] *"They [those whom Satan is accusing, Christians] have triumphed over him [Satan] by the Blood of the Lamb and by the Word to which they bore witness, because even in the face of death they did not cling to life."*

First and foremost the Blood of our Saviour defeats Satan's power over us, the power of death.

Hebrews 2:14-15 [New Jerusalem Bible] *"Since all the children share the same human nature, He [Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, the second Adam] too shared equally in it [human nature] so that by His death He could set aside [Greek "katargēō" – to render useless] him who held the power of death, namely the devil, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death."*

Sometimes feeling oppressed by our own weakness, and tempted to think that we have sins which are almost unforgivable, we give in to Satan's accusations.

But we forget God's Word as recorded by John the apostle.

1 John 1:7 [New Jerusalem Bible] *"... the Blood of Jesus His Son, cleanses us from all sin."*

Note this is stated in the context of our acknowledging our sins and sinful nature before God.

1 John 1:8-9 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“If we say, ‘we have no sin; we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth has no place in us, if we acknowledge our sins, He [God] is trustworthy and upright so that He will forgive our sins and will cleanse us from all evil.’”*

We may be weak, but looking at our weakness will never make us strong in our fight against evil [Satan].

Follow the example of our Heavenly Father, look upon the Blood of His Son and expect forgiveness and cleansing because of His Word.

Don't let Satan succeed in making us look in the wrong direction towards our own weakness and sins but towards the victory over Satan the accuser by looking towards the Blood of Jesus Christ our Saviour, High Priest and King.

Never try to answer Satan's accusations of our weakness and sins by using our good conduct as our defence.

Attack and defeat Satan with the Blood of Jesus Christ.

This is the sure foundation, the rock, on which we can stand triumphantly.

Romans 8:31-39 [NIV] *“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died, more than that, who was raised to life, is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Here is our “battle cry” that will always bring us victory of Satan and all the evil that He brings on humanity.

What is our part in this grand victory over Satan and evil?

Revelation 12:11 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“They [the Christians accused by Satan] have triumphed over him [Satan the accuser] by the blood of the Lamb and [this is our part] by the Word [Jesus Christ and God's written Word the Holy Bible] to which they bore witness, because even in the face of death they did not cling to life.”*

The value we personally place on the Blood of Jesus Christ and our salvation is measured by the value we place on our personal witness to this world that is blinded to the salvation that can be theirs with us.

Hebrews 9:14 [Amplified Bible] *“How much more surely shall the Blood of Christ, Who by virtue of His eternal Spirit, His own pre-existent divine personality, has offered Himself an unblemished sacrifice to God, purify our consciences from dead works and lifeless observances to serve the ever living God?”*

“Ever living God” is the name used in the Old Testament for God as a contrast to the dead idols of the heathen.

In the New Testament it points us to the danger of our forming an image of God, not in wood or stone, but in our mind and imagination.

God is a living God. He speaks and hears. He feels and acts. He desires to make His presence known to us.

We need to experience this Living God for this is the foundation of a living faith, a living fellowship and a living service of this living God.

How does this happen?

Exodus 29:21 [NIV] *“And take some of the blood on the altar and some of the anointing oil and sprinkle it on Aaron and his garments and on his sons and their garments. Then he and his sons and their garments will be consecrated.”*

The priests who served God under the Old Covenant were set apart from the rest of Israel by the sprinkling of the sacrificial blood and anointing oil.

The whole reason for the existence of the sanctuary [tabernacle or temple] and priests under the Old Covenant was for men to be able to come before God and minister to Him, then go out and be a blessing to their fellow human beings.

We as Christians through the Blood of Christ also have direct access to the Creator God, and then anointed with the “oil” of the Holy Spirit we too are to become a blessing to our fellow human beings.

The direction of life has to be outward towards others for that is the path down which the Holy Spirit will lead us.

We are cleansed by the Blood of Christ to serve the Living God with “live” works not “dead” works motivated by selfishness.

In such a life we will see and experience the unlimited power of the Living God who created all things.

Romans 12:12 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“I urge you, then brothers, [fellow Christians] remembering the mercies of God, to offer your bodies [Greek “soma” – total life existence, body, mind and spirit] as a living sacrifice, dedicated and acceptable to God, that is the kind of worship for you, as sensible people. Do **not** model your behaviour on the contemporary [selfish, self-centred society] world, but let the renewing of your minds transform you so that you may discern for yourselves what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and mature.”*

Amen

Next presentation will show us how God will bring this transformation about in our personal lives.