

exchange to bring me back into God's favor (Colossians 1:19-23)! Interestingly, while I could not give enough to make this exchange happen, God was pleased to give me what I needed to make my reconciliation to Him possible. Now, through Jesus, I can go from being far off to being brought near to God (Ephesians 2:11-13) and come into the presence of God (Hebrews 10:19-22)!

Saved By His Blood

Without Jesus's blood. Without Jesus's blood, I am the enemy of God (James 4:4). For, I have lived according to the things of the world rather than the things of God (1 John 2:15-17). Not only did being the enemy of God result in being separated from God while I live on this earth, but it will result in experiencing the eternal defeat all God's enemies will experience in the eternal fires of Hell (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8). This is the second death in that it will be eternal separation from God. God's wrath will be poured out on His enemies on the day Jesus Christ returns from Heaven with His mighty angels (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Hebrews 10:30-31)!

With Jesus's blood. With Jesus's blood, I can be saved from the wrath of God (Romans 5:8-11)! To be "saved" is to be delivered from harm. If Jesus's blood has been applied to my life and I am living faithfully for Him when He returns, God will pass over the sentence of condemnation I deserve to experience because of my sins (as God did with the blood of the Passover in Exodus 12:23; 1 Corinthians 5:7). Then, rather than experiencing the wrath of God I deserve to experience, Jesus's blood has given me the opportunity to not perish – and to have eternal life in Heaven with God (John 3:16)! There, I can forever be with God in the beauty of that place (Matthew 25:34; Revelation 21:1-22:5)!

Conclusion

Without Jesus's blood, I am doomed because of the sin I have committed. But, with Jesus's blood, my sins can be completely washed away (Matthew 26:28)! Through Jesus's blood and obedience to the word of God, I can conquer over sin and death (Revelation 12:11). For, there is wonderful, awesome power in His blood! Now, once you have appreciated this great gift, you must let God's love for you impact you so deeply that you will accept His gift and devote your life in faith-filled obedience to Him!

My Life Is In His Blood



Because of sin, I (and you) have separated myself from all the spiritual blessings God has made available and stand doomed to experience eternal punishment (Romans 6:23)! Thankfully, through Jesus's blood, I (and you) have the opportunity to have sin forgiven and be restored to a right relationship with God! But, I (and you) must be obedient to Jesus (Hebrews 5:9).

The purpose of this lesson is to learn the importance of Jesus's blood in your salvation and appreciate what it took for Jesus to shed His blood for you.

Life Is In The Blood

A general truth. The Old Testament law of sacrifices and offerings declared the significance of blood (Leviticus 17:10-12, 14). The truth that life is in the blood is established in this verse. As blood delivers oxygen and nutrients throughout the body, along with carrying waste away from cells, blood is critical for life. Therefore, the shedding of blood represented the sacrifice of a life.

My spiritual life is in Jesus's blood. Physical life is not the only thing that is dependent on blood. Rather, there is an essential correlation between spiritual life and blood. Because God is holy, sin separates the sinner from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). But, God's mercy provides a way for a sinner to come back to God, while His justice and holiness demand a payment to be made for sin. This payment is death – the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22). So, under the Old Testament, God required the Israelites to offer animal sacrifices. Yet, their blood was not sufficient (Hebrews 10:1-4). Instead of the continual offering of bulls and goats that could never truly satisfy God's justice concerning sin, He graciously provided His own Son as the atoning sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:11-14; John 1:29; Romans 3:23-

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26)! So, it is only through Jesus's body and blood that a person can come to experience spiritual life (John 6:53-56)!

The shedding of Jesus's blood. Before we consider more concerning the spiritual implications of Jesus's blood, we need to consider the blood He willingly shed so we could have the opportunity to be saved eternally (2 Corinthians 8:9; John 10:10; Isaiah 53:7). First, Jesus shed His blood prior to the cross on multiple occasions. For example, Matthew 27:26 records that Jesus was flogged. This was a brutal form of punishment many did not live through. The prisoner would typically be tied to a post/frame and stripped of his clothing. Then, he would be beaten (primarily on the back and loins, though sometimes on the face) with a whip typically made of several leather strands that would have pieces of bone or metal woven into them. This would tear deeply at the flesh and inflict severe pain. After this flogging, Matthew 27:27-31 records the soldiers mocking Jesus. This involved twisting a crown of thorns and putting it on His head. Then, this also involved Jesus being stripped of clothing twice – which would have likely resulted in the reopening of the wounds He had received after the blood had clotted and stopped. All of this surely involved great loss of blood!

Second, Jesus shed His blood at the time of His crucifixion. John 19:18 says that they crucified Jesus. This was devised as punishment by the Romans for the worst of criminals. Nail-like spikes were driven through His hands and feet to affix Him to the cross (John 20:25). As Jesus hung upon the cross, the tattered flesh on His back would have rubbed against the wood every time He struggled for a breath. Then, after shedding His blood upon the cross and dying, one of the Roman soldiers pierced Jesus's side, and blood and water came out (John 19:33-37).

Justified By His Blood

Without Jesus's blood. Without Jesus's blood, I am a lawbreaker on the run who will eventually be caught and sentenced for the sins I have committed (Proverbs 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:10). It is only a matter of time before I experience the eternal consequences of my sins (Revelation 21:8). For, my sins have resulted in a spiritual debt that was greater than I could ever repay by myself (i.e. Matthew 18:23-25), even if I never sinned again and did every possible good deed!

With Jesus's blood. With Jesus's blood, I can be justified (Romans 5:8-9)! To be "justified" is to be declared right in God's sight, cleansed from the sins I committed, and spiritually healed – just-as-if-I'd never sinned against God in the first place. No matter what sins I have committed, I can be made pure and free from them all through the blood of Christ

(Revelation 1:5; 1 John 1:7). For, God offered Jesus Christ (who committed no sin, Hebrews 4:15) as the sacrifice for the sins of the world so this could happen (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:3-4). Thus, the spiritual debt that I could never repay can be paid by Jesus's blood and I can live spiritually debt free (Matthew 18:26-27; Acts 3:19)!

Redeemed By His Blood

Without Jesus's blood. Without Jesus's blood, I am a child of Satan for obeying Satan's desires rather than God's (1 John 3:8-10). Because of living in this way, I have been enslaved to Satan and sin (Romans 6:15-23). But, while sin offers some temporary physical pleasures, it is a hard master that results in many physical hardships and will certainly result in an eternity of suffering in Hell (Romans 6:21, 23). And, I could never escape this slavery to sin by myself. For, once I had committed sin, I was forever enslaved to it!

With Jesus's blood. With Jesus's blood, I can be redeemed (Ephesians 1:7)! To be "redeemed" is to be set free from bondage through a payment of ransom. While the price of my freedom from sin was greater than I could ever pay, Jesus has paid the price for me. Only now can I be set free from slavery to the terrible master of sin and brought under the loving ownership of God (Romans 6:15-23). The purchase price for my redemption from sin is the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19; Colossians 1:13-14; Acts 20:28). No amount of silver or gold (or any other physical thing) would be enough to ransom me. Only Jesus's blood was sufficient to bring before God so as to pay my ransom from sin (Hebrews 9:11-12)!

Reconciled By His Blood

Without Jesus's blood. Without Jesus's blood, I am spiritually dead in my sins, though living physically (1 Timothy 5:6). This is the wages of my sin (Romans 1:32; 6:23; James 1:14-15). To be spiritually dead is to be separated from God (who is the Giver of spiritual life). Because God is holy (separated from all that is evil), He simply cannot be in fellowship with those who live in sin (1 John 1:5-6). While I may still receive physical blessings from God, I have separated myself from all the spiritual blessings God provides!

With Jesus's blood. With Jesus's blood, I can be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)! To "reconcile" refers to the practice of exchanging (i.e. exchange one type of currency with an equal amount of another). Yet, without Jesus's blood, I would never have enough to offer God in exchange for fellowship with Him. Only Jesus's blood could provide a sufficient