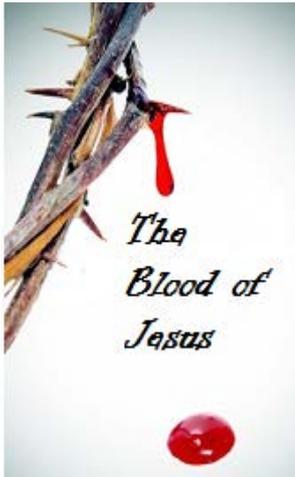


Australind Vineyard Christian Fellowship

from the Pastor's heart  The Sword of the Spirit the Word of God



Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

There are two words "far off" and "made nigh" used in the verse above that speak of a person being far off being made close through the blood of Jesus. This clearly demonstrates the power of God, through the blood of Jesus to save human beings who are distant from God. This applies to both Christians and unbelievers.

This verse also says, "but now in Christ Jesus", also meaning, our present state of being as a Christian. This "now" state of being is affected or influenced by the blood of Jesus. When we decipher what this verse is saying, we are able to understand the power of the working of the blood in our past, present and future life. In the past life, we know it washed us clean from our sins and set us free to accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour who gave us eternal life. In our current state, the blood continues to speak into our lives through the partaking of communion and in speaking in the presence of God to maintain our innocence and protect us from the wrath of God and the attacks of the enemy. It also brings us into soundness of mind to understand that what we believe in is real and not a fantasy. It does this by giving us access to God to encounter Him through a clean conscience which does not alienate us from God's presence. In the future, it will always be a testimony before God for us. It will never be blotted out. We call in the future of our entry into heaven now, by the blood of Jesus that speaks on our behalf. *Heb 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to **the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things** than that of Abel.*

What is critical to understand about us as Christians is; we are grafted into the original olive tree that was chosen by God to represent Him. That olive tree is Israel. The blood of Jesus worked for them to birth the Church but it did not subsequently save them all because they rejected the message of the cross of Christ. In other words, they rejected the blood of Jesus as sufficient atonement before God. Therefore, the message was taken to the Gentiles of whom we were once. Now, God is drawing both Jew and Gentile together in Christ who is the new man. Christ the new man is not a soul but Spirit. Henceforth, we are not living souls but living spirits who are born again through Jesus who gives birth to all who believe in Him. The first man Adam was made a living soul but the second man Jesus is a living Spirit *1Co 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*

Now, there is no Jew or Gentile but one new man. All who are drawn near by the blood of Jesus and washed clean represent this new man.

It is imperative for us to understand the power of the blood.

1. Firstly, it is the power of God to reconcile man to God.
2. Secondly, it is the seal of approval for us to enter into His presence boldly.
3. Thirdly, it is the power of God to cleanse consciences.
4. Fourthly, it is the power of God against the enemy.
5. Fifthly, it is the ongoing redemptive power to wash our sins

The use of the power associated with the blood of Jesus is not to be taken lightly. It has so much power that a person who takes communion lightly ends up dying or sick. I am referring to very Christians who do this. God is not a respecter of persons who will not tolerate the misuse of the blood of His Son Jesus. *Heb 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? Heb 10:30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, **The Lord shall judge his people.** Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

The verses below speak of those who do not discern God's covenant which was given through the shedding of the blood of Jesus and those who take the Lord's supper in vain *1Co 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 1Co 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 1Co 11:30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 1Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*

There is an ongoing judgement of God that operates naturally when His people stray from Him and despitefully use Him. Then there is a coming judgement that will shake all things that can be shaken. These judgments are all to do with the misuse of

the blood. His anger is always related to the rejection of what He did for us through Jesus. His anger is so great that He sends people to hell who do not receive the sacrifice of His Son on their behalf.

I have often heard people say that all my sins past, present and future are forgiven. This is technically correct but it has its implications as well. The implications are; you are forgiven, if you recognise your sins and repent. There is no forgiveness without repentance. The work of the Holy Spirit is to bring conviction of sin so that we can repent and renew ourselves before God. This is a requirement for all who have become Christians. Future sins that are forgiven are not a license to sin now or in the future. Many people preach grace so much that they take it upon themselves to absolve people of all sin without repentance. The Catholic Church takes on the role of Jesus and deceives people into believing that if they confess to man, they are absolved. Others do penance to try to rid their consciences of sin. The list goes on of people who use methodology, vain philosophy, and self-justification to detract from the truth of repentance before Jesus who is the faithful Advocate to forgive them their sins. *1Jn 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, **we have an advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 1Jn 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

My fear for the worldwide Church is that they have forgotten what it took God to save us and be received by Him into eternity with love, peace, and joy. I have seen many Christians take their Christianity in vain and lose sight of their first love. The rigours and cares of life, offense, and apathy have robbed them of their first love. My hope is that the body of Christ will come back to its first love. We' have been blinded in many ways through false teaching and itchy ears to listen to what is pleasing and non-threatening to our comfort zones. The pathway to heaven is not broad but narrow. Yet, many teach that you can live a carefree life with no concern and that God is all-loving so He will never do anything against us. It only takes a glance to see the condition of the Church to know that He is grieving over His body who are being decimated by evil. I believe it is like when He grieved over Israel. *Luk 19:41 And when he was near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Luk 19:42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. Luk 19:43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, Luk 19:44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.*

If God could judge Israel His chosen one in this manner, how do you suppose we the Church who are an engrafted branch escape a bigger judgement. *Rom 11:18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Rom 11:19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Rom 11:20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: Rom 11:21 **For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.** Rom 11:22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. My cry to God is, 'mercy, not judgement'. That is what I believe the blood of Jesus is speaking in the presence of God. The blood of Abel cried for **justice** for having been murdered by his brother but the blood of Jesus is crying out for **mercy** for being murdered by His own creation. The oncoming revival is necessary for this very reason. Otherwise, judgement will fall first.*

Many have forecast evil times ahead in the world and in Australia. We will certainly not escape. Yet, if we pray and plead mercy with God for Australia to have a revival first, God will have less to judge. Let us pray and ask for mercy for Australia and ourselves if we are not walking properly with God by despising His Son's shed blood.

I am longing to see the sons and daughter's of God maturing and coming into the fullness God has for them. Join me in this journey of maturing, so that, we can all have our reward in heaven before God. My heart cries for you all because we have a long journey ahead of us, and God is looking for His sons and daughters. It is time to arise and shine. Let us put aside all malice, gossip, boasting, backbiting, set ways, and triviality to move forward in God. Let us also put aside besetting (habitual) sins that so easily come upon us. Let us look to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith. Not one person is righteous; all have sinned and fallen short of His glory. We need the blood of Jesus to draw us close again. **Open your hearts and let the King of Glory come in.**

A poem from my heart

*I have lived and I have died
Much to do in between I shied
Little did I know what irked my soul
The voice of conviction shook me whole
Till one day I realised
That I was a sinner despised
Jesus the Saviour came to my rescue
Washed my sins away in His blood anew
Now, I am whole again to live not die
To live eternally with Him beside*

With love

Pastor Noble

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