

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



February 9, 2014

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship..... 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service..... 2:30 PM
Worship..... 6:00 PM

Tuesday:

Redstone Class..... 9:30 AM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class On Break
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Jim Moore

Don Smith..... James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

The Blood of Christ

By Neal Pollard

The topic above should cause one's mind to focus on some precise areas. Naturally, the blood of Christ implies thoughts of the "incarnation" of Christ (that Christ took on the form of man, while all God, and thus had blood coursing through His veins; Philippians 2:8). The blood of Christ further induces from one's thoughts the atonement Christ made for all mankind through the shedding of His blood on the cross (cf. Hebrews 9:12-14). The blood of Christ also elicits reflection upon the suffering and death of the sinless man from Nazareth (1 Peter 2:24). And on one might reflect.

The phrase, the blood of Christ, appears verbatim in the New Testament in four verses. With each reference one finds important lessons about the function and significance of His blood. Christ's blood is central in the Father's plan of salvation and life within His favor. What does the blood of Christ bring to needy man?

The Blood of Christ Brings Redemption (1 Peter 1:19)

In 1 Peter 1, one sees the inspired apostle speaking to persecuted (1), predestined (2), purified (2), and pliant (2) people of God. What would cause a Christian to suffer wrong for doing right? What would cause a Christian to search out from the Scriptures the term of election, accept the terms of pardon, and follow the terms of Christian living? Simply, an understanding of redemption.

Perhaps the verse most loved and quoted is John 3:16. Yet, so be known and familiar, this verse is sorely misunderstood and under applied. Jesus, the speaker of the words recorded in this verse, foretells the act of redemption. With His divine foreknowledge, Christ understood that the gift of the Father's only begotten Son (Himself) meant the shedding of His blood at Calvary. The purpose of that shed blood, He knew, was to redeem the lost race of man from the power and hopelessness of sin. Paul says, "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:4,5). By inspiration, Paul reinforces this with Titus (Titus 2:14).

The Blood of Christ Brings Removal (Hebrews 9:14)

The King James Version uses, in this verse, the word "purge" in translating the effect of the blood of Christ upon the conscience of one to whom that blood is applied. Purge means "to purify, especially of sin, guilt, or defilement" (The American Heritage Concise Dictionary, 1994). Thayer shows the original word translated "purge" in this verse means "free from the guilt of sin" (The New Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon, 312). Clearly, the Spirit-guided writer of Hebrews speaks of the effect of the applied blood of the Savior. The audience of Hebrews, of which modern man is a part, needs some agent to remove the guilt of sin (dead works) from their lives. The blood of Christ is that agent. For the agent to be effective (to do the job as it was intended to do), one must come in contact with it. Where does one come in contact with the blood?

Jesus shed His blood when He died (John 19:34). Paul writes "that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death" (Romans 6:3). One cannot literally go over to Jerusalem to a hill called Mt. Calvary and find the man Jesus bleeding to death on a cross. Furthermore, because one cannot do this, one cannot in some literal way reach up to Him and

(Continued on page 2)



And he read from [the Book of the Law of Moses] facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law

Nehemiah 8:3

(Continued from page 1)

take some of His shed blood and apply it to himself. Thus, there is no literal, physical way for today's man or woman to contact the actual, shed blood of our Lord.

Yet, Revelation 1:5 reveals that Christ, on His cross, washed us from our sins in His shed blood. God would not allow His Son to shed His life-blood and then provide no means for mankind to contact that blood in some way. And, there is a way and only one way. In identical terminology, Acts 22:16 says that baptism washes away sins. In summation, Christ shed His blood in His death. We are buried with Christ in baptism. Christ washed our sins with His blood. We wash away our sins in the act of baptism. The blood of Christ and baptism, inseparably joined, remove the sins of those who recognize and submit to the authority of Christ in being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21).

The Blood of Christ Brings Return (Ephesians 2:13)

At the creation of man, there was no need for means whereby man could return to a right relationship with Jehovah. The idea in Ephesians 2 that, specifically here, the Gentiles were "far off" implies the need to return. How could they come back to God? Paul stresses the fact that Christ's blood was the only means whereby reconciliation could be made. Thus, Paul penned the glorious fact that Christ "made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself" (Colossians 1:20). As if an inseparable gulf was crossed by Adam and Even through their sinning at Eden, that gap of sin separated man from God (cf. Isaiah 59:1, 2; Note: This is not to suggest that all inherit Adam's sin – the false idea of Hereditary Depravity – but rather that through Adam sin entered the world, Romans 5:17; and, consequently, all have sinned, Romans 3:23). Not with acts of goodness or meritorious works could man ever earn his salvation (Titus 3:5). Yet, there are conditions that God expects man to meet in order to have past sins forgiven and the restoration of a right relationship with the Father (Titus 2:12; Hebrews 5:9; Ephesians 2:8). By shedding His blood, Christ paved a road of return (i.e., the "narrow road" of Matthew 7:13, 13) to take us back to God. There was no access before and without Him and after sin was in the world (cf. 1 Timothy 2:5; John 14:6). How did Christ affect this return with His blood?

He took the first, old covenant God made with Moses and Israel out of the way by dying on the cross (Ephesians 2:12, 14-15). He placed all believers in the faith into one body [the church] (Ephesians 2:14, 15, 16; 4:4). He provided the message of recon-

ciliation in commissioning the preached word to all men (Ephesians 2:17; Acts 1:8). He opened the avenue of prayer by His death on the cross, encouraging petitioning the Father to enhance our relationship with Him (Ephesians 2:18). He sets aside a place in the Kingdom [the church] for all the faithful obedient into which all spiritual blessings flow (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1:3; Matthew 16:18-19). To all who obey the commandments of God relative to entrance into His church, reconciliation and return to God are provided.

The Blood of Christ Brings Remembrance (1 Corinthians 10:16)

As Eden shows the importance God stressed in mankind before the cross to anticipate that great event, this verse shows the importance God stresses in mankind after the cross remembering it. Those washed in the blood of Christ, contacted in baptism, are added to the church (Acts 2:41-47). Therein, those added (Christians) are governed by the Word of God in worship and conduct. A vital part of New Testament worship is the weekly participation in the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7). Why has God authorized that Christians do so, and with such frequency?

The answer is "communion." In connection with the Lord's Supper, this word is translated "communion" only once in the New Testament. Yet, the original word from which it is translated is *koinonia*, among the most recognized of all Greek words even among those who have little knowledge of that language. Most often, *koinonia* is translated as "fellowship." "Fellowship" is also employed by the inspired New Testament writers to make reference to the "Memorial Feast." The apostles and early Christians continued steadfastly in the fellowship of the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:42). The fellowship of the Lord's Supper was not to be defiled by the presence of idolatry at Corinth (1 Corinthians 10:20), but rather the communion was to be exclusively with the Lord.

In 1 Corinthians 10:16, Paul stresses that there is communion. That fellowship is with the blood of Christ, which suggests a multitude of things. First, the blood of Christ places one into the one body (the church – Colossians 1:18; Acts 20:28). Therefore, the fellowship of the Lord's Supper involves corporate (collective) activity. Together, children of God are drawn closer to one another remembering the Savior whose blood purchased them from sin. This communion, then, is a means of expressing encouragement and thanksgiving together as the redeemed. The

(Continued on page 3)

Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way

Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB

Gospel Broadcasting Network

Sunday @ 6:30 am on Dish:267, DirectTV:376

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network

Gbntv.org and on Roku

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Study Schedule

Week 111

Ecclesiastes 2-5

& James 4-5

Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



(Continued from page 2)

Lord's Supper cannot, then, have significance to those not members of the body as there is no celebration and fellowship with Christians. Also, the Lord's Supper provides a communion between the individual Christian and his Lord. Thus, Paul instructs each to "examine himself" (1 Corinthians 11:28). None other can obey the command of self-examination and remembrance for another in the Lord's Supper or in any spiritual matter. Yet, the Lord's Supper is special because of both the sharing with others and the individual responsibility. As an institution, the Lord's Supper is, in both regards, a crucial means whereby Christians remember the sacrifice, suffering, and death of Christ in shedding His blood on the tree.

The blood of Christ purchased man's pardon (1 Peter 1:19). The blood of Christ purges man's conscience (Hebrews 9:14). The blood of Christ propels man closer to God (Ephesians 2:13). The blood of Christ provides recollection of atonement (1 Corinthians 10:16). His blood was important in prophesy (Isaiah 53:3-5). His blood was important [physically] (John 19:34). His blood is important in perusal (Matthew 26:28; 1 Corinthians 11:28).

Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night following the evening worship. Last week **23 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

- ◆ **Gospel Meeting with Loy Mitchell: May 11-14, 2014.**

In The Area

- ◆ **Feb. 9-12—Equip Seminar @ Oldham Lane in Abilene (Steve Higginbotham)**
- ◆ Apr. 6-9—**Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton (Mike Vestal)**
- ◆ Apr. 6-9—**Gospel Meeting @ Deleon (Paul Shero)**
- ◆ Apr. 20-23—**Gospel Meeting @ San Angelo (BJ Clarke)**
- ◆ May 4-7—**Gospel Meeting @ Gordon (Michael Light)**
- ◆ Jun. 29-Jul. 3—**Junior Camp**
- ◆ Jul. 20-25—**Senior Camp**

EQUIP SEMINAR



February 9th -12th, 2014

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2014
9:00am/10:00am /5:00pm

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 10 - 12, 2014
7:00pm



Steve Higginbotham
Karrs Church of Christ Knoxville, TN



OLDHAM LANE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

5049 Oldham Lane
Abilene, TX 79602

325-695-0055
www.oldhamlanechurch.com

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)



Records

	Jan. 26, 2014	Feb. 2, 2014
Bible Class	43	55
AM Worship	58	69
PM Worship	42	NA
Wednesday PM	30	42
Contribution	\$1781	\$1879

Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)

		This Week: 2/9/14	Next Week: 2/16/14		February 2014 Make Announcements: Jim Moore Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox March 2014 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: James Fuller
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Maninger Family		James and Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger		Garrett Barnum		
Communion	Hank Wheeler*, John Barnum James Fuller, Don Smith		Jim Moore*, Gene Bannister Don Smith, Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas		John Barnum		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell		Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller		Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore		Billy Chism		
Scripture Reading	Kevin Wilcox		James Fuller		
Communion	Hank Wheeler		Jim Moore		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum		James Thomas		
Wednesday Devotionals:	February 12 Don Smith	February 19 Jim Moore	February 26 Joe Dennis	March 5 Johnny McCaghren	

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of February 9, 2014		Sunday Class Identity of the New Testament Church Wednesday PM Mark: Chapters 4-5
<p>Exodus 20—The Ten Commandments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ While we do not live under the Law of Moses, in this list of commandments we find many eternal moral principles that are rooted in the nature of God Himself and are consistent from covenant to covenant. ◆ "You shall have no other gods before me." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ NT—Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 5:11; Col. 3:5. ◆ No "carved image, or any likeness of anything" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ NT—Rom. 1:23-25; Rev. 19:10; Ezek. 18:19,20. ◆ "Not take the name of the Lord your God in vain" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ NT—Mt. 5:33-37; Jas. 5:12; Mk. 7:21-23; Mt. 10:28; Heb. 12:28,29. ◆ "Remember the Sabbath day" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 7th day "rest"—The Sabbath is not and never has been Sunday. ◆ NT—Col. 2:14-16; Heb. 4:1,9,10. ◆ "Honor your father and your mother" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ NT—Eph. 6:1,2; Mt. 15:3-9. ◆ "You shall not murder" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ NT—Rom. 1:29; 1 Tim. 1:9,10; Rom. 1:32; 13:4; Acts 25:11 ◆ "You shall not commit adultery" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ NT—Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:15-18; 2 Pet. 2:14. ◆ "You shall not steal" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ NT—Eph. 4:28 ◆ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ NT—Rev. 21:8; Mt. 15:19; 1 Tim. 1:10 ◆ "You shall not covet" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ NT—1 Tim. 6:10; Col. 3:5; 1 Tim. 6:5-9 ◆ "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Col. 3:16) 	<p>Unleashing God's Word In Your Life Lesson 9—Putting It All Together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The interpretation and application of Scripture is crucial to life decisions. ◆ The importance of "cutting it straight" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing (lit. "cutting it straight") the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15) ◆ Hermeneutics—the science of Bible interpretation. ◆ To escape faulty hermeneutics, avoid these basic errors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Making a point at the price of proper interpretation. ◆ Spiritualizing, or allegorizing, Scripture. ◆ Putting it all together inductively. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Step One—Observation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ As you read, observe what is being said and take notes. ◆ Who? What? When? How? Where? ◆ Step Two—Interpretation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Do your own work before consulting others. ◆ Underline key words and phrases and define them in terms of the context. ◆ Paraphrase each verse or section. ◆ List the divine truths and principles. ◆ Cross reference. ◆ Step Three—Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Compare your conclusions with commentators and other scholars—don't assume you are wrong and they are right. ◆ Step Four—Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What changes does this demand I make in my life? 	