

for He had none. He died for the sins of the whole world. As Christians, when we commit our lives to Christ and thus identify ourselves with Him, Christ's death becomes our death. Christ did pay the penalty for our sins and His blood has purified us from our sins. As Christians, when we are washed in His blood in baptism we should take baptism and Christ's death very seriously as seen in Hebrews 10:26-31. Also in I Corinthians 11:17-29 when we partake

of the Lord's supper we ought to examine ourselves so as not to partake of the supper in an unworthy manner. The supper is all about Christ's body on the cross where He gave us His body and shed His blood for all mankind. So the next time you partake of the Lord's supper remember that Christ gave His life, shed His blood so that you might have life.

Bill Davis

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Faithful Sayings

Olsen Park Church of Christ

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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Blood is Life

During certain times of the year at the place where I work, they will have a blood drive to help the area blood bank with their supply of blood in this area. This is in response to the demand and the needs that will a rise due to the needs of the area hospitals and the need for blood transfusions for those in auto accidents in this area. All of us reading this article know that the blood that is in us is life, for without it we could not live very long. Now there are two properties about blood that I would like to talk about. One is the physical aspect of blood and the other is the spiritual aspect of blood.

carries oxygen and nutrients to all of the body to give it life. Blood carries carbon dioxide and the other waste products back to the lungs, kidneys and the liver for disposal out of our bodies. Blood also fights against infections in the body and helps to heal the wounds that we manage to get in our daily lives. Have you ever noticed that the only time any of us will ever take notice of what is in us is when we see it coming out of us? Whenever we get a major cut or a severed limb we tend to value the blood that is in our bodies for we know that without it we will die.

Physically, there is no substitute for the human blood, which we all must have to live. An average adult has 14 to 18 pints of blood. Blood

In the Bible, when we read about blood we will find that blood has a lot to do with the spiritual part of our lives. In Exodus 12:7, we see that

blood was a sign for protection from God for the children of Israel: *"And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat."* In Exodus 12:12, blood was to be a sign to God when He passed over their houses so as not to do any harm to the Israelites. Ex 12:12-13: *"For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt."*

Also in Genesis we will find that Abel, Noah and Abraham all made sacrifices to God with the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of their sins and the people. Now these animal sacrifices could not take away their sins, these sacrifices only provided a temporary way to deal with sin until God's only Son, Jesus, came to take away the sins of mankind. The blood that Jesus shed on the cross for sinful man has everything to do with you being saved and going to Heaven. In Hebrews 9:11-14 we will read where Christ shed His precious blood to obtain redemption for our lost state in sin when we become obedient. Heb 9:11-15: *"But Christ*

came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance." Christ shed His blood on the cross because the blood of animals could not remove our sins before God as seen in Hebrews 10:4: *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."* Also when Christ shed His blood on the cross He tasted death for all mankind as seen in Hebrews 2:9: *"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."* Man, being a sinner, needs to learn that he needs Christ as his Savior and that can

be found on the cross. In Romans 3:23 we learn that man is a sinner and that he needs to be saved by the blood of Christ.

Romans 3:22-26: *"For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."* Also on the cross where Christ shed His blood for all mankind we find that He shed His blood due to His love for sinful man as seen in Romans 5:8: *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."*

Without the atoning blood of Christ in the sacrifice for our sins that He was willing to give, we could not have the hope of salvation or an eternal home in Heaven. Christ's blood cleanses us when we come into contact with His blood in baptism. when one is baptized he is buried with Christ into His death. We see this in Romans 6:3-4: *"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus*

were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Also when one is baptized, the blood of Christ will purge their sins as seen in Hebrews 9:14: *"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* So why does the forgiveness of our sins require the shedding of blood?

This is not because of a bloodthirsty God, as some might think. There is a greater symbol than that of Christ's blood being shed for us. He gave His life for our sins so that we would not have to experience a spiritual death where we would be eternally separated from God. You see, Jesus is the only source of life we can obtain. Jesus gave His own life to pay our penalty for death. In this way, mankind could have life and have life abundantly. After Christ shed His blood for us on the cross He arose from the grave and He proclaimed victory over sin and death and purified us from our sins. You see, real cleansing power from sin came when Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29) shed His blood for you. Sin, by its very nature, will bring death to all of us. Jesus did not die for His own sins for