

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD!

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed ..., but with the precious blood of Christ ...”

1. Peter 1:18-19

Some years ago an elderly lady asked me to take all her jewellery to the pawnbroker's because she urgently needed money. You could buy back – redeem – the jewellery within a certain time period. If the deadline passed, the jewellery belonged to the pawnbroker's forever. Just before the deadline, I reminded the lady to buy her jewellery back otherwise it would be lost forever. She told me she didn't have any money. So I bought her jewellery back for her with my own money.

This is a picture of what Jesus did for us. Owing to our sin, we all ended up in the “pawnshop of sin” and became Satan's property. Our lives also have an expiration date! There was no one who was able to pay our ransom. When Adam sinned, his blood was contaminated by sin and he died. Adam needed a “blood transfusion” – someone who would exchange their sinless blood for Adam's sinful blood. But no human was found who had sinless, immortal blood as Adam had had before the Fall. All have sinned and all blood has been polluted by the virus of sin. God had to create a new, second Adam with sinless blood. He needed to exchange his sinless blood for Adam's sinful blood. Jesus, THE WORD, as he was called before his birth, was willing to be born as a human to redeem us with his sinless blood. To do that, he had to pour out his blood, his life – a blood donation was not enough. Jesus' blood that was shed for us makes amends for all the damage that arose through the Fall. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin, sickness and death. The blood of Jesus cancels every curse and we return to innocence. From God's perspective, we look like Adam before the Fall – as if sin had never existed.

The blood of Jesus flowed from his head, when the crown of thorns was forced onto him. It flowed to cleanse our senses. We exchange our sinful mind for the mind of Christ. The blood of Jesus delivers us from depression and fear. Your eyes no longer want to look at what they used to look at. You have been given pure eyes. Your ears are no longer able to listen to what they used to listen to. You have been given pure ears. Your thoughts can no longer think dirty things. You have been given pure thoughts. You now meditate on God's word. An alcoholic who had given his life to Jesus told me a week later: “I don't like the taste of beer anymore.” The blood of Jesus cleansed his sense of taste. The drugs, the cigarettes and the alcohol don't taste good anymore. You cannot swear like you used to. Your vocabulary has changed. Instead of swearing and cursing, you give thanks.

The blood of Jesus flowed from his hands. That means that our hands have become pure, holy hands. Hands speak of our work. Your hands can no longer steal, beat or kill. Your hands bless others and they are hands that give. Whoever has innocent hands and a pure heart can come to God (see Psalm 24:3–4). You lift up holy hands to God. Everything you touch is blessed. You lay your hands on the sick and they are made well. Your hands are now healing hands. They are the hands of Jesus.

The blood of Jesus flowed from his feet. This speaks of our walk. You can no longer patronize certain places. You can no longer walk in the way of the ungodly and sit in the company of mockers (see Psalm 1). You walk on God's paths, on holy paths (see Isaiah 35:8–9). “Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight ... a highway” (Isaiah 40:3–4). We can no longer walk on crooked paths and do crooked things. Broad is the path that leads to destruction, but narrow is the path that leads to eternal life. We are walking on the narrow path. “How beautiful ... are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation” (Isaiah 52:7). You are now an ambassador of Christ wherever you go. Your feet are the feet of Jesus.

The blood of Jesus flowed from his back. “Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering ... the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4–5). The blood flowed for our healing. His body was crushed so that our body could be healthy and whole. Sin is spiritual and has physical consequences: diseases, pain and death. Jesus redeemed us from sin and sickness. He forgives you all your sins and heals all your diseases. Peter looks back at the cross and says: “By his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24). You are now the body of Christ on earth.

The blood of Jesus flowed from his heart! We can now receive a new heart and a new spirit (see Ezekiel 36:26). If we sin, the blood of Jesus cleanses our heart from all sin (see 1 John 1:7). We were not just given a blood transfusion but also a heart transplant. Jesus gave us his heart, his blood and his divine DNA. He died for us so that we can live for him. From his heart flowed blood and water so that streams of living water could flow from our heart. The blood of Jesus was the price that redeemed us from the prison of sin and death. The blood of Jesus has no use-by date, but our life has an expiration date. Until then, everyone has the chance to claim the blood of Jesus for themselves and escape the “devil's pawnshop”.

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