

# Why “The Blood”?

Matthew 26:26-30

In the movie the Passion of the Christ, there is a lot of blood. People asked why did they need to show so much?

It is also communion Sunday and we take the elements remembering the body and the blood of Christ.

Matt 26:26-30 states,

<sup>26</sup> And while they were eating, Jesus took {some} bread, and after a blessing, He broke {it} and gave {it} to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." <sup>27</sup> And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave {it} to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; <sup>28</sup> for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." <sup>30</sup> And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Isn't Christianity rather gory, people drinking blood and eating flesh? Why all the blood?

I want to take some time to look at the subject of blood in the Bible so we better understand it. In doing so, we will answer the question, “Why the Blood?” in other words, “Why is the blood so necessary? Why did Jesus have to shed His blood.?”

## **Blood is a good thing!**

How many people have given blood at a blood bank? A lot of us have. It is not only gratifying to give blood knowing that it may save a life, but it

is also fun to receive the cookies and sugary drinks that are often provided to the donors.

## **Why blood is so important**

### **Blood is life**

The first mention of blood in the Bible is in Genesis 4:10 when Cain killed his brother and God told Cain that Abel's blood was crying out to Him from the ground.

### **God put the life of creatures in their blood**

Leviticus 17:11 states, *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement."*

Why is the life in the blood? It is the blood that takes oxygen and other nutrients to the cells and removes carbon dioxide and waste products from the cells..

Did you know, the average heart beats 72 times a minute which is 4320 per hour, 103,680 per day, 3,110,400 times a month (30 days), 37,843,200 times a year, 2,838,240,000 times in a lifetime. The average heart weighs about a pound but manages to pump 5 or more quarts of blood through your body per minute. In a single day your heart can pump about 2,000 gallons of blood through your circulatory system.

Blood is life because without blood taking oxygen to your cells, they would die. The brain especially must have a steady flow of oxygen. Even a few minutes without it means death. Although the heart carries many things to the tissues of the body, the most important is oxygen. And it is interesting to note that blood gets oxygen from the air we breath. This

invisible thing called air has what we need in our blood in order for us to have life.

**God required a blood sacrifice to atone for sins in the Old Testament**  
**Leviticus 17:11 states,** *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.”*

In the Old Testament God set up a sacrificial system to deal with sin. People were to sacrifice animals. Although blood was to be sprinkled on the altar to atone for sin, God made it clear that people were never to drink blood. Although we take communion, we are not drinking blood. We are only drinking juice. We are doing it to remember what Jesus did for us. It is not an act of cannibalism, but an act of reverence as we remember Christ's sacrifice for us.

There are certain churches that tell you when communion is taken the elements of bread and wine, or bread and juice, become the body and blood of Christ. They call this transubstantiation. This is not true. The elements do not change. Notice at the last supper, when Jesus gave the bread and wine. He said, “I will not drink from this fruit of the vine again until I drink it new in my Father's kingdom.” Christ made it clear that the element of the juice had not turned into His blood. It was simply symbolic of what He was about to do.

Hebrews 9:22 states, *“And according to the Law, {one may} almost {say} all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”*

### **3. The blood of animals cannot take away sin**

Hebrews 10:4 states, *“For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”*

Why can't the blood of bulls and goats take away sins? They are part of the fallen world. The New Testament states that when Adam and Eve fell into sin, the entire physical creation was affected. Animals are part of that creation.

We needed someone to come along who was without sin and unaffected by it. Such was the case with Jesus. Although He had a human mother, God was His father. Since sin is passed on through the seed of the man, Jesus was born without a sin-nature.

### **The blood of Christ can take away sins**

John the Baptist said in John 1:29 when He saw Jesus coming, *"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Lambs were sacrificed. Their blood was spilt. John knew this is why Jesus came.

Hebrews 10:10-14 states,

*<sup>10</sup> By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. <sup>11</sup> And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; <sup>12</sup> but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. <sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*

1 Peter 3:18 states, *"For Christ also died for sins once for all, {the} just for {the} unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit."*

I John 1:7 says, *“but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

### **The blood of Christ helps Christians overcome the Devil**

*“And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”* (Rev. 12:11) This is the last reference in the Bible to the shedding of blood by the Lord Jesus Christ; here it is the overcoming blood, enabling believers to withstand the deceptions and accusations of Satan.

There are at least 43 references to the blood of Christ in the New Testament, all testifying to its great importance in the salvation and daily life of the believer.

### **Conclusion**

Blood is important to us physically for life, and Christ's blood is essential to us for eternal life but we must respond to God's invitation.

John 3:16-19 states,

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. <sup>18</sup> "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. (NAS)

When evangelist John Wesley (1703-1791) was returning home from a service one night, he was robbed. The thief, however, found his victim to have only a little money and some Christian literature. As the bandit was leaving, Wesley called out, "Stop! I have something more to give you." The surprised robber paused. "My friend," said Wesley, "you may live to regret this sort of life. If you ever do, here's something to remember: 'The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin!'" The thief hurried away, and Wesley prayed that his words might bear fruit. Years later, Wesley was greeting people after a Sunday service when he was approached by a stranger. What a surprise to learn that this visitor, now a believer in Christ as a successful businessman, was the one who had robbed him years before! "I owe it all to you," said the transformed man. "Oh no, my friend," Wesley exclaimed, "not to me, but to the precious blood of Christ that cleanses us from all sin!"

*[Our Daily Bread, October 1, 1994.](#)*

Judas the betrayer spoke of it as "innocent blood (Matthew 27:4) and Peter called it "the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:9). It is the cleansing blood in I John 1:7 and the washing blood in Rev. 1:5, stressing that it removes the guilt of our sins.

*[Source Unknown.](#)*

Paul calls it the purchasing blood in Acts 20:28 and the redeeming blood twice (Eph. 1:7); Col. 1:14, see also I Peter 1:18-19, Rev. 5:9), thus declaring the shedding of His blood to be the very price of our salvation. Therefore, it is also the justifying blood (Rom. 5:9) and the peacemaking blood (Col. 1:20). Its efficacy does not end with our salvation, however, for it is also the sanctifying blood (Heb. 13:12).

There is infinite and eternal power in the blood of Christ, for it is "the blood of the everlasting covenant" (Heb. 13:20).

The first reference in the New Testament to His blood stresses this aspect. Jesus said, at the last supper: "This is my blood of the new testament (same as 'covenant') which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). Let no one, therefore, even count the "blood of the covenant...an unholy thing" (Heb. 10:29), for the blood of Christ is forever innocent, infinitely precious, perfectly justifying, always cleansing and fully sanctifying.