

## Hebrews 9:11-14

### “Nothing But the Blood of Jesus”

Today is All Saints Sunday. Today is the day we remember our loved ones who were active in the Community of Faith. We remember them and recall our faith walk together, celebrating their lives. When an important person dies, some say a great tree has fallen. I believe a great light has become dim. I prefer to compare the death of saints as the dimming of light because their bright lives and good works of faith remain with us, and we can still see aspects of them among us.

Even more important, on All Saints Sunday like today, we remember those who died in the Lord as being among the great cloud of witnesses mentioned in Hebrews 12. We can say with confidence that those who died in the Lord are in heaven. We know this because they had faith in Jesus and trusted in the blood of the Lamb of God.

There is something special about blood. The Bible tells us that blood is life. Leviticus 17 tells us that blood contains the life of the flesh. Blood is life. Blood was life and it had a voice. When Cain killed Abel in Genesis 4, it was Abel's blood that spoke up to testify against the sinful action of Cain. Blood was important to God, so God told the Israelites to drain all the blood from an animal before cooking it for food. Blood was so important that if anyone shared the blood

of one person, their blood was to be shared in return.

Blood was so important that God required blood sacrifice for sin. In other words, if you sin, you must pay with your blood. Once a year, the people of Israel observed the Day of Atonement. This was the day when the priest offered an animal sacrifice to remove the sins of all the people of the nation. During the sacrifice, the priest drained the blood of the animal in a bowl and sprinkled it seven times on the altar to represent the life of the people. Another animal is driven into the wilderness to represent the removal and forgiveness of the people's sins.

You are probably thinking, even if I lie and bear false witness, or covet things that other people have, should I pay with my blood? Yes. Sin is serious and all sins are serious; God's standards are so high that every act of sin must be paid for by the blood of the sinner. Out of the goodness of God's heart, God decided that we could substitute the blood of an animal for that of a human. In the Old Testament, it was clear that human sins could only be forgiven and removed through the shedding of blood.

After years of offering animal blood, God prepared the highest sacrifice for human redemption. He Himself took the form of a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 9 tells us, “When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with

human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation.”

The blood of Jesus is exactly what we needed for our atonement, redemption, and salvation. Atonement is the restoration of fellowship with God. Redemption is freedom from the power of sin and darkness. Salvation is the eternal life we receive because of our faith in Jesus. Nothing else could make this happen. Nothing, but the blood of Jesus could accomplish this. The blood of animals could not do it. The blood of other human beings could not do it. As that great hymn declares, “What can wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus; what can make me whole again, nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

The blood of Jesus is qualified to atone us and God because **the blood of Jesus is pure**. Jesus’ blood is pure because he was sinless. His desires were pure. His heart was pure. He offered himself to die on the cross willingly. He didn’t ask, “What’s in it for me?” He did not say, “You mean I’m going to die for those useless and worthless human beings?” He did not say, “Father, I am afraid. This is too painful. Please do not make me go through this.” God loved the world so much he was willing to offer His only son. Jesus was obedient to the Father. His obedience became the sacrifice the world needed for atonement.

In Matthew 5:8, Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” Just as Jesus had a pure heart, God wants us to have pure hearts. When we have pure hearts, we will see God in everything we look

at. When our heart is pure, we will see God in the wind, in the rain, and in the storm. When we have a pure heart, we will see God in each other. When we have a pure heart, we will not only see God, but we will also hear the voice of God in every situation and know that God is in control. A pure heart opens our eyes of faith to see beyond the ordinary. With a pure heart, we will see God in everything, even when it seems our prayers are not answered. When strong winds come and tear up the trees, tear up our communities, and our homes, we know that God suffers with us and feels our pain.

A pure heart is what God wants us to have. A pure heart follows the example of Jesus who had pure blood. The pure blood of Jesus qualified him to become the sacrifice for atonement. Jesus was without sin. This made his blood the exact sacrifice needed to restore us in Fellowship with God. The blood of animals and other humans could not do this. Nothing but the blood of Jesus could wash away our sins and make this happen.

The blood of Jesus was qualified to redeem us because his **blood was perfect**. Hebrews 9:13 says, The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. The blood of Jesus was perfect because Jesus did not make mistakes.

Some people think Jesus became the Son of God when he was baptized, but before that time, Jesus was not perfect. Well, my friends, Jesus was perfect from the moment of His conception. Jesus was perfect before

he was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Word of God and existed in God before he was conceived and was born. Jesus did not make mistakes. It is easy to say, calling Judas to be one of his Apostles was a mistake, but Jesus was perfect and never made mistakes. Calling Judas was not a mistake. Like all of us, Judas had a choice; he could have resisted the temptation to love money more than his relationships. Instead, Judas gave in to his love for money. Paul later reminded us in 1 Timothy 6:10, “The love of money is the root of all evil.” The love of anything is the root of evil. When we love anything with passion, we tend to put that thing over and above God, and that leads to serious trouble for us.

Jesus was perfect. He did not put anything above the love of God. Everything he did was in line with God’s plan for his life. When we place our faith and trust in God, it is easy to feel discouraged when things don’t seem to go our way, but everything that happens has a purpose and falls in line with God’s plan for our lives. As believers, we must live in God’s purpose. Every plan we make and everything we seek to do must be according to the will of God. Proverbs 19:21 tells us, “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

President Ronald Reagan said, his mother believed all things were part of God’s plan, even the most discouraging setbacks; in the end, everything will work out for the best. If something went wrong, his mother said to him, “Do not let it get you down: You step

away from it, step over it, and move on. Later on, something good will happen and you’ll find yourself thinking – “If I did not have that problem back then, then this better thing that just happened would not have happened to me.” This is true for every believer.

Jesus was perfect. He wants us to always trust the perfect will of God for our lives. The perfection of Jesus was in his life, in his will, and in his blood. His perfect blood qualified him to redeem us from the power of darkness. The blood of animals and other humans could not do this. Nothing but the blood of Jesus could wash away our sins and make this happen.

**The blood of Jesus is powerful.** In verse 14, we read, “How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”

Adam’s sin in the Garden of Eden created “bad blood” between us and God and brought a curse on humans. But the powerful blood of Jesus reversed that curse. Another beautiful hymn about the blood of Jesus goes, “Would you be free from the burden of sin? There’s power in the blood, power in the blood. Would you o’er evil a victory win? There’s wonderful power in the blood.” We all know how the chorus goes. It says, “There is power, power, wonder-working power, in the blood of the lamb; there is power, power wonder-working power in the precious blood of the lamb.”

When we pray the blood of Jesus, we close doors to the Enemy. When we pray the blood of Jesus, we open the doors and windows of heaven to release protection, prosperity, and the presence of God. There is truly power in the blood of Jesus. I heard a story of how John Wesley was returning home from a service one night, he was robbed. The thief, however, found that Wesley only a little money and some Christian literature. As the robber was leaving, Wesley called out, "Stop! I have something more to give you." When the thief stopped, Wesley said to him "My friend, 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. Wesley was surprised to learn that this visitor, now a believer in Christ as a successful businessman; this 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!" The blood of animals and other humans could not do this. Nothing but the blood of Jesus could wash away our sins and make this happen.

Today, as we celebrate All Saints Day, we remember all our loved ones who died in

the Lord, we proclaim in faith, "Eternal rest grant unto them o Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine on them. May their souls and the souls of all faithful departed, by the mercy of God, rest in perfect peace. We have the faith that we will see our loved ones again in heaven. This is possible because of our faith in Jesus. This is possible because of the blood of Jesus. The blood of animals and other humans could not do this. Nothing but the blood of Jesus could make this happen. **The blood of Jesus is pure. The blood of Jesus is perfect. The blood of Jesus is powerful.** Let us continue to trust the blood of Jesus because nothing can give us atonement, redemption, and salvation except the blood of Jesus. Let us seal our lives and our prayers with the blood of Jesus. God bless us all. Amen.