

70. 113
The Cleansing Blood

I. Jno. 1: 7

113

52

Text: "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin."

We can not walk with Jesus and yet dwell in darkness. For any one who says that he has fellowship with Jesus and yet walks in darkness - walks in sin lies and daeth not the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light - we and Jesus have fellowship one with the other and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. It does not cleanse us while we remain in darkness but as we move with Jesus in His light - in His truth.

"From all sin" let us listen to the time honored Shorter Catechism for a word on holy living.

"Sanctification is the work of God's free grace whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God and are enabled more and more to do unto others and to live unto righteousness."

Religion or better salvation by Jesus Christ is a two fold experience.

1. To Paul it is { Justification
& Sanctification

2. To Peter it is { Pardon
& Holiness

3. To John it is { Forgiving
& Cleansing

The first essential in religion is forgiveness and second is cleansing which shall renew us in the whole man after the image of God. Jno. put it in our verse "He is faithful and just."

88.
157

to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" One of our great hymns has echoed this sentiment in one of its lines

"Be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure."

In this matter of holy living I do tell us that the chief agent is the blood of Christ. This word blood is distasteful to many. This word need not bother us. The Eastern mind always uses pictorial expression. By blood the Hebrew meant what the Western mind means when it says sacrifice. The N.T. has three pictorial words for the sacrifice of Christ:

1. The death of Christ - Takes us to Calvary and shows us Christ crowning his life in the supreme deed of his dying.
2. The Cross of Christ. - Takes us to Calvary and bids us think of the agony and shame and cost.
3. The blood of Christ - Takes us to Calvary that we may look at the sufferer himself and realize that his life paid out for the redemption.

If Jesus had been a Greek he would have said, "The sacrifice of Jesus Christ his son, sanctifies us from all sin."

Now I trust that our minds may be lead into the great truth that the death of Christ on the Cross not only forgives but cleanses.

The blood of Christ cleanses because it produces in us a recoil from sin. Apart from our Adamic nature - sin is the most alluring thing in the world. It comes to us clothed in light, masked in beauty and radiant with charm. It would not hold dominion over us if we always could see the devil behind it. It comes with some promise of gain, some enlargement of life, and some exhilaration of spirit.

When its joys and jolly appear how we recoil from it. The reason for the misery of the moment after is that the indecency of the thing done has become revealed, the heaven B4 has become the hell after. It then might be the moment B4 when we could see the glaring eyes of the devil. Well we can have the moment before that order if we will but look up in to the face of Christ.

See how the death on the cross exposes many who stand around it.

1. Judas 2. Herod 3. Caiaphas 4. Pilate.

All three students - delving in self gratification came to such cross - in its presence a sense and resolve to do right - they had been cleansed by the precious blood of Christ.

② The blood of Christ cleanses because it inspires to moral and spiritual beauty. An army falls back but a young giant springs forward and goes to his death with a smile and they all follow.

A business man sees another refuse a dishonorable method of gain. Little child's song, mother's prayer, the accepting his cross - inspires to moral and spiritual beauty. Much more the cross of Christ. Compare to your own low life and you look up and change - you're cleansed by the blood of Christ.

③ It cleanses because it reveals the love of God. "Every good deed in this naughty world rebukes its darkness and impels us onward into light."

Yet some men look right into great acts of moral and spiritual lowliness and remain untouched.

Judas went from the Table when he had seen the face of sorrow ever seen and judged his Traitor Covenant.

A son has lived in a home where the father's prayers have been a daily A.M. gospel and a mother's sanctity has been and is the unforgettable picture of the peace of God. Yet he has gone before the day is over to the heathen where grass sin has leered at him and he has found darkness rather than light.

There is a mightier power to cleanse from than moral and spiritual beauty. It is a love which suffers long and is kind, bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things. When a sense of that love enters a human heart a great tide of cleansing thought and desire sweeps through the soul. No believing man ever goes astray till he forgets it.

- ④ Two enrichments
- a. unceasing virtue of the blood
 - b. omnipotence of the blood

Four ways of cleansing

- a. water
- b. word
- c. fire
- d. blood

