

THE BLOOD OF JESUS

By Don Krider

When there is an ordinance in the church, we need to understand what it is there for. It's there that we might grow in knowledge, that we might learn to worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness, that we might live in new victories with Christ day by day. Every time that ordinance is observed it should be a blessing to us, not just, "Well, here it comes again." There are a lot of people who feel that way. "Well, it's time for communion Sunday." Christ put a great price on you being able to take communion. In the days when they took communion in the early church, they had a supper and they would end up getting drunk. They would end up doing all kinds of things and they lost the importance of that ordinance to the church. When you lose the importance of God's Word, you have lost everything, and it just becomes a habit to you. When it is no longer something you do because your heart rejoices in being able to do it, you have lost the blessing.

Let's look at **I Cor 11:23-26**. This is what Paul wrote to the Corinthian church in their carnality. *"For I have received of the Lord..."* It's important before you give something to be sure where you got it from. We are not called to just get up and preach what we want to preach. We are not called to get up and share just what we want to share. We are called, first of all, to get something from God so we will have something to give to people. If you didn't get it from God it has no value to it, but if you got it from God, speak it with all humility.

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed took bread: And when He had given thanks, He break it and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the New Testament in my blood: this do you as oft as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

I would like you to underline "In remembrance of me." It is not to show that I am a Christian, not to show that I have been living good all week, not to show that I can come before God because I have so much holiness. NO! **IT'S IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM.**

Communion becomes very personal to me. While I was yet dead in my sins and trespasses, while I was bound in sin, while I was held captive to darkness, my best friend, whom I did not know, died for me. His name was Jesus.

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup (and I would like you to underline this too) you do show the Lord's death till he comes". We need to understand the importance of communion. What does it show forth? Does it show forth that I am a good guy? No! Does it show forth that I am a believer? No, that's not what it's all about. It's remembering a death that set me free; it's remembering the power of His death.

You don't have a resurrection unless there is a death. There had to be an important stopping place for Jesus to come to before the resurrection could ever happen. He was declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, and through death He destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the devil (**Heb 2:14**). His death was the most powerful thing that had ever happened on the face of the earth. Everyone was in darkness, everyone was captive, everyone was in chains of sin.

Jesus came, not to live, but to die. He came and gave His life a ransom for many. He came and died for the ungodly, the unholy, the unjust, and the unrighteous. There would be no shed blood unless it came from His veins, the one who gave His life for the ransom of our souls. There would be no broken body unless it was torn to pieces for the atonement of our healing and deliverance. When we take that cup and when we drink that blood, we need to realize that. When we look at communion, we ought to see the power of His death.

Rev 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

The Lord Jesus Christ took the keys of death and of hell from Satan. He had to break forth out of that body and enter into the very presence of satanic powers, demons, and demonic forces. He took the keys that held us bound. He took them away from Satan and said, "Let them go." The power of the blood of Jesus has taken care of my sin. It cost His life for me to live. It cost His death for me to come alive.

The power of that resurrection was wonderful, but if Jesus had not died, if His blood had not worked, if His broken body had not worked, He would still be in the grave. But God said, "I'm satisfied with the finished work of my Son. I'm satisfied with the blood that was shed. I'm satisfied with the broken body that was broken. I'm satisfied with everything Jesus has done and now I will raise Him from the dead."

God is saying, "This is my Son!" This is the focal point of the whole Bible - **JESUS CHRIST**. He came to die and that blood had power and that blood still has power. Hallelujah! I stand free today because of the blood of Jesus. When I take communion, I see all of Heaven and hell bowing down and Jesus Christ taking control of the situation, setting me free through that precious blood that the Father accepted in Heaven as the eternal sacrifice for sin.

The power of redemption is in that blood. The power of forgiveness of sins is in that blood. The power also of the forgetfulness of God that you ever sinned is in that blood. Man will always remember what you were. God only remembered that you were dead. You see, it only takes a little sin to keep you out of heaven. You can be a good guy, you can be a nice guy, but if you have not received the blood of Christ you are deader than a doornail. **There is only one thing that will give you life: it's believing, it's receiving that work of Jesus Christ -the blood that was shed for us.**

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Jesus was manifested, that was His job, to destroy the works of the devil and He did it. The only problem is, we keep resurrecting what is dead. We keep talking about dead works instead of the living Christ. There is no power in dead works. There's no power in darkness. **All power is in light. All power is in the blood of Jesus. All power is in the broken body of Jesus.**

In **Gen 3:15** God is talking to Satan. ***"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."*** "Head" means the authority. Jesus was healed when He resurrected from the dead. He came out in the same body He went in. He came out of there alive! He didn't come out of there murmuring, complaining, and groaning. **He came out alive.** He didn't go in there murmuring and complaining, and groaning. He faced the situation. He knew that unless He died, you and I would never live. He knew that unless He gave His life's blood we

would never know the saving grace of God. That is why I am so happy. My best friend died for me. He's alive and well today, but Satan hasn't gotten his head together yet.

We hear people say, "The devil made me do it." No, you did it because you wanted to. Jesus destroyed His works, took care of His power. How can there be any other power in your life if the power of Christ is there? You listen to the wrong things, you see the wrong way, you think the wrong thoughts.

Look at **Eph 2:4-6**: *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:"*

God raised you up with Christ Jesus and seated you in heavenly places. "Well, I don't feel very heavenly." You are whether you like it or not. Don't make God a liar. "Well, I look in the mirror and I see what I see." No you don't. You see a house that is passing away, but the real occupant lives in the house. The real occupant is happy; he's going to get out of here one day. The real occupant is going to get a change of address before long. That real occupant, that new creature person, that one redeemed by the blood of the lamb, is going to come out of there one day. Who!

One day they are going to turn the lights and gas off in this house, because I'm moving into a house that is eternal like His - not made with hands. I can be happy here but I am going to be a lot happier there. The reason I can be happy here is because I am covered by the blood, washed in the blood, redeemed by the Spirit of God, made free. There is no power that can hinder me. Jesus Christ has destroyed the works of the devil and He destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. We just confess and profess too much stuff.

I like **Col 2:13-15**: *"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it."*

He spoiled principalities and powers, making a show of them openly. Every demon in hell had to watch Him do it. They had to rivet their eyeballs on Him while He struck a fatal blow to them and said, "This is it. You will not be able to take my people captive anymore. If they become captive, they will have to do it by their own will."

The blood of Jesus is more powerful than man can imagine! The neutron bomb has the power to snuff out life, but it doesn't have power to give life, like the power of Jesus' blood. Everything man builds destroys life, but when God makes something, it brings life. When we get up in the morning, we ought to say, "Hallelujah, I'm going to put on the garment of praise. I've got the beautiful garments of salvation. I'm coming before the Lord and I'm going to magnify Him. I'm going to glorify Him. I'm going to sing, I'm going to dance, and I'm going to shout because I have been redeemed by the power of the blood of Jesus." Jesus triumphed over them openly.

When the Japanese surrendered in World War 2, General McArthur said to the Japanese Emperor, "This surrender is unconditional. There are no conditions in it." The Emperor signed it and said, "I surrender." McArthur signed it, representing America and all the armed forces. Satan had an unconditional surrender;

he didn't make terms with Jesus. If Satan tried to claim you, Jesus said, "No, he's mine. He's redeemed, washed in the blood; it's unconditional. You might through his ignorance and through his lack of knowledge, be able to do a little thing; but I set a boundary even on that. I'll not let him be tempted above what he is able, but I will, with that temptation, make a way of escape that he will be able to bear it." You need to read the unconditional guarantee here.

Jesus said that you are free. "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. He whom the Son set free is free indeed. In everything you are free." How come I am in such bondage? Because you want to be there. A lot of times it feels better to be in a little bondage; we get people to notice us. If we don't have any bondage, nobody notices us. I am happy. The blood of Jesus has washed me and made me clean. By His stripes on that broken body, I am healed. Isaiah said in **Isaiah 53:5**: "*The chastisement of peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.*" Peter confirms it in the New Testament in **1 Pet 2:24**: "*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*" It's finished, so, "*Rejoice evermore; pray without ceasing; in every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*" (**1 Thess 5:16-18**).

The Lord wants a happy people. He doesn't want a religious people. He had millions of them and all they could ever do was murmur, complain, grumble and gripe, and harden their hearts against Him. They became stiffnecked and slow of hearing. They never enjoyed life. Their shoes never wore out; their clothes never wore out, but all they did was murmur and complain.

Let's look at **Numbers 14:26-38**: "*And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me. Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness. And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise. I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.

And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD. But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still."

God let them die in the wilderness as He said He would. There were only two men from that old generation who came-Joshua and Caleb. But I have news for you-we are free. **Colossians 1:13**: "*We have been delivered out of the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of His dear Son through whose shed blood we have redemption; even the forgiveness of our sins.*"

We have to quit looking at the Lord through religious eyes. We have to see Him as high and lifted up. We have to know Him as a friend. We have to know Him as our redeemer, our deliverer.

He's looking for a joyful people. **Matt 5:2-9** says: "Blessed are you, blessed are you, blessed are you," which means to be happy or to be envied. Nobody is envying the religious people; that is bondage. Why do you think people go to these big revivals? There is something going on; they want to get in there where that joy is. I have been brought into the kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. The only thing that can keep me from enjoying this is me. It isn't my wife or anyone else. We need to be a people today who are singing and praising God; praising Him from the rising of the sun until the going down of the same.

Even if someone else doesn't treat me right, what does it matter. No one else died for me. Jesus always treats me right. He raises me up in the morning, puts a song in my heart during the day, puts a joy in my soul, gives me a song in the night hour; keeps me in perfect peace and just causes me to have a Jericho fit! Do you know why? Because He is real. When we take communion, He is not in a cracker and He's not in the wine or the juice. He's not in that element, He's not in that ordinance, but Brother, they all remind me of who He is and what He has done.

He's whole! He's sitting in Heaven now at the right hand of God the Father, and He's living ever to make intercession for me (**Heb 7:25**). When you think nobody is praying for you just remember that scripture.: **"He lives ever to make intercession for me."** That's His job. He didn't quit working when He came off that cross. He didn't quit working when He went to Heaven. He sat down at the right hand of the Father and He makes intercession for us. He lives to do that. He desires to do that. He wants to do that.

What chance does the devil have against Jesus who prays for us? How come we give him so much credit? Could it be that we don't want to take the credit for it? When we mess up we don't want to say, "I did it!" We say the devil made me do it, or my wife or my husband made me do it. It's somebody else's fault, never my fault. But the problem with that is, when I blame everybody else, I can never get forgiveness for what I have done.

God knows all about me. I need God to keep me straight; I can't do it on my own. I can't make it on my own. I just go in there and mean it from my heart and say, "Lord, I am sorry! I am messed up!" God is never surprised. It's not like I'm telling Him something He didn't know. It's so nice to go in there, just lay your heart out and say, "Lord, I am messed up on this thing." I have never had God tell me, "You really surprised me."

Jesus died for me. He's the one who fought my battle for me. He's the one who put me in His kingdom. He's the one who delivered me out of the power of darkness. He's the one who gives me new life. He's the one who brings joy into my heart. He's the one who takes care of me.

It doesn't mean a whole lot what people think about me. I've had people call me a fanatic, and thank God they can recognize it. I don't mind being a fanatic for Jesus. I don't mind shouting for Him; I don't mind dancing for Him; I don't mind praising Him wherever I am! Why? Because He died for me. We need to examine ourselves to be sure that our confidence is not in what we can do, but our confidence is totally in the Lord.

Sin comes when we start mixing what Jesus did with what other people are able to do for us. If you had Jesus alone by Himself, and that's the only one you had, you would have the majority. That's why Jesus could say to the Apostles, "There are more for us than there are against us." It doesn't make any difference how many physically are against us, "If God be for you, who can be against you."

When you take communion, if it is just an exercise, it doesn't mean anything. But if it brought the remembrance to your heart again that Jesus Christ is Lord; that by Himself He redeemed you without any help from any congregation or any help from any group of people, then your heart is right. Thank God there was no committee involved in salvation because some of them would have voted us out. Jesus accepted us. "But now are you accepted in the beloved." That is a wonderful ordinance for the church. Unless it brings the truth to our hearts it's just a cracker and it's just juice.

I want you to think about Jesus. I don't want you to think about anything else because I am going to ask you a question, one of the greatest questions you will ever be asked in your life. Have you ever received Christ as your Lord and Savior or is your hope in something you can do - your goodness - your Mom, your Dad, your Grandparents, someone else. If your hope is not in the Lord Jesus Christ, the blood will witness against you and not for you. If you need Jesus in your life and you want to accept Him as your Lord and Savior, just say to Him, "Yes, I want to receive you, Jesus, as my Lord and Savior. I want to know the blessed assurance that the blood of Christ gives. I want to know that freedom of passing from death into life-out of darkness into light."

Father, in the wonderful name of Jesus, what a blessed hope, what a blessed assurance today can be ours when we know Jesus. Lord, we can live for You and You live through us. You give us power over sin. You give us power over the enemy, but greater than all of these things is that we have the assurance that we have eternal life through Jesus Christ. Father, if we have twenty more years or whether we have no more years, if today is our last day, God what a wonderful assurance we have in knowing that we will be able to come into the presence of our Lord Jesus, to be able to have eternal life with Christ.

I thank you, Lord, that there is no other forgiveness for sin except through the blood of Jesus; no other atonement can be made except the blood of Jesus. I thank you for the ordinance that you gave to the church-the ordinance of communion. God, I thank you for what it represents.

I thank you for that broken body of Jesus. I thank you for the New Testament in your blood. I thank you for the forgiveness of sin in your blood. God, I thank you that your miracle healing power is flowing even as we pray for those, Lord, that need a touch; for those who continue to need their heart bound up; for those who are hurting physically; those who are hurting spiritually. I thank you for the forgiveness of sin; for the healing through your love to those in need. You are the Lord, You are the Savior, You are the healer, You are the miracle worker. We pray in Jesus' mighty name, Amen!