

TURN TO GALATIANS 2:20

1. What have we seen so far

- A. We looked at the idea of two representatives – we were in Adam but now “In Christ”
 - 1). We saw how God views us through His perfection and death
- B. We looked at Justification – Because we’re in Christ and given his righteousness
 - 1). God declares us to be “Not guilty” before Him – a one-time legal declaration

2. That brings us to this weeks study – the shed blood of Christ

- A. What it means to be linked to his death on the cross
 - 1). In justification we saw what it means to be linked to his life
Now we must see what it means to be linked to his sacrificial death on the cross

Thought: Christ’s life – Christ’s death – Have you learned that everything in our Christianity is found in him
Have you seen that everything you want to become depends upon him

- A. Please get this believer - Jesus Christ is God’s answer for you in all things
 - 1). The more you can look away from yourself – to focus on Him and what He’s done
The more victory, joy, peace, satisfaction and contentment you will enjoy
- B. But when we take our eyes off of him and what he’s done for us – what happens?
 - 1). We start to focus on our own performance and what we are doing for him
 - 2). The result: Our weaknesses and failures rather than Christ’s success will fill our vision
 - a). That will steal our confidence to approach God – to expect anything from God

Point: The secret of successful Christian living is looking away from self to Christ

- A. Do I have a scripture for that? I do! It is the way Paul lived.

TURN: Ga 2:20 (ESV) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- 1). I live this life out by faith in Him – to enable me – to provide everything I need
 - a). Spiritual strength, Material provision. Comfort, encouragement

Transition: That is what this series is about – taking our eyes off us and fixing them on Christ

3. Why do we need a study on the shed blood of Christ?

- A. Because of what the believer experiences in their Christian walk. See if you can relate.
- B. If you’re a believer - that means at one point you became aware of your sin.
 - 1). Holy Spirit convicted you - saw your true spiritual state – Guilty before God and on way to hell
 - a). What did you do? You cried out for forgiveness and asked the Lord to save you.
 - 2). If you were like me, had a honeymoon period with Christ that was amazing
 - 3). But then something happened I didn’t expect.
 - a). I sinned again and then again and then again. Confused me, what was going on?
 - b). I’m a Christian now, I love Jesus Christ, so why am I still attracted to sin?
 - c). Why do I still get angry? Struggle with improper thoughts and lousy attitudes?
 - d). I’d confess it, ask for forgiveness, and find comfort until I sinned again.
 - 4). There was this repeated pattern. Failure, confession, repentance, joy and eventually failure again.
 - a). That failure threw me for a loop, causing me to wonder if I’d really been forgiven.
- C. What stabilized me? Understanding and applying the truth of who I was in Christ
 - 1). Understanding what the shed blood of Christ had done for a sinner like me
 - a). This was the truth I needed when I failed
 - 1a). The tool I needed to use against my own *conscience* that was quick to condemn me

2a). And use against the devil who would use that failure to accuse me

Transition: To understand the power of this truth – first we need to see the problem that sin generates

A. Sin creates a problem with God, with man and with the devil

1). We will see how the shed blood of Christ is the answer for all three.

I. THE THREEFOLD PROBLEM WITH SIN

1. Sin Creates a Problem with God: It causes God to separate from man

A. We looked at this two weeks ago with Adam. He fell and that relationship with God was shattered.

1). Where there had been intimacy, there was now alienation.

B. See the same thing in Isaiah 59

Is 59:1–2 (ESV) Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; ⁽²⁾ *but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God*, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

1). Problem: Sin forces a holy God to separate himself from the sinner

2. Sin creates a problem with man: It causes him to separate from God

A. When we sin, if we don't know what truth to apply

1). Our conscience will make us feel so guilty - we won't feel we can go to God

B. Therefore, while sin causes a separation from God's side, it also causes a separation from man's side

3. Sin creates a problem with Satan: It hands him a weapon to beat us with

A. He is called the "Accuser of the brethren." And what he uses to accuse with is our sin

1). He attempts to convince us that we have sinned to deeply – so repeatedly God is through with us

Question: What has God done to address all three of these problems? He sent his son to die on the cross.

A. The truth of his shed blood and what it accomplished is the answer for God, man and the devil.

B. This is the truth you need to know well enough to apply in a daily manner – this truth will set you free

Transition: Let's take all three - God, man, the devil and see how the truth of Christ's shed blood applies

II. THE SHED BLOOD AND GOD

1. When we think about the shed blood of Christ, we must not put ourselves first

A. We must see Christ shed his blood primarily for God – so He could come back together with man

1). God required blood for man to be forgiven for breaking his law - so that separation could end

Heb 9:22 (ESV) ...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Point: I'm forgiven not because God played games with justice – found loophole to let lawbreakers into heaven

A. I am forgiven because God sees Christ blood shed to pay the penalty my sins demanded

2. Scriptures repeatedly teach the value of blood for the sinner

Exodus 12 and the Passover Lamb

A. Exodus 12, have a beautiful picture of Christ and his sacrifice, portrayed in the Passover Lamb.

1). Story takes place on night before Children of Israel would be delivered from Egypt

B. Up to that point, Pharaoh had refused to allow the Israelites to leave.

1). But there was one more judgment coming that would force his hand

2). Every firstborn son, in every household throughout the land, would be taken by death

a). No firstborn would escape, not even the son of Pharaoh.

C. But God did provide a way of escape for his people

1). If people would take blood of lamb slain for that last meal and paint it on doorposts of their house,

- a). God would see that blood and his judgment would **pass over** that house.
- 2). A beautiful picture of those who are in Christ.
 - a). God sees the shed blood of his son on their behalf and his judgment passes over them.

Point: It was God who demanded the blood and when he saw it – his justice was satisfied

Transition: As we move on in the Scriptures we come to Leviticus 16 and the Day of Atonement

- A. Here we have another powerful picture of how God views the shed blood

The Day of Atonement and the Shed Blood. Leviticus 16

- A. On that day, the High Priest would take the blood of the sin offering into the Holy of Holies and sprinkle it before the Lord 7 times.
- B. This was done for the forgiveness of sins for the people of Israel. Why?
 - 1). Because the Lord had commanded it to be done – it was done to satisfy his justice
 - a). When God saw that blood he forgave his people
- C. Again this was a picture of Jesus Christ that final sacrifice who shed his blood for us
 - 1). When God viewed the shed blood of Christ on our behalf, we would be forgiven and, his judgment would pass over us.
 - 2). This was the value that God placed on that blood

Conclusion: The Shed Blood Was Primarily for God

1. The point we must see. God's justice is fully satisfied by the blood of Christ

- A. Because it is – He no longer needs to separate himself from us
 - 1). This allows him draw near to us and still be holy and just
 - 2). The blood of Christ solves the separation between God and man – from God's side

Transition: But what does it do to rescue us from our problem of feeling alienated from God

- A. When we fail and feel so guilty that we don't think we can enter into God's presence
 - 1). We find our answer in Hebrews 10 – again - understanding the truth about the blood of Christ
This gives us the confidence we need to enter into the presence of God.

II. THE SHED BLOOD AND MAN

Turn: Heb 10:19 (ESV) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

1. The holy place takes us back to the High Priest on the Day of Atonement.

- A. Once a year, the High Priest would be allowed to go into the presence of God in the Temple.
 - 1). After ceremonially cleansing himself with the **blood** of a sacrificed animal,
- B. This was considered a great privilege, it was also something that produced great fear.
 - 1). The high priest knew if the ceremonial cleansing wasn't done properly, sin would remain
Therefore he would not be coming back out.
 - 2). To enter God's presence with sin upon you resulted in immediate death.
- C. The author of Hebrews uses that analogy to teach us how much greater the sacrifice of Christ is
 - 1). Because of the shed blood - NT believers are encouraged to enter God's presence **with confidence**

Even boldly: Heb 4:16 (NKJV) Let us therefore **come boldly** to the throne of grace...

Point: So, I am encouraged to come confidently and boldly into the presence of God.

Not just one day of the year but on any day – any time I want too

Transition: But if you're like me, this can be a struggle. Why? My conscience can make me feel so guilty
I don't feel I can go into God's presence – let's look at that

2. The problem of an accusing conscience – see if you can relate

- A. Before we were Christians, our consciences were dead to God.
 - 1). We didn't want him or his ways. – we loved sin and lived to gratify the cravings of the flesh
- B. But then, we were saved and our conscience came alive to God. – it became sensitive to sin
 - 1). I'll use my own experience here
- C. Because I didn't understand the truth about Christ's blood and how God viewed me because of it
 - 1). I didn't have anything to soothe my troubled conscience.
 - a). Therefore, it beat me up over every inconsistency and failure
 - 2). It convinced me God couldn't love somebody like me – that he was going to send me to hell
- D. Is this because I was living in open sin? No! I was trying with all my might to live for him.
 - 1). I cared, I was earnest. I disciplined myself in Word and prayer - served faithfully in the church.
- E. But because I didn't see that God accepted me because of Christ's performance and forgave me because of his shed blood, I was miserable and terrified.
 - 1). In my thinking, the God I had fallen so in love with as my father
Had become a severe tyrant, who was eager to cast me into hell.
 - a). That obviously wasn't the truth but that is what my emotions told me
- F. I desperately needed to know these truths we've been learning in this series
 - 1). I needed to see how God saw me in Christ. Because how I was seeing myself was destroying me
 - 2). I needed to learn to rest in Christ's performance on my behalf like God did.
 - And I needed to value the blood of Christ shed for me in the same way God did*
 - a). God saw the shed blood on my behalf and he was satisfied
 - b). In his eyes - It was all that was necessary to cleanse me from all my sins
 - 1a). *I needed to be satisfied by the blood in the same way.*
 - 3). It was these truths when understood and applied that rescued me from myself.

Transition: To have victory – to be able to enter into God's presence with confidence

You are going to have to learn to use these truths against yourself – against your own conscience

- A. The author knows this – in v. 19 - he tells us about the power of Christ's blood – so enter confidently
- B. Then a few verses later – tells us how to handle that conscience that will stop you from doing that
 - 1). The solution again, is the blood of Christ.

TURN: Heb 10:22 (ESV) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, *with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience...*

1. Let us draw near to God – how? When my conscience is against me?

- A. What can be sprinkled to silence that accusing conscience - context V. 19 “the blood of Jesus.”
- B. Sprinkling with blood goes back to the Levitical priesthood.
 - 1). They'd sprinkle blood on the priests as they were being ordained for service.
 - a). The problem with the OT sacrifices - could only purify the flesh externally
 - b). Whereas sacrifice of Jesus cleansed people's hearts and consciences internally

Point: So the blood of Christ is powerful enough to silence an accusing conscience

- A. But notice the necessity of a *full assurance of faith.*

TURN: Heb 10:22 (ESV) let us draw near with a true heart *in full assurance of faith...*

- 1). Faith in what? Faith that the blood of Christ has done exactly what the Bible says it did.
- 2). Faith that God the Father was satisfied when he sees the blood, just like he said he was.
- 3). Faith that God now has nothing against me – blood has washed my record as white as snow.

- a). Faith – being confident enough that all this is true – confident enough to apply it
- B. All this is summed up Hebrews 10:14 in one word.
Turn: Heb 10:14 (ESV) For by a single offering he has *perfected* for all time those who are being sanctified.
- 1). Amazing things happen when we are united to Christ by faith.
- a). His finished work on our behalf – received by faith - has an eternal effect
- 2). We are “perfected” for all time in two ways.
First: Given perfect standing before God who views us through the faultless obedience of Christ
Second: Legally, we stand before God with perfectly clean records.
- a). He looks at the books in heaven and can find no sin to hold against us
- 1a). God is completely satisfied with the payment of blood for all of our sin
- Thought:** But like it says – you have to take this by faith – Why?
Because you won’t always feel forgiven, will you?
- A. Many times, you will confess sin, tell yourself that God views you through Christ’s performance and his shed blood
- 1). Then you walk away still feeling guilty.
- B. Listen child of God! It does not matter what you feel like!
- 1). The idea God accepts the perfect performance of Christ in your place is an objective fact
The truth God accepts the shed blood of Christ as full payment for your sin, is an objective fact
- a). Your feelings don’t alter this truth one bit.
- C. But, if you allow feelings to dominate you, they’ll keep you from being able to rest in these truths.
- 1). You must stop being allowing your emotions to bully you
- 2). You must start seeing the blood of Christ the same way God does
- a). He is satisfied therefore he has forgiven every one of your sins
Therefore you must be satisfied with Christ’s blood and rest in what it has done
- Transition:** I want to add a quick thought on another angle of what the shed blood of Christ did

Christ’s Work of Propitiation

Speaking about Christ: Ro 3:25 (ESV) whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

1. What does “propitiation” mean?

- A. I love the way Jerry Bridges defined it = Propitiation can be translated *“Exhausted.”*
- 1). IOW Jesus Christ exhausted God’s wrath against our sin on the cross.
- Question:** What does that mean practically? *It means that God is no longer angry with you.*
- A. What would he be angry about? If His wrath was already exhausted on your sin!
- 1). Exhausted wrath = there is not a trace of anger left
- B. So God is not angry with you, every thought towards you is now a thought of love

2. That doesn’t mean he won’t discipline you when you sin. (See Hebrews 12)

- A. It does mean when he does discipline you it is always out of love and never out of anger.
- 1). He is disciplining you as a loving Father, because he wants what is best for you.
- 2). He doesn’t want you clinging to the temporal things that cannot bring lasting joy.
- a). He wants you to soar in him. To live out that abundant life he sent his Son to give you

Point: So stop walking around thinking God is always upset with you – always disappointed

- A. He’s not! He views you through the perfect performance of Christ
And his anger against your sin was completely exhausted by Christ

Question: Have you ever thought of how much God loves you? Jesus tells us in John 17

Jn 17:20–23 (ESV) “I do not ask for these only (**the apostles**), but also for those who will believe in me through their word, (**That’s you and me. What does he ask for us?**) ...I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me *and loved them even as you loved me.*

1). The Father loves you as much as He loves Jesus!!!

C. Do you want to know how pleased he is with us? How accepted I am

Mt 3:16–17 (ESV) And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ⁽¹⁷⁾ and behold, a voice from heaven said, *“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”*

1). Because I am in him – clothed in his righteousness – every sin cleansed by his blood

a). God says same thing about me – In his Son – united to His work

He is well pleased with me

Point: This is all the glorious truth of who we are in Christ

A. The more you see this – the more you’ll rest – the more you’ll rejoice

1). The more you’ll obey and serve – for the right reasons

Transition: We’ve seen how the blood of Christ works towards God and man. We have one more. Satan.

III. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST AND THE ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN

1. Satan is called the “accuser of the brethren.”

A. His tactic is to tempt God’s children into sin, then accuses them because they have sinned.

B. The answer to this, once again, is the shed blood of Christ.

2. How the blood defeats the devil’s accusations is interesting.

A. It operates by uniting God and man against him.

B. We could say, it reverses what happened in the garden after the fall.

1). Adam’s sin erected a barrier between God and man – caused a separation

2). But the blood of Christ removed that sin barrier and the guilt it produced

a). It wiped the records clean, allowing God and man to come back together.

C. Because God is united to man – on the same side – we can face Satan victoriously

1). Why? Now that we are children of God – we have been given the weapon to defeat him

a). All the Scriptures about what Christ has done are ours – to be used as swords

And all of the promises that flow out of his work are ours to claim

D. Two promises (Out of many) to claim that defeat the devils accusations

1 Jn 1:7 (ESV) the blood of Jesus his Son *cleanses us from all sin*

1 Jn 2:1–2 (ESV) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ⁽²⁾ *He is the propitiation for our sins...*

1). He cleanses us from all sin and exhausts every ounce of God’s wrath against it

Thought: We’ve already seen when we fail – our consciences have to be silenced with truth

Here we see it is the same thing with the devil’s accusations

A. He wants to keep us away from God by accusing us – lying to us

1). He will come to us and say, “You have finally out-sinned God’s grace. You’ve exhausted his mercy. He doesn’t love you any longer and heaven is no longer your home.”

B. What do we do when this happens? Well, here is what we *must not do*

1). We must not try to work up some feeling of spiritual goodness

Or try to weave together a case to defend ourselves - based on our goodness

“But I am getting better.” Maybe, but you’ll never be good enough, you’ll never hit the mark

a). I don’t base my self-defense on my goodness – I’ll lose

Paul said in Philippians 3, the believer *puts no confidence in the flesh*

Donald English: My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

b). I’m finding my confidence in his goodness – I look away from me

C. Your only defense is to look away from yourself and fix your eyes on Christ

1). To use the truth of what he has done for us – who we are now because of THAT

An Example of the Fight and How to Use Scripture

A. **Devil:** “I can’t believe you sinned again. God won’t forgive you for THAT! It’s to great!”

You: “You’re wrong devil. 1 John 1:7 says, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses me from every sin, even that one you just brought up.”

B. **Devil:** “Yes, for a while. But you have sinned in this way repeatedly. There is no forgiveness left for somebody like you. You have out sinned God’s willingness to forgive. He’s patient but come on!”

You: “You’re absolutely right, I have repeatedly fallen in that area. I don’t want too but I have. But my Father’s loving kindness is greater than my failures. Matthew 18 tells me, He forgives 70 x 70, in other words don’t bother to count. Again, his blood cleanses me from all sin, even repeated sin.”

J. Russell Howden: Our answer to the devil's charge is not an alibi, but a plea of guilty and a claim that the demands of justice have been satisfied in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. **The devil tries again.** “But you’re a lawbreaker. God won’t let lawbreakers into heaven.”

You: Again, use the scripture as a sword: “Once again you’re right devil! But you know as well as I do, that God sees me in the perfect obedience of Christ. That’s in Romans 5:19. You know that I kept the law in him and because of that God has already declared me to be not guilty.”

Thought: Satan will tear us apart if we argue from our own goodness – sincerity - growth

A. But he is no match for the scripture that tells us who we are in Christ and what He has done

1). That is why we must know our Bible

Every scripture you know is another weapon you can use in this battle

B. What does the Scripture point us too – the finished work of Christ on our behalf

CONCLUSION:

1. We’ve seen the threefold problem that sin has created

We’ve also seen the blood of Christ answers all three

A. It solves the problem of God having to separate himself from me because of my sin

B. It solves the problem of me separating myself from Him as a result of a guilty conscience

C. It solves the problem of the devil trying to drive me from God through his accusations

“Man of Sorrows!” what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
“Full atonement!” can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die;
“It is finished!” was His cry;
Now in Heav’n exalted high.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew His song we’ll sing:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!