

Brought Near By the Blood of Christ -- Ephesians 2:11-22 (Please read)

- Ron Stullenbarger

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13). I fear that there is a great deal of confusion in the minds of many believers with regard to the manner and nature of the meaning of *"the saving power of the blood of Christ."*

There is no efficacy, no saving power, in the *liquid blood* which flowed on Calvary's Cross. This is, of course, not to say that the blood has no power. Here in the text Paul says that we who were once outside of the covenants of God and distant from the grace and mercy of God *"have been brought near by the blood of Christ."* The real question is what is meant by the blood and how does the blood *"bring us near"*?

Jesus died a horribly bloody and painful death for you and me. When the Apostle Paul speaks of us having been brought near to God by the blood of Christ he is saying that we have been brought near by the power of that sacrifice. Indeed, we have been and are saved by the blood of Christ. We are brought near to God by the power of Christ's sacrifice!

In the OT, I submit to you that no person was ever saved by the *liquid blood* of any animal, or by the good and obedient deeds of their keeping the law. The sacrificial system of the OT was but a type and a shadow of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ! His blood saves, this is true. But it saves, not because of the *elemental nature of the liquid*, but because *through the shedding of Christ's blood we have received the life of Christ!*

If a person was present watching the crucifixion of Jesus, and having heard Jesus' teaching that we would be saved by His blood, ran up to the Cross after Jesus was removed and took some of His blood and rubbed it on his head so that he might be *"covered in the blood of Jesus"* -- but having no religious devotion in his heart, no abiding love for the Savior of whose blood he was **literally** covered in, that person would be no less lost in his sin than any other person who had ever lived. But if that person was to place their trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, they would receive eternal life. Because through the sacrifice of Christ, through the shedding of His blood, we have received what that blood contains -- the life of Christ! All of the riches of Christ in His eternal glory have become ours!

It is the blood of Christ which brings us near unto God; it is not through physical elements, and not through the ritual sacrifice of the works of our hands. The life of Christ is in His blood which has been poured out to satisfy the wrath of God toward sin. Therefore, we do not stand condemned, but we stand fully pardoned -- having received the life of Christ through faith. We are not saved by good works that any man should boast; nor are we saved by the commemoration of the physical elements of communion that Christ's sacrifice should be repeated, as though it was originally in vain. We are saved through the blood -- the life -- of Christ! What a wonderful truth! We are saved by grace through faith in Christ, and we are at peace with God as His Spirit abides in us!