

**Crossville Church
of Christ**

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COMPASS

Using God's Word to Chart The Course
Of A Congregation

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Elders:

Frank Bohannon

Bill Foland

Al Griffin

Jonathan Loveday

Larry McDuffee

Clyde Randolph

Deacons:

Jim Bell

Kyle Fairman

Jimmy Harris

David Kerley

Doug Loveday

Greg Maxwell

Brian McLaughlin

Mark Roberts

Roger Smith

Jon Tatum

Jason Wyatt

Jerry Wood

Minister:

Barry Kennedy

Missionaries:

Don Iverson

Jim Waldron

(India)

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study 9 AM

Sunday Worship 10 AM

6 PM

Wednesday 6 PM

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesdays 11AM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays 10 AM

Joyful Generation

(Youth Devotional & fellowship)

1st Sunday 7:00 PM

January 29, 2012



**“O God, thou hast taught me from my youth:
and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous
works. Now also when I am old and gray-
headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have
shewed thy strength unto this generation, and
thy power to every one that is to come” (Psalm
17:17-18).**

THE ATONING BLOOD OF CHRIST

Barry Kennedy

What can wash away my sin? What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. These words have been sung by countless souls ever since Robert Lowry penned them all those many years ago. How comforting and convicting these words are to the sinner's ear! Man has a great need, but it often goes unattended, and that is the need for the atoning blood of Christ. In fact, no other subject in scripture can shock man to his core more than the blood of Christ. Consider the atoning blood of Christ as it emphasizes the seriousness of sin; reminds one of the salvation available, and finally encourages the security promised.

The atoning blood of Christ emphasizes the **SERIOUSNESS** of sin. It seems to be the normal course of action for people to try and "justify" their deeds, be they right or wrong. It is unpopular to say that something is a sin in today's tolerant society. What many of this mindset fail to realize is that if this is so, then the shed blood of Christ is somewhat "cheapened." Moses wrote long ago that "...the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul" (Leviticus 17:11). This statement was made in reference to eating blood (Leviticus 17:10, 12-16). Of course, God was protecting His people physically, but there is no denying the spiritual implications involved in these scriptures as well. In fact, Moses said that the blood was used in the atonement of their souls. Sin always has and always will cause death (i.e. separation) from God (Isaiah 59:1-2; Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 6:23). The hard reality is that only one thing has the power to remove man's guilty stains brought on by sin and that is the precious atoning blood of Christ.

When one takes to heart the fact that his personal sins caused Jesus to endure the cross, it should promote his desire to repent. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (2 Corinthians 7:10). One cannot truly appreciate the sacrifice God has made for man and feel good about living in sin. Jesus shed His life's blood for the sins of the world, but we should never lose sight of the fact that He died for each one individually. He knew when he was being scourged that He was doing it for this author personally. He knew when those nails were driven into His flesh that it was for you dear reader. See yourself at the foot of that cross, and you will see His blood flowing down for your sins. If that does not dampen ones desire to transgress God's law, nothing will. Yes, His precious atoning blood emphasizes the seriousness of sin.

The atoning blood of Christ also reminds one that **SALVATION** is available. One need not think of atonement only as his personal gift. Jesus made this clear when He stated: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Man's sin brought about a great need and that need was salvation. John wrote it this way: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). One literally sins by saying he has no sin (Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9; Revelation 21:8). Not only does this person lie about his own life, but he makes God out to be a liar as well (1 John 1:10). Therefore, salvation is the greatest need for all men. This is at the very heart of why Jesus shed His blood. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9). Notice, the Hebrew writer clearly emphasized the scope of Jesus' sacrifice when he wrote "every man." This is a point that many Calvinists need to consider before they espouse their doctrine of "limited atonement." However, one need not stop here; John also stated this truth in the Revelation when he wrote "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. **OVER >>>>>>>**

And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will (Emph. Mine BK), let him take of the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17). Yes, Jesus shed His precious atoning blood to make salvation available to anyone who will obey Him (John 3:16; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 5:8-9).

The atoning blood of Christ encourages the SECURITY that is promised. No one wants to feel as though they are in danger. People spend money on security systems for their homes and automobiles. They lock their doors and study safety plans in order to secure their peace of mind. How secure do people feel spiritually speaking? One can only answer this question for himself. The real issue is why do people not have the proper feeling of security? Maybe people are putting too much trust in their own abilities (or inabilities) and fail to see the atoning blood of Christ. Of course every individual has his and her personal responsibilities (2 Corinthians 5:10). How does the Christian find this security knowing the possibility of apostasy (Galatians 5:4)? God does not expect His people to be in doubt (2 Timothy 1:7). The promise of security was clearly stated by the apostle John when he wrote: “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 (emph. Mine BK) His Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). Yes, there is a continual cleansing promised to all souls who walk faithfully in the light of God’s word (Psalm 119:105). This is only possible because of the precious atoning blood of Christ (John 1:29; 1 Peter 2:24).

The precious atoning blood of Christ washes man of his sins (Revelation 1:5; 7:14), redeems man to God (Ephesians 1:7), justifies man as if he never sinned (Romans 5:8, 9), gives man peace (Colossians 1:20), and enables him to overcome Satan (Revelation 12:11). This is possible if we see the seriousness of sin, lay hold on the available salvation, and access the security of a faithful walk with Him.

“A SQUASH OR AN OAK”

Wade Webster

James A Garfield noted, “When God wants to grow a squash, He grows it in one summer; but when He wants to grow an oak He take a century.”

Personally I like squash. As a teenager, I could eat it as fast as my mother could fry it. It was delicious. However, I don’t want to be a squash. Squash vines can be pulled up easily and stomped down quickly. They are here in the summer and gone by fall. I want to be an oak. I want to have deep roots and rugged strength. I want steady through multiple seasons.

President Garfield’s point is well made, isn’t it? You can’t grow oak trees or men quickly. It takes time to grow things that endure. Under-standing this, we need to be patient with children and new converts. It will take some time for them to reach maturity. However, if they desire to grow, they will eventually get there (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Tim. 2:15). With time, they will go from children tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine to men who cannot be moved (Eph. 4:14-16; Ps. 16:8; 21:7 46:5; 55:22; 62:6).



As elders, preachers and Bible school teachers and parents our goal is to help the young to grow into mighty oaks spiritually. In order to do this, we must feed them a balanced diet of God’s word (1 Tim. 6:3; 2 Tim 1:3). Are we presently producing squash or oaks? For sure, time will tell. Let’s do all that we can to pass the test of time.

