

There's Power in the blood" Hebrews 13:20-21

Proposition: The blood of Jesus has been supplied but we need to ensure that it is applied through faith to give us healing, resources and victory in the present. It covers our past, our present and our future.

This morning we look at the last two verses in the letter to the Hebrews as we finish our study on this book.

I want to talk about the blood of Jesus and give you some Old Testament references to help you understand what is available to us through the blood of the Lamb through the eternal agreement His death forms on our behalf.

Now as we talk about the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ this morning I don't want to conjure up images in your mind of red dripping blood covering you and your family. When we are talking about the blood of Jesus in the context of Hebrews 13 what we are talking about is a supernatural, legally binding covenant that releases resources to you and your family and legally disempowers satan's attacks on you and your family.

When I say blood, please think, high court ruling, that is highest court ruling. Something so legally binding that not even satan can argue with it. How many of you grew up with parents that pleaded the blood over your life or prayed that you would be covered with the blood of Jesus. That wasn't a prayer for something gross; it was a prayer that what Christ has won for you on the cross be experienced for you in your life.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Final Prayers and Greetings

²⁰God gives peace, and he raised our Lord Jesus Christ from death. Now Jesus is like a Great Shepherd whose blood was used to make God's eternal agreement with his flock.²¹I pray that God will make you ready to obey him and that you will always be eager to do right. May Jesus help you do what pleases God. To Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever! Amen.

The writer prays that God will "make you ready" to do all that God has called you to do.

That phrase "make you ready" or perfect you as the older translations say has four New Testament applications.

"MAKE YOU READY" – means

- a) **Whole** i.e. if you have a broken bone or a broken family or a broken life God can make you **whole, complete** so that you can do His will.
- b) The phrase can be used to describe the **mending** of a net so a fisherman can succeed in his **business**.
- c) The phrase is used to describe the **outfitting** of a ship to prepare it for a journey. I.e. the ship is prepared, made ready, equipped with what it needs to reach its destination.
- d) The phrase is used to describe the **equipping** of an **army** so that they will succeed in battle.

As a consequence of what has legally been won for us in the blood of Jesus the writer prays that God will make us whole physically and emotionally and relationally.

He prays that God will help us vocationally in business.

He prays that God will prepare our ship for heaven.

He prays that God will equip us with the weapons we need to win battles over the attacks of the enemy on our lives and on our families.

Our passage does not say that we will be made ready, whole, successful, outfitted and equipped through therapy, seminars or books. These things are available to us as a consequence of what Jesus has legally achieved for us on the cross of Calvary.

Jesus has done what needs to be done to supply us with, open heaven for us to receive, His protection, and covering and blessing and healing. Through the pouring out of His blood, the giving of His life there is an eternal agreement through which God can supply us with wholeness, mending, outfitting and equipping. But even though those things are legally ours because we believe and have laid down our lives for Him, even though they are supplied through the cross, you and I still need to apply them to our lives and over our families. We still need to apply the blood.

THE BLOOD IS APPLIED IN EXODUS 12:21-27

The first account of how to apply the blood is found in Exodus 12:21-27. As I remind you of this account that you will know so well, there is just one helpful piece of historical information. The Hebrews while they were in captivity in Egypt for those 400 years until God raised up Moses to deliver them had in the wood that formed the bottom of the door a built in bowl. That bowl used to contain water so that you would wash your feet as you entered the house and so when in our passage it talks about the blood being in the bowl and is taken from the bowl and applied to the door frame picture if you would the blood being in this foot washing bowl.

Exodus 12:21-27

²¹Moses called the leaders of Israel together and said:

Each family is to pick out a sheep and kill it for Passover. ²²Make a brush from a few small branches of a hyssop plant and dip the brush in the bowl that has the blood of the animal in it. Then brush some of the blood above the door and on the posts at each side of the door of your house. After this, everyone is to stay inside.

²³During that night the LORD will go through the country of Egypt and kill the first-born son in every Egyptian family. He will see where you have put the blood, and he will not come into your house. His angel that brings death will pass over and not kill your first-born sons.

²⁴⁻²⁵After you have entered the country promised to you by the LORD, you and your children must continue to celebrate Passover each year. ²⁶Your children will ask you, " What are we celebrating?" ²⁷And you will answer, " The Passover animal is killed to honour the LORD. We do these things because on that night long ago the LORD passed over the homes of our people in Egypt. He killed the first-born sons of the Egyptians, but he saved our children from death."

After Moses finished speaking, the people of Israel knelt down and worshiped the LORD.

The blood is applied on the door from bottom, top, left and right forming the shape of a cross and the destroyer passed over so that everyone in the house was protected by the blood of the sacrificial lamb.

The second prophetic picture of how to apply the blood is found in the third book of the Bible, Leviticus chapter 14 vs 1-10

THE BLOOD IS APPLIED IN LEVITICUS 14:1-17

Leprosy is used in the bible as an illustration of sin. Apparently leprosy starts as a little spot under the skin, and like sin, often small and a private thing, no one knows it's there initially but then it spreads and takes hold of a person's body and ruins their whole life. Eventually their nose will drop off, their ears may drop off, their fingers may drop off and their face will ooze a green coloured puss. They become social outcasts and are confined to live in a leper colony. Having now described what leprosy looks like does anyone want lunch?

Leviticus 14 was a practice given for how to confirm that someone was healed of this horrible disease but this practice was never used for another 1500 years until Jesus walked the earth and he started touching the lepers.

How was the blood to be applied to the leper who had been healed?

The Ceremony for People Healed of Leprosy

¹The LORD told Moses to say to the people:

²⁻³After you think you are healed of leprosy, you must ask for a priest to come outside the camp (where was our high priest taken? – outside the camp) and examine you. And if you are well, ⁴he will have someone bring out two live birds (probably sparrows) that are acceptable for sacrifice, together with a stick of cedar wood (cedar wood is a prophetic symbol of the cross), a piece of red yarn (red/scarlet cloth a prophetic symbol of the blood), and a branch from a hyssop plant (the blood of a sacrifice was normally applied with a hyssop branch). ⁵The priest will have someone kill one of the birds (an animal that had come down from the heavens as it were) over a clay pot (earthen vessel a symbol of humanity) of spring water. ⁶Then he will dip the other bird, the cedar, the red yarn, and the hyssop in the blood of the dead bird. ⁷Next, he will sprinkle you seven times (the number of completion/ perfection) with the blood and say, "You are now clean." Finally, he will release the bird and let it fly away (a symbol of the one who came down from heaven returning to heaven).

¹⁰On the eighth day you must bring to the priest two rams and a year-old female lamb that have nothing wrong with them; also bring a half pint of olive oil (always a symbol of the Holy Spirit) and six pounds of your finest flour mixed with oil.

¹⁴The priest will smear some of the blood from this sacrifice on your right ear lobe, some on your right thumb, and some on the big toe of your right foot. ¹⁵He will then pour some of the olive oil into the palm of his left hand, ¹⁶dip a finger of his right hand into the oil, and sprinkle some of it seven times toward the sacred tent. ¹⁷Next, he will smear some of the oil on your right ear lobe, some on your right thumb, and some on the big toe of your right foot,

Here's the principle I want you to see from this OT passage.

The blood is put on the ear – the persons hearing

The blood is put on the thumb – the persons doing

The blood is put on the person's big toe – the persons going

The blood is a symbol of cleansing and the oil a symbol of empowering.

Only after grace, forgiveness has been applied to the leper can power be applied to them in exactly the same places.

Do we want to hear from God supernaturally, to have anointed ears?

Do we want to know a real anointing on the practical things we do for God?

Do we want to know a real anointing on the way that God leads us in life?

Before the anointing can come on those areas of our lives, Faith, and repentance and the impact of the blood of Jesus must come first. Those parts of our lives must be impacted by the blood before they are ready to receive the anointing.

THE BLOOD IS APPLIED IN REVELATION 12:7-11

Revelation 12:7-11

⁷A war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels were fighting against the dragon and its angels. ⁸But the dragon lost the battle. It and its angels were forced out of their places in heaven ⁹and were thrown down to the earth. Yes, that old snake and his angels were thrown out of heaven! That snake, who fools everyone on earth, is known as the devil and Satan. ¹⁰Then I heard a voice from heaven shout, "Our God has shown his saving power, and his kingdom has come! God's own Chosen One has shown his authority. Satan accused our people in the presence of God day and night. Now he has been thrown out!" ¹¹Our people defeated Satan because of the blood of the Lamb and the message of God. They were willing to give up their lives.

Jesus taught us to pray Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. One day there will be a battle in heaven, and satan and his helpers will be denied access forever, and he will be thrown initially into the bottomless pit and finally into the lake of fire.

And it's the power of the blood of the lamb and the Word that will defeat Satan.

How does that work?

When Adam knowingly and willingly sinned he effectively handed over the dominion of the world to satan. God had given it to Adam and Eve our champions and they gave it to satan. Jesus called satan the prince of this world. Paul called him the god of this age. Suffice it to say that all the pain and suffering and disasters in the world are a part of satan the destroyer, destroying. But satan will only be allowed to do this for a little while longer then he will be kicked out and shut down.

When Jesus died on the cross the pouring out of His blood sealed an eternal covenant that meant that satan became just a squatter in this world and his end was determined. Satan is not just a squatter in this world but he is a squatter in you and I and in our family members who are struggling at the moment. He has no legal right to be there if we are Christians and we have put our faith in Christ and turned from our deliberate sins.

Imagine this, after the service tonight I go home to Mc Clintock Rd and when I get there I find that another family has moved in, and they have squatted in the house. I could get really down about the struggle and feel disappointed and a victim and get me a shopping trolley and start roaming the streets with the homeless. But if I did that you would say I was crazy. Why; because I have legal right to our house. Juliette and I have a legal title saying we own the house. Therefore when squatters come in, I shouldn't feel sorry for myself and down, I should get the law on my side and kick them out.

It's exactly the same when we apply the blood. Satan thinks that he can come into your life and mine because of something of the past, and he tries to mess with our heads and tries to convince us that we have addictions we can't break, habits that we can't change, he tries to convince us that our kids are going to be rebellious and our marriages are going to break up.

But he is just a squatter. His only right of entry into our lives is sin. His only legal ground for being in our lives and messing with our heads is sin.

And so you apply the blood. “Just a minute satan” you say. “I have stuffed up millions of times but the blood of Jesus and what he has bought for me is inexhaustible. What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. O precious is the flow that cleans me white as snow, no greater font I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus. Satan I have been forgiven, cleansed, you have no legal right to mess with my head or my family, I am covered by the finished work of Calvary, you are trespasser and a liar satan – push off”. Satan has to go. There is power in the blood.

I am not saying satan won't tempt you to get negative and to give up. He will, but he has no authority to do that unless you choose to let him. The blood of Jesus, that eternal covenant sealed with His blood has got your past, present and future covered. Satan you are a squatter here, you have no legal rights, Jesus has bought back my freedom, get out. Satan's only grip on you; the only way he can spread the leprosy of sin through you is through sin and so when he says; I am going to wreck your kids or wreck your marriage, you put them under the covering of that covenant. “Yes right; satan, dragon, snake, you have no legal right in my life or at my home in McClintock Rd Massey, get out.”

Through the blood we have healing, vocational blessing, and resources for successful living and equipping for battle. With the blood applied over my home the destroyer cannot come in and kill my family. Lord Jesus we are under the covenant you created for us with your life, protect our family. Every area of our lives that have been surrendered under the blood becomes an area that God can anoint with power.

Every battle we face against satan for our marriages, for our kids, for our freedom becomes a battle that we can win because we, like the angels one day in heaven, overcome satan by declaring the Word and releasing the power of the blood.

As we conclude our study in the letter to the Hebrews there are two challenges for you.

1. If you are not yet a Christian, you are not covered by the blood and for you there is no power in the blood yet. Please come and talk to us about what it means to die to self and to live for Jesus under his covenant. We would love you to take home a free DVD “how to connect with God” and a bible study.
2. Secondly if you are a Christian and you have moved out with your shopping trolley because the squatter moved into your home or your habits or your marriage or into your children's lives, today is the day I want you to stand up and start applying the blood. If you are under the blood of the everlasting covenant – satan has no legal right to mess with you, kick his butt out, and do it now. Jesus has bought back you and your family, get rid of the squatter and don't believe anything that he says.