

"WHAT DOES THE BLOOD OF JESUS MEAN?"

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I just believe in my heart that the Lord wants to do something significant in every person's life here today. As I was sitting there, the Holy Spirit began to quicken my spirit and to make me aware of the fact that there are in this congregation today those of you who are really going through difficult places. I seem to get this mental picture, call it a vision, call it a dream, call it an apparition, call it what you will, but this mental picture of some very broken, broken, broken lives. Then I got a picture of the great hand, the great hand of God, coming down and working in those lives and bringing them out of their brokenness into their healing. I just have the feeling that the Lord wants to do a very special kind of healing work in this congregation today. That means it cannot be a spectator sport. It has to be participative as each one of us becomes involved and we feel one, our need. Two, we respond by faith to that need. Three, we pray one for another.

There is a chorus that was ringing through my heart this morning as I was praying early about this service today. We haven't sung it in a long time. Some of you may know it, some of you may not. The title of it is, "In His Time."

"In his time, in his time, he makes all things beautiful in his time.

Lord please show me every day as you're teaching me your way that you do just what you say, in your time."

If you don't know it, you'll catch it very quickly. I want you to sing it with me please and believe that this is the time, the Lord's doing it in his time.

(Singing)

Now as you just bow your heads and close your eyes for a moment or two, the Holy Spirit has laid on my heart to share with you for just a few minutes not what is scheduled in the bulletin today, but as Warren was singing, I began to get the picture of the blood of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah chapter 53, verse 5, it says, by his stripes- the New International Version says, by his wounds- we are healed. Whatever healing you need in your life today, it has been made available to you, to appropriate into your life by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The thing that makes the Christian religion different from any other religion is that God through Christ has paid the debt of sin. He has made us to have the access into his throne and we can come into his throne boldly crying, Abba, Father! His Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are his children. If we are his children, then we are his heirs and joint heirs with his son Jesus Christ.

Now I want you to begin to believe God right this very minute for what he would do in your life. We're going to be seated in just a second or two after I pray now, and then I want to share with you on the blood of Jesus Christ and what that blood of Jesus Christ means to you. Then we're going to come to a place of prayer and I'm going to give an altar call in just a few minutes. I want to pray for those of you who are under great duress, those of you who are suffering depression. You're going through fear, you're going through worry, you're going through difficulty. It's a problem for you today. The marvelous thing about the miracle of God's grace is that he is no respecter of persons and he's numbered the very hairs of your head. He knows who you are, he's interested in what you're going through. He's been there. He has been identified with us. He was tempted in every point as we are tempted. Hebrews 14:16 tells us...yet without sin. Hallelujah. Therefore we have access boldly into his throne where we can receive grace and find mercy to help us in the time of need. It all comes through the blood of the cross.

I don't care how tangled up your life may be this morning. I don't care how much you've fouled it up during the past week, the power of the one who is able to straighten it out and to give you a whole new canvas to paint a whole new picture, to give you a whole new piece of paper to write a whole new story, to make the crooked places straight and the rough places smooth and to

work in your heart in a new and a living way, that God is here today by his grace.

Now Father, may we be open to what your Spirit would say to us now. May your holy presence work in us what we need and may those persons who sit here today in need of you not put it off any longer, but may this be the time. In your time, you make all things beautiful in your time. Lord we just receive that right now in the name of your son Jesus Christ, for his sake, amen, amen, and amen.

You may quietly be seated please. As you are seated, sing with me now.

What does the blood of Jesus Christ mean that you have in your life and that you have in your spirit and that you have in your soul here this morning?

First of all, the Bible tells us in Romans chapter 5, verse 9 that we are justified by his blood. Therefore, being justified by his blood, we have salvation. We are rescued from the wrath of almighty God. The Bible tells us in that same chapter in the first verse that we are saved from wrath through him, but that we also have made peace with him because we were justified.

Justification means that you are accepted just as if you had never sinned. It doesn't matter how many times you have started, how many times you have failed. It doesn't matter how many glitches you have in your life. The concept of the grace of God and his justifying power means that legally he accepts you just

as if you had never sinned. There's no better deal in all of the land than God gives you this morning, that you can bring him every problem, every difficulty, every situation, every thing that has gotten so tangled up in your life and you don't know how to straighten it out. You just bring the whole tangled ball of wax to him and say, here it is, Lord. He says we are justified by his blood. Being justified in his blood, we will be saved from wrath through him.

The Bible tells us that through his blood that we are sanctified. Hebrews chapter 13, verse 12 tells us that Jesus Christ suffered outside the city gates that we might be sanctified, that we might be made holy through his blood.

If you have ever gone to Calvary in Israel, if you've ever seen the Place of the Skull, the place of execution, you recognize that he became the sanctifying spectacle so that the work actually could be done.

In justification he legally accepts us as righteous in his sight. Only for the righteousness in Christ imputed unto us and received by faith alone.

In sanctification, we are accepted as righteous in his sight through his blood that cleanses us from all sin so that we are dying more and more to sin and we're living more and more to righteousness.

To be sanctified means to be set apart. To be sanctified means to be separated. To be sanctified means that through the

power of Jesus Christ that we are set apart for religious duty. We are set apart to do his will and his work. To be sanctified means that we see things as God sees them. To be sanctified means that we feel things as God feels them. To be sanctified means that we do things as God does them. And through his blood he makes you and cleanses you as white as the driven snow, bringing to you the understanding of the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Through his blood we are justified. Through his blood we are sanctified. Through his blood he tells us that we are redeemed. That means that we are bought back from the clutches of sin.

In I Peter chapter 1, verse 18, it says, ...being redeemed by the blood of his cross. That means that he makes us as a church that is without spot and without wrinkle. We are not redeemed with things of silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ as the lamb without spot or without wrinkle.

You see, it is hard for us to conceive what happened in the Garden of Eden. We don't really understand the hurt that it brought to God's heart. We don't understand the disappointment that came to his mind. When Adam and Eve sinned and they brought imbalance into their lives- for God had created a mankind in his own image to have true balance in his head and in his heart and in his hands, in all that he thought, in all that he felt, in all

that he did- but when man sinned, that imbalance came into the world and there is a randomization and a problem that we fight every day of our lives, the unpredictability, the uncertainty, the risk that is in the world, all because of the fallout of the fall.

When he tells us that he has redeemed us, he redeems us out of the clutches of sin. He redeems us out of the clutches of Satan. He redeems us out of the power of evil and he gives us the knowledge that if God be for us, who can be against us, and that his spirit, which is in us, is greater than any spirit that is in the world. By him we are more than conquerors because we have been redeemed. Amen, amen, and amen. Do you believe that this morning? The redeeming power of his life. Hallelujah.

What that really means is that the world is sold in slavery to sin. The prince of the power of the air is in control. The battle that we fight is magnified by the power of Satan himself. He does not have omnipotence, he does not have omniscience, he does not have omnipresence, but he has a system of deception that gives to us the kinds of problems we don't think we can cope with. Indeed, we can't. But there is one who is mightier than we are. We have an elder brother. We have a high priest. We have one who came into the world to destroy the manifest works of Satan. We have one that says that the God of peace will soon crush Satan under our feet. By the power of that living God, we

are the conquerors. Amen, amen, and amen. Well, hallelujah. He redeems us. He redeems us.

He justifies us. He sanctifies us. He redeems us, but the Bible says that he reconciles us. In Ephesians chapter 2, verse 13, those of us who are afar off have been brought near. We have been reconciled by the blood of Jesus Christ.

To be reconciled means that we have been brought close. To be reconciled means that we have been restored. To be reconciled means that whatever enmity, whatever wall, whatever difficulty there was between us and the Father now has been taken care of. the wall of partition has been broken down. When that wall of partition is broken down, we have full, complete fellowship with him. Then we walk with him in a way that we have never walked with him before because of the blood of Jesus Christ reconciling us to him.

Full, complete restoration in status. That means that we can then begin to exercise all that he means to us. Then we know that we've been blessed in the heavenly places. Then we know that we've been called to be righteous and blameless and holy. Then we know that we've been predestined to be his children. Then we know that we have had revealed to us the very secrets of the mystery of God. Then we know that we have been sealed by the power of his Holy Spirit. Then we know that we have been given wisdom and knowledge and revelation to know him in the fullness of his power. Then we know that we've been strengthened in our

inner being by his spirit. Then we know that Christ dwells in our hearts by faith. Then we know that we are rooted and established in love in him. Then we are able to grasp with all the saints how wide, how deep, how long and how high the love of God really is and to know his knowledge that surpasses all understanding and to understand that we are filled with the fullness of his power. If we are filled with the fullness of his power, there is nothing in this world that we can't overcome. Amen, amen, and amen. Well, hallelujah be to God. Hallelujah be to God.

I'm talking about the blood of Jesus Christ. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? I'm talking about that God made a covenant with you. God made a covenant with me. He told us, in Genesis chapter 3, verses 13ff, there is coming that day when the serpent is going to raise up and bruise the heel of mankind, but the heel of mankind is going to crush the head of the serpent. There is coming a day when you'll look at the rainbow in the sky and you'll know that I've made a covenant with you. There is coming a day when you'll see Israel be united as a state and you'll know that I've made a covenant with you. There's coming a day when I'll send the power of my Holy Spirit and he shall make his abode in your life and your body shall become his temple and you shall worship him in your body and your spirit because you are mine. I've bought you with a price and I've called you by

name. Amen, amen, and amen. Hallelujah be to God. Well, praise God forever. Well, magnify his name.

You say, Pastor Walker, what are you doing? I'm just freewheeling, that's what I'm doing. Hallelujah. I'm talking about the blood of Jesus Christ. It's time for the church of the living God to stand up and shake itself and recognize that it's not going to happen through our programs and our plans and our ways and our means and our methods and all of the kinds of things that we're able to do in our own strength. That means nothing unless it's energized by the power that comes from the cross of Jesus Christ that lets us know that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father. Hallelujah be to God forevermore. Amen.

We've got to understand that he is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the measure of faith that is in us. God is saying one thing to you and to me today. You have faith. You believe. You trust in my blood and you trust in the power of the resurrection and you trust in the power of the resurrected spirit that is in the church. You trust in the fact that my Son is coming back to earth again and you're going to be able to make inroads into this world. You're going to get a people ready that when my Son comes, they're going to be a bride that is prepared for the bridegroom. Amen, amen, and amen. Hallelujah be to God. Hallelujah.

So his blood justifies. His blood sanctifies. His blood redeems. His blood reconciles. The Bible tells us, finally, that his blood makes peace. Colossians 1:20- ...having made peace through the blood of his cross. Having made peace through the blood of his cross. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation.

When the peace of Christ becomes a reality in our lives, then it is that we are able to withstand whatever pressures come our way. The truth of the matter is that most of our difficulties come when we lose that presence of his peace. The legacy that was given to us by Jesus Christ was not a legacy of power, per se. It was not a legacy of miracles, per se. It was not a legacy of all the promises of God, per se. In John 14:27, he said, peace, I leave with you. My peace I give unto you. Not as the world gives, I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled; neither let it be afraid. Because Jesus Christ knew that the miracle couldn't happen, the promises couldn't take place, the power of God, unlimited in his word, could not manifest itself unless we had a life of peace.

You see, the problems in most of our houses is that we lose a sense of tranquillity; we lose a sense of peace, that deep settled understanding of assurance and confidence that everything's going to be all right. Hallelujah. Are you still there? Everything is going to be all right- that I don't gauge my lifestyle by the circumstances that I see now.

I looked over this congregation today. Having been here as long as I have, I've lived through a lot of things with a lot of you people. I've lived through ups and downs and ins and outs. There's one thing that has ministered to me far more than I have ever ministered to you. I've watched you stand firm and stand steady and stand faithful in the knowledge of the fact that in the midst of the storm I have something that nobody else has. I have the peace of God almighty, because in the eye of the hurricane there is a calmness of spirit and mind that will see me through. Amen, amen, and amen. Well, praise God. Peace. I'm talking about peace. Hallelujah.

The whole point of this word that God has given to us from the bottom line is that we can have peace.

Now you see, the whole problem we have developed in our world today is that we have every gadget imaginable to make our life more comfortable. We've got all of the electronic kinds of insight that any society could ever possibly have. We've got the most affluent lifestyle that history has ever recorded, but in the midst of it all we've got very troubled people because you cannot find peace in any kind of manmade mechanism. Peace does not come from governmental policies. Peace does not come from social engineering. Peace does not come from educational institutions. Peace does not come from Dun & Bradstreet. Peace does not come from Wall Street. Peace does not come from having possessions. Peace does not come from things and thrills and

theories. Peace comes from one place and that is from the very throne of God as it flows through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. It makes us to know that in him we live and move and we have our being. Amen, amen, and amen. Hallelujah be to God. Well, praise him in this place. Let the people of the Lord praise him.

Well, you say, Pastor, I haven't heard you preach like this in a long time. That's because I haven't preached like this in a long time. I feel a camp meeting spirit in this place. Hallelujah. Amen, amen, and amen.

Peace, peace, peace. Psalm 29:11 says that **the Lord will give strength to his people. The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

Psalm 119:165- **Great peace have they that love thy law and nothing shall offend them.**

Isaiah 26:3- **Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusteth in thee.** Hallelujah be to God.

You know, I never really understood that. When I was about, I guess I was 17-years old, I was a senior in high school, one Friday morning, I got up early to go to school early, to get on a bus to go to Parkersburg, WV to play in a football game. We lived in Beckley. I had to be at the school at about 7:30 in the morning, catch the bus, go on to Parkersburg, play a game that night. I got up, went down for breakfast, brought my suitcase

down and sat it by the front door. The phone rang and my mother went to the phone. She broke into tears and began to cry. I couldn't understand what that meant. I went to her and said, "What's wrong?"

She said, "Your father's had an accident. He has hit a train. They're not expecting him to live."

He hit a train going about 45-50 mph, hit the locomotive broadside on a West Virginia hill. The train was parked across the road.

Well, we rushed down to the hospital a couple of hours later and talked to the doctor. The doctor looked at us and said, "I wish I could give you good news. I wish I could give you good news, but your husband," talking to my mother, "has internal injuries. He's had a concussion, broken both legs, one kneecap is shattered and the Packard automobile- he just crushed the steering wheel into the dashboard. I just have to be honest with you. I can't give you a lot of hope."

We walked into that room that day and I'll never forget. My father's head was swollen twice its ordinary size. I couldn't believe it. I could hardly recognize him. He was conscious and able to talk, however. My mother looked down at him after she'd kissed him and said, "Paul, how do you feel?"

I'll never forget what my father said. I was a struggling senior in high school who decided I knew all things about everything. I knew one thing, I'd never be a preacher. That

shows you how much I knew. I knew that I'd never follow that way. That was too tough a life for me, I thought. I had my name in lights in a marquee. Back then I could play the trumpet. Some of you who have heard me play lately understand what I mean. I looked for the day when my name would be in lights. You'd see me as one of the great bandleaders of all times. I was struggling with that at that time.

My father looked at my mother and said, "Margaret, I'm feeling bad in my body, but I'm feeling good in my soul." Hallelujah. Does anybody know anything about that? Does anybody here know anything about that? That's peace. That's peace. That's peace. Bad in your body, but good in your soul. Hallelujah. It's difficult to realize that for some people.

Well, we prayed hard for my father. One night, late in the night, by his own admission and by his testimony, it was like an angel came into that place. He and David Duplessy were both broken up in that particular accident. They were sharing a room. [An angel] came into that room and ministered to them. My father was completely healed, with the exception of the broken legs. All the internal injuries like overnight were completely made whole. The doctors said, we don't understand such a marvelous, quick healing of such serious injuries. Peace, peace, peace, peace.

Peace has been the thing that I have learned from many people going under duress. We were back at Hemphill the first

couple of years I was here as pastor. I don't know if you've ever had this experience before. Maybe you've never had it. Maybe you just live on cloud nine all the time. Maybe you never have problems. If you don't, then you're probably on drugs. You know, you're always relaxed and you've always got it together. You know, you never make a mistake. You're just perfect. Some wife says, my husband thinks he's that way.

You know, there are times when everything seems to pile in at one time. You ask yourself, you know, I think I'll just go outside and eat worms. That's what I think I'll do.

You know, I used to envy, when I was a kid growing up and we lived down in Somerset, PA, right across the street from the railroad track and back in those days you had hoboes. Anybody remember hoboes? You've heard of Petticoat Junction, haven't you? Well, we were Hobo Junction. The word got out that my mother fed the hoboes. Those hoboes would come by and it was the highlight of my life to eat with hoboes. In fact, in those days, I decided what I wanted to do with my life's work was that I wanted to be a hobo. On some days, I still feel that's what I'd like to do with my life's work.

We were at Hemphill and things were going just about as bad as they could go. Things were going just about as bad as they could go- just about as bad as things went at Mark's house last week. Not quite, but almost. He'll tell you about it, so I'll let him do that. I was trying to pray at the sanctuary at the

old Hemphill church and I don't know if you ever try to pray and you think that somebody sewed up heaven. Do you ever feel like that? They just shut the big iron door. Your prayers go up and they come back and hit you right in the head. Have you ever felt that and you're kind of ducking as they come back down? Anybody know what I'm talking about? Well, I was feeling that way.

We had a lady in the hospital. She'd been an arthritic all her life and she was dying. Gangrene had set in, she'd lost about three of her fingers and a couple of her toes. To go into see her, you had to put on all the paraphernalia and you had to cleanse yourself in special solutions when you came out. I got to praying and I thought, I wonder. I wonder if God's really with Jeanette. She's dying down there and she's really just rotting away. I wonder, God, if you're with her. I'm going to go down and see.

I got in my car and went down to the hospital. I put on the stuff, went in the room, and Jeanette was kind of out of it because she was only two days away from death. I roused her a little bit and said, "Jeanette, this is your pastor. I've got to talk to you." In those days, I was about 29 years old. If I try hard, I can remember back that far. I said, "Jeanette, I've got to know something. You're down here and you're sick. You know as well as I know, we've talked about it. The week before we talked about it and you think you're dying. The doctors think

you're dying. I want to know, is God anywhere around here? Is God here with you?"

I'll never forget this. Her face illuminated and the Holy Spirit began to work. She began to speak in tongues. The Holy Spirit began to illuminate that room. I'll never forget what happened for it changed my life. She reached one of those hands out that was all bandaged up, where she had lost about 3 fingers and she laid it on top of my head, because I was kneeling at her bed. She began to prophesy over me. She prophesied the very day that we're seeing now. She prophesied the very things that we're seeing happen now. She prophesied the fact that if I would stand firm and trust the Word and quit being such a wimp to worry about everything that was going round about me, that God would do what he promised to do. I walked out of that hospital ready to take on the devil, however he came at me. I learned one important thing that day, a scripture I've quoted many hundreds of times. I John 4:4. He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world. Amen, amen and amen. Well, praise the Lord. That's peace. That's peace. That's peace.

Two days later, she died. She had a Jewish doctor and he stood over her bed when he came in to pronounce her dead. The family that was there said that he broke into tears and began to cry and said, "I've treated this woman for some 15-16 years. If I live to be 100 years old, I'll never forget that woman's

smile." Smile. Smile. Smile. That's peace. That's peace.
That's peace.

Now let's be honest with each other here this morning. The blood of Jesus Christ is available for you. The blood of Jesus Christ can be appropriated into your life at whatever level of being you may be. The prophets stood up on the hills of Judea and proclaimed for all the ages that by his wounds, we are healed. What that word healing meant, it took in more than just physiological healing. It meant spiritual, emotional and social healing.

With his blood we are justified. With his blood we are sanctified. With his blood we are redeemed. With his blood we are reconciled. With his blood, we have peace. Now it's yours for the asking and the appropriation this morning. It's yours. It's yours.

(Speaking in tongues)

Heed the word of the Lord- Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden. I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me. Come, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. You shall find rest for your soul as you trust in the promise that I have given to you, that I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will not allow you to be tempted in any way that is beyond your ability to withstand. When you are tempted, I the Lord will give you a way of escape. As you come to me, recognize that I have appropriated, through the blood of my Son, the power

for your healing, that you might be healed in your body, in your spirit, in your soul and in your mind. Come, the table is now spread. Come and receive that which I have prepared for you. Behold, says the Lord your God. Your prayer, your faith, your worship this day comes up before me as a sweet smelling incense. I the Lord glory in inhabiting with your praise. Come, come, says the Lord God Almighty. Hallelujah.

I want the elders to take their places quickly, please. We're going to sing "In His Time." I'm going to give an altar call in just a minute. Will you stand with me, please? Everyone standing.

Every person in this building, that you feel a need and you want to be anointed with oil, you need healing for your body, I just believe there's a miracle that's going to take place here this morning healing-wise. You're going through a tough time emotionally, depression, worry, fear, I want you to come. If there are problems in your home, you need peace in your household. You need peace in your spirit; you need peace in your mind. I'm not going to ask you to raise your hands. You just come.

(Singing)

We're going to pray in just a minute, but before we pray, the Lord has just put a check in my spirit. The check in my spirit is that there are those of you standing in this congregation, if you'll be honest with God, and I wouldn't do one

thing in this world to embarrass you or make you self-conscious, but the Holy Spirit is convicting you. You just do not know Jesus Christ as Lord. Some of you, you have never really made a true confession of faith. You've made profession, but you've never let him be Lord of your life. He's just not Lord of your life. I don't want to put you on the spot, but I would hope, as we sing this song one more time, I'm going to sing the first verse again, that you would come.

And if you're standing there and you say, well, that's not my case, but I feel like coming, then I'd like you to come on. There's nobody here that is going to try to point any accusing finger at you. We're here to help you. We're here because needs are being met at this altar even now. I could spend the rest of this day pulling out my files and showing you the great miraculous things that God has done. I could spend the rest of the morning just talking about what has happened probably this past week. But you're not getting in on it because you're not appropriating his blood. It comes by faith. By faith you are justified. By faith you are sanctified. By faith you are redeemed. By faith you are reconciled. By faith you have peace, the peace that passes all understanding.

Paul the Apostle says in Philippians chapter 4, verses 6-8, **Don't worry about anything whatsoever, but tell God every detail of your life in earnest and thankful prayer and the peace of God which transcends all human understanding will keep constant guard**

over your heart and mind as they rest in Christ Jesus. I want you to come. We're going to sing it one more time and then we're going to pray together this morning. Will you come, please?

(Singing)

Hallelujah.

Now I want everybody in this congregation to become one mind, one heart, one voice. Hallelujah.

(Speaking in tongues)

By my spirit, I am working in you a refining work. I am burning out the dross that has so given you difficulty. I am removing your hurt. I am taking away your bitterness, your anger, your rage. I am taking away all the slander and the malice and I am forgiving you and giving you a new heart for your heart of stone. I am renewing in you a new covenant relationship. I am forgiving you of all of your sin. As you repent before me and you confess before me and you commit yourself to walk in the ways that I have given you in my Word, I the Lord make old things pass away and all things to be new as you become a new creation in my hand. For I have called you by name, I have bought you with a price, I have engrafted you into the palm of my hand. I have set you up as on a rock and you shall not be moved. Hallelujah. Saith the Lord God of Hosts.